



# GATHERING

ST MARY'S

OUR CATHEDRAL

OUR FAMILY

COMBINED PUBLICATION OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL COLLEGE AND THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

SPECIAL ISSUE **AUG2008**





## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

World Youth Day has come and gone, but the memory will last for decades, and will probably grow as the story is retold. It was wonderful to see the crowds of happy young people celebrating their faith and all that is good in life. The streets of Sydney were full of young people from many nations of the world making music, singing and dancing.

Hyde Park was a wonderful sight; flags adding colour, groups praying, and reconciliation being celebrated. I estimate that well over a hundred thousand pilgrims passed through the Cathedral and countless numbers prayed before the Blessed Sacrament in the Crypt.

This special issue of *Gathering* on WYD08 at St Mary's adds to the mementos of this wonderful event.

The Cathedral itself has never looked better. Our program of works over the past two years was all finished in the nick of time. The new sanctuary furnishing, especially the new marble altar looks magnificent. The sound system is now working better than ever. All the work has been very worthwhile.

The Cathedral has seen many milestones from the time of its opening one hundred and twenty six years ago. Three Popes have now visited the Cathedral, but this is the first time Mass has been celebrated by the Holy Father. The mass for the Dedication of the Altar was a wonderful celebration and I am certain another great milestone in the history of our beautiful Cathedral.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked so selflessly for the success of World Youth Day and to all those who have contributed and continue to do so to the restoration and beautification of the Cathedral, the magnificent symbol of our Catholic faith.

*Fr Neil Brown*

## INTERESTING DATA

### Pilgrim attendance

110,000 international pilgrims registered  
113,000 local pilgrims  
150,000 people attended the opening mass  
500,000 welcomed the Pope  
400,000 attended the final mass

### Sleeping quarters

100,000 pilgrims slept in 400 schools and parishes  
12,000 stayed in Sydney Olympic Park  
40,000 were billeted on the WYD08 HomeStay programme  
200,000 stayed overnight at Randwick

### Clergy

4,000 priests attended WYD08  
1,000 priests heard confessions in over 250 locations

### Audience

500 million international TV audience, with a combined TV and Internet audience of 1 billion

### Choir

300 members WYD08 choir  
80 piece WYD08 orchestra

*Madrid, Spain will be the next venue for World Youth Day in 2011.*



OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS, HELP OF CHRISTIANS  
Paul Newton, artist

# WYD08 PATRONS

PRAYING AT THE FOOT OF OUR LADY



BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

favourite  
ayer...

I would not hesitate to say that the secret of Pier Giorgio's spiritual perfection is to be found in his devotion to Mary.

...A day never passed that did not find Pier Giorgio at the feet of his heavenly Mother with his favourite prayer, entwined in his arms.

(Marco Baltrame Island of Piave)

Image of the Madonna and Child in a shrine regularly visited by Pier Giorgio.

BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP



ONE OF THE BANNERS ON BLESSED PIER



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INCENSING THE ALTAR



SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER



Thank you for the generous support of our benefactors who made this dedication possible.

# DEDICATION OF THE ALTAR



SR JULIE BRGAR  
WELCOMES HIS HOLINESS  
POPE BENEDICT XVI



THE RECESSIONAL



ANOINTING OF  
THE ALTAR



GATHERING  
SPECIAL AUGUST ISSUE



TV BROADCASTERS IN  
CATHEDRAL SQUARE



BEFRIENDING A  
POLICE OFFICER



RE-ENACTMENT OF  
THE LAST SUPPER



ACROSS HYDE PARK



EMBRACE, THE YOUNG ADULTS OF ST MARY'S



OUR PILGRIMS FROM NORFOLK ISLAND



SECURITY CHECK AT HYDE PARK



IN HYDE PARK

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT ST MARY'S

- 12th October Marriage Sunday 10.30am Mass followed by morning tea. Those married at St Mary's are invited for a special blessing and renewal of vows.
- 2nd November Sydney Open at St Mary's
- 30th November Blessing of the Outdoor Nativity Scene  
Launch of the Catholic Schools Christmas Story Exhibition

Images courtesy of  
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