

IMPORTANT EVENTS & DATES

(If you can't make these events, please pray about them.)

Nov 10	Diaconate Ordination of Andrew Chen, Vic
Nov 17	World Youth Cross & Icon Retreat, Tea Tree Gully, SA
Dec 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Dec 30	Priestly Ordination of Bec Inthirath, Laos
2008	
Jan 17 - 20	IOYE Rehearsal in Vic
Mar 8 - 10	HOPs Weekend
May 9 - 11	IOYE Team Meeting (Pentecost)

SUMMER ROSIES

January 5-11, 2008 - Victoria

Have you got what it takes to be a part of the Summer Rosies community? Join in the fun of hanging out with the kids in Collingwood by day and our friends on the street by night.

If you're interested in an intense experience of community and mission then you have come to the right place.

For more information contact Loretta on (03) 9795 5077 or 0418 238 486 or lbrinkman@oblates.com.au.

Spend a week of your summer holidays hanging out with friends you haven't met!

Sefton, NSW

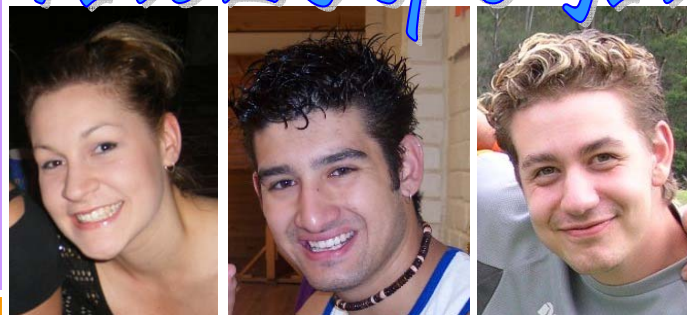
The most recent events that have occurred within Sefton Oblate Youth (S.O.Y.) include a cake stall that was held on 18-19 August. The cake stall was a fundraiser towards SOY's involvement in World Youth Day 2008. The cake stall turned out to be very popular among the young and the old. Popular enough that we underestimated the amounts of cakes we needed.

Other than that we have been holding our regular Youth Masses, which have also been popular and are drawing a steady crowd. The 'Seftones' as they are officially known, are the main source of musical talent and have brought a fresh new dimension to the music at Sefton parish. We are also hoping to hold another SOY concert in the near future.

- Dexter Tenedora



FACES of OYA



L-R: Chrissy, (Christine) Freeth, Daniel Brites, Julian Mulder

Chrissy (Christine) Freeth, 21, is a Youth Minister at Gleeson College, which she says is "the best job ever!" She first heard about OYA when three members of her Antioch group ('Ferg', Luke Ferguson, Damien Coyle and Greg Gardiner) attended a National Encounter in 2002 and "came back raving about it". The Antioch group at Tea Tree Gully (TTG), SA, has been involved in OYA ever since. Chrissy has been on every Encounter since her first in 2003. She is a local coordinator for the TTG Oblate Youth community and is on the Hosting and Welcome Portfolio team for the International Oblate Youth Encounter. Her favourite memories in OYA "range from community building activities to feelings of spiritual enrichment". Chrissy says, "For me OYA has turned into a fantastic network of friends where I can go almost anywhere in Australia and have at least one person I can catch up with. It has also helped me in strengthening my faith and giving me more confidence to share it with others."

Daniel Brites, 22, has been a member of the Eagle Vale OYA community in NSW for around five years. He says he "met Fini [Fr Christian] and the rest is history". Daniel works as a computer engineer and enjoys watching movies and playing soccer in his spare time. He has attended 3 National Oblate Youth Encounters and was a discussion group leader this year. He has also been a leader on Eagle Vale's junior camps and helped in the leadership of his OYA community. For the International Oblate Youth Encounter, he is on the WYD Portfolio team. He says OYA has given him an opportunity to connect with people who share similar views and interests. "Its worth giving it a go, you might just find out you enjoy it", he says.

Julian Mulder, 21, became a member of St John Vianney's Youth Group, Vic, now affectionately known as 'MOBY', in 2003. He says, "I knew there was a youth group running at the parish and just decided to walk down and see what it was like." Nearly 5 years later, Julian is still making the same walk every Tuesday night. He is studying psychology at university and enjoys cycling, computer gaming, and playing badminton and squash in his spare time. Part of the Catering Portfolio team for IOYE and the developer of MOBY's area of the OYA website, Julian says OYA has introduced him to a different lifestyle. He has attended 3 National Encounters and when asked about his favourite memory, says, "Wow, there have been some great moments, from "Ring Ring Ring", to the 'Shimmy!"

envision

OBLATE YOUTH AUSTRALIA UPDATE

Hope, the word and its sentiments, are often connected to young people. Hope can be defined as "a person or thing in which expectations are centred". What 'expectations' does the world have for young people? More often than not, this expectation is expressed in future terms such as; "leaders of tomorrow" or "the future Church." Young people are not merely the hope of the future but they are the hope for our Church and world today. They have a responsibility to share their gifts and take up roles of leadership. For its part, the Church has a responsibility to give young people the opportunity to share their gifts and be leaders. This is a challenge, to say the very least.

World Youth Day (WYD) in Sydney presents an opportunity to realise this 'hope' in its truest sense; not in the future, but here and now. For the young people of the Australian Province, WYD and the preceding Oblate gathering, the International Oblate Youth Encounter (IOYE), are an opportunity that is not being lost. The energy, excitement and damn hard work is testament to the living witness of this hope.

However, WYD and the IOYE risk becoming a two-week wonder and an expensive one at that, if we do not take the journey before, and even more importantly the journey after, seriously. What do we need to take seriously? That IOYE and WYD is a pilgrimage of faith. This pilgrimage in one sense commenced at Pentecost 2006 with the launch of IOYE. Yet in many ways, young people in the Australian Province have been walking this journey of faith together for some time before that. The wonderful local communities spread throughout Australia, some featured in this edition of Envision, will be the place where young people will be able to prepare for and continue the pilgrimage of faith. Oblate Youth Australia is already working on the National Oblate Youth Encounter for January 2009 and other programs to ensure there are adequate things in place to ensure that IOYE and WYD are not a two-week wonder.

Hope is an ambiguous term at best. A pilgrimage of faith must lead to a clear sign of hope that is Love. Pope Benedict reminds young people of this in his WYD 2007 message to them: "Love is the only force capable of changing the heart of the human person and of all humanity, by making fruitful relationships between men and women, between rich and poor, between cultures and civilisations."

The cross is a reminder of Christ's message of hope through an act of love. At the moment, the WYD Cross and Icon, symbols of love and hope given to young people by John Paul II, are making their way around Australia. On 17 November, the Oblate Province will officially welcome the Cross & Icon into the province in South Australia.

May this hope, lived out in genuine love for one another, be a changing and transforming experience for all involved in IOYE and WYD.

- Fr Christian Fini, OMI

"Through the eyes of Christ... we see the world."
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Visit our website! www.oblateyouth.com.au

ISSUE 3 2007

6 YEARS @ Eagle Vale

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On Tuesday 28 August, the Oblate Youth Group at Mary Immaculate Parish, Eagle Vale celebrated its big Sixth Anniversary!

The group began in 2001 when Fr Christian moved from Victoria to NSW and was appointed Assistant Parish Priest at Mary Immaculate Parish. The last six years have seen many exciting and important developments in the life of Eagle Vale Parish. They range from the establishment of a junior youth group, the production of three musicals and a variety of parish events.

To celebrate the anniversary, we joined together in the time between the junior and senior group meetings. We had a cake to mark the milestone, which we all enjoyed under the red orb of the lunar eclipse. So congratulations to all the Oblate Youth at the parish and keep up the awesome job!
- Brendan Vaughn



Lesmurdie, WA

A new Oblate Youth community witnessing in the West

Lesmurdie, a place of intense high altitude of religious training; an awesome location for the Oblates to spread their Youth Ministry. Formally established on Tuesday 20 March, a congregation of seven people attended the hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Father Fini, Marc and Alisha Johnson and Loretta Brinkman were at the commencement of our long journey and they gave us a few tips on how to conduct such a group and make the best of everyone who would participate in our activities.

That time seems so long ago now, but we have done so much since the group's foundation. We have done fundraisers for WYD next year which involved setting up a massive cake stall and collections and we are now planning for a huge sausage sizzle which should be incredibly successful, especially with the Parish's help. We conduct a Youth Mass every month and try to help the parish in its daily activities. Some of these activities include being waiters at Parish dinners and representing Our Lady of Lourdes at youth based events.

At the moment our group consist's of Peter (The Rock/Peteroo), Lucas (The Sane), Steph (The Defender), Bernadette (Miss Humble/B-debt), Kim (The Little One), Sarah (Emotional Balancer), Jacinta (The Optimist/Jazz), Matt (One Man Circus), Aaron (Matt's Side-show) and Michael (Tha Fuzz).

Everyone in our group would like to give thanks to all those who prayed for us and all those who helped us in creating what is known now as a force to be reckoned with. We would also like to send out a message to all those who are thinking of creating an Oblate Youth group; it only takes a few minds to instil the same desire into the masses if your passion and determination to create such an environment is displayed in all its colours, thankyou all.
- By Matt Geagea



(Above)
Back Row L-R: Lucas, Aaron, Fini, Steph, Peter
Front Row: Matt



Liturgy Weekend

L-R: Fr Harry Dyer, Linda Remedios, Lauren Schade, Luke (Ferg) Ferguson, Ryan McBride, Loretta Brinkman, Kim Brady, Marc Johnson, Patrice Costin, Christine Batki, Fr Christian Fini

Getting ready for the journey of a lifetime!

With less than nine months until the International Oblate Youth Encounter (IOYE), excitement is building in Oblate communities in Australia and around the globe.

Oblates and Oblate youth from countless countries have shown interest in attending IOYE, with some countries hoping to bring as many as 40 young people!

Those Australian youth who have volunteered to lead different aspects of the event have been busy planning activities and gathering resources to ensure the event's success.

On 7-9 September, 12 IOYE leaders gathered in Melbourne for a Liturgy Planning Weekend. The group comprised the IOYE Committee, Head of the Liturgy Portfolio, Kim Brady, and Sub-committee Leaders Luke (Ferg) Ferguson, Lauren Schade, Linda Remedios and Christine Batki, as well as Oblate Provincial Fr Harry Dyer and musician and songwriter of the IOYE song 'Witness to the World', Ryan McBride. The weekend was very productive, with much collaboration, brainstorming and organisation.

In other important news, the IOYE Committee is excited to announce that on Day 2 of IOYE next year, Thursday 10 July, Federation Square in Melbourne's CBD has been secured as the venue for an inter-faith event. This will be a great opportunity to publicly unite young people from all religious backgrounds, in a spirit of peace.

IOYE will be held next year from 9-12 July at Mazenod College, Melbourne, before World Youth Day in Sydney.

Registration Packs for Australian pilgrims are available now, so if you're keen to join this once-in-a-lifetime journey and *witness to the world*, make sure you secure your place early! They are available at www.oblates.com.au.

Also, there are exciting and rewarding opportunities available for adults to get involved in the journey! For information about registering as a Pilgrim Host or Adult Volunteer, Expression of Interest Forms are also available at www.oblates.com.au.

"You will be my witnesses to the ends of the world" (Acts 1:8)



Loving God,

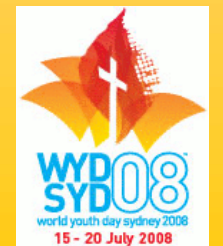
You create, redeem and mission us as your Oblate community to be a witness to the world.

Inspired by St Eugene de Mazenod, we follow the call to leave nothing undared for your kingdom.

As we prepare to gather as one in Australia at the International Oblate Youth Encounter, may we all hear, accept and share in the call to see the world through your eyes.

Amen.

St Eugene de Mazenod... pray for us.



"Witness to the World"

