

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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SYDNEY YOUTH LEADER MEETS AND SPEAKS WITH POPE FRANCIS AT WORLD YOUTH DAY

A Sydney Catholic youth leader has met with and spoke with Pope Francis during a World Youth Day (WYD) event, attended by hundreds of thousands of young people in Central America.

The Coordinator of Sydney Catholic Youth, Mr Chris Lee, received the once-in-a-lifetime invitation to meet and speak with the Holy Father during the WYD Vigil in Panama City on Sunday morning (**AEDT 10:30am-12:30pm**).

Mr Lee was selected to represent Oceania at the Vigil event, along with one representative from five regions of the world. Each representative had an opportunity to personally meet and speak with Pope Francis at the Vigil.

The 25-year-old who is leading more than 40 Catholic Youth from across Sydney at World Youth Day alongside Sydney Archbishop the Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, described meeting Pope Francis as “a great personal honour.”

“I turned to my Catholic faith after my father died of cancer and I suffered serious injury after being attacked by a stranger in a Kings Cross street over the 2012 Easter weekend”, he said.

“I have come a long way since those dark days and I attribute that very much to my Catholic faith, which has guided me in so many ways through those tough times.”

Following the Vigil, Mr Lee also accompanied Pope Francis in Eucharistic Adoration.

WYD concludes tomorrow with the Final Mass, which is expected to attract half a million people (**at Monday 28 January Midnight-2am AEDT**) and at which the Pope will announce which country will next host WYD- most likely to be held 2022.

Sydney hosted the event in 2008, drawing hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from all around the world.

ENDS

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