

## A PRAYER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

God of hope and grace,  
send your Holy Spirit as our helper and guide.  
As we prepare for World Youth Day in Madrid,  
help us to build on the many graces and  
experiences that were the fruit  
of World Youth Day in Sydney.

Send us the power of your Spirit, so that we  
may continue to be your witnesses in service  
and love to all youth in Australia.

May we journey together in  
the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit  
and share in this pilgrimage of faith.

Pour your love into our lives  
so that we may be apostles of reconciliation  
and builders for the new creation.

Nourish and unite us through the Eucharist,  
so that in faith we may be planted  
and built up in Jesus Christ.

We ask this through the intercession of  
Our Lady of the Southern Cross,  
and in the name of our Lord Jesus,  
who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

AMEN.

Please remember in your prayers  
those whose anniversaries occur at this time:  
Brian Birrell; Henry Columbine; Stephanie Cooper;  
Arthur Finneran; Peter Forster; Genevieve LeGras;  
Eric Tokoli; Basil Van Horen and Rene Zielinski.

### **Why not support a young Australian and make a huge investment in their Spiritual future?**

*Harvest Pilgrimages have recently launched the  
WYD Madrid Personalised Gift Certificates.*

*The gift certificates come in the value of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000, \$2000  
and \$5000. A great gift for birthdays, graduations or as an incentive.*

*To purchase a gift certificate, go to [www.wydtours.com.au/gift](http://www.wydtours.com.au/gift)  
or you can contribute to the WYD Sponsors Fund where the money  
you sponsor can go to a WYD 2011 pilgrim from your parish,  
your diocese or an underprivileged youth.*

205 DAYS TO GO TILL WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011 IN MADRID, SPAIN.

Please remember in your  
prayers those who are ill:

**Trish Carey  
Kim Crawford  
Marion Crowley  
John Duggan  
Barry Finch  
James Ford  
Virginia Hayward  
Miriam Helby  
Kenneth Kirkham  
Fran Knight  
Ray Lee  
Barry Leeder  
Cecily O'Brien  
Irene Peacock  
Hugo Riggs and  
Cy Schreiber.**

*May the vital, loving  
strength of this community  
help them on their journey  
to wholeness.*

**Please note:**  
Those who have  
booked for  
**JERSEY BOYS**  
in April need to  
pay **Anne-Marie**  
by **9th February**.  
Please ring her on  
4787 6325  
to arrange payment or  
give her a cheque.  
*Thanks.*

## NEW OUTLOOK

Recently I wrote to a friend: 'Isn't the news depressing lately? I wake up to the sound of the news on my husband's alarm radio and begin each day thinking "Now what?" How do you deal with all the horror that we are fed daily?'

My friend's reply gave me food for thought: 'It's true, the news is depressing lately. Instead of starting the day with it, I watch it in the evening. I start the day looking out at the sky and listening to the birds. There's a tuneful one in the garden at present. The other morning its song was so beautiful that I turned off the shower to hear it better!'

'I listen to the news only once a day. And I use it as a focus for prayer. Disasters, wars and accidents have been happening since the year dot. I find that praying the psalms helps me to take the long view of history and keep things in perspective. Often the sentiments expressed in the psalms fit the circumstances of injustice and tragedy we hear about daily on the news.'

'I knew an old nun who, on waking, used to ask God to bless "every person on the face of the earth". When I wake I thank God for the roof over my head and remember those who slept rough last night. I thank God for hot water, electric light, and plumbing that works. Sometimes I put a small vase of flowers in my room. It cheers me up each time I look at it.'

My husband's alarm still goes off with the news but I turn it off quicker these days. And I'm getting better at catching moments to feel thankful for.

(Helena)

peoplespeak focuses on seeing the light of the gospel in daily events. By listening to the stories people tell of how the gospel illuminates their lives we become aware of the presence of Jesus within us and in those we meet.



### **Be united and live in peace**

Since Christ is our peace, we shall be living up to the name of Christian if we let Christ be seen in our lives by letting peace reign in our hearts... As we bear the name of Christ, who is peace, we too must put an end to all hostility. We should not only be reconciled with those who attack us from without, we should also bring together the warring factions within us.  
St Gregory of Nyssa (c.335-394)

### **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

We walk in the bright light that Jesus brought into the world. He brought sinners out of the darkness of rejection into the acceptance of the community. The greedy, like Zacchaeus, were brought from selfishness into the light of joy and sharing. He brought Martha and Mary from the darkness of grief into the light of hope and life. The good thief was rescued from the despair of hopelessness into the light of heaven itself.

And, yet, though Jesus brought God's light into the world, not everyone welcomed it. Sadly, some refused this light and chose to remain in the darkness. By choosing to live in this light we can become a source of his light for others, a lamp for their steps and a light for their paths.

-from *Daily Prayer online*