

# **Palm Sunday / WYD2007 - Archdiocese of Hobart**

1500 Tasmanian Catholics from around the state created a fantastic energy as they launched the Tasmanian pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2008 with the Palm Sunday Pilgrimage on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

The weather was near perfect as buses arrived at Australia's oldest Catholic Church, St. John's Richmond from Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie. Great hospitality was received from the vibrant Richmond Parish including St. John's Primary School, along with the fantastic sounds of the Guilford Young College rock band. Archbishop Doyle began the day, blessing the palms and pilgrims took their very first steps on our Pilgrimage. Tasmania Police closed off Bridge and Edward Streets as we proudly paraded Parish, School and organisation banners and warmed up our cheering voices – turning the heads of locals and tourists.

Outside St. Luke's Anglican Church, Richmond we boarded buses to MacKillop College, Mornington where mountains of sausages, hamburgers and salad awaited our arrival. Although pilgrims on this journey....we were very well fed pilgrims throughout the entire day. Amongst the chattering, basketball and soccer game were the brilliant sounds of the voices and guitarists of MacKillop College students who set us in good stead for the longest stage of our pilgrimage: the walk through Warrane, past Eastlands Shopping Centre, up Rosny Hill Road, along to and then across the Tasman Bridge, where there was great loads of honking horns and waving from passing drivers and passengers. Then, continuing along the bike track to the grounds surrounding the Cenotaph.

Throughout the day pilgrims were lead by someone carrying a large cross as a symbol of our faith. This longer section of our pilgrimage was a true recognition of the cross as some struggled up hills with it, showing great determination, the load shared amongst pilgrims and seeking the assistance of others to carry the cross. Pilgrims also wore around their neck a Scallop Shell as a traditional symbol of Pilgrimage.

Young families and those less energetic walkers gathered at the Cenotaph grounds whilst pilgrims were walking from MacKillop. They enjoyed the Jumping Castle, Life Be In It activities, making banners and crosses, listening to the Palm Sunday Story and eating Fairy Floss and Snow Cones. Upon the arrival of pilgrims from MacKillop the line for the Snow Cones stretched back quite a way and young and old enjoyed the coolness of a snow cone and the time to sit and catch their breath before the final stage of the pilgrimage.

Lead by the Cross and followed by the flash of Police lights the excitement and energy levels rose dramatically as pilgrims of all ages gathered to begin the procession through Hobart. The police held up traffic along the highway and railway round-a-bout as pilgrims processed through in colour with their banners held high. Along Liverpool Street tourist took photographs, school students from around the state chanted their school songs with pride and rounded the corner onto Harrington Street with the African cries from our Sudanese friends accompanied with drumming and whistles in a magnificent display of celebration of the Catholic Life in Tasmania

*"It was a vibrant expose of youth culture and Christianity in Tasmania" Mahain Comandari*

Pilgrims arrived at St. Mary's Cathedral with a great sense of achievement, community and celebration to the triumphant sounds of the St. Virgil's College band and to a magnificent Italian Feast of pizza and a wonderful variety of pasta, sauces and dishes catered for by the Cathedral Parish.

*"The abundance of food was much appreciated and enjoyed by all" Rosie Giudici*

After all the food and entertainment pilgrims made their way to try and find a seat in the packed St. Mary's Cathedral to celebrate Palm Sunday Mass, World Youth Day 2007 and the day we had just shared together – the first steps on our Tasmanian Pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2008.

The Cathedral was adorned in the lime green banners of Catholic Youth Ministry's Mission ACT1V8. The Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Doyle and concelebrated by 11 Tasmanian priests was a true celebration, coming to a conclusion with the commissioning of the lime green Catholic Youth Ministry team and an enormous applause for the efforts of all involved in such a tremendous day and for the celebration shared.

A fantastic way to begin our journey.....

*"The Palm Sunday Pilgrimage march was just fantastic. It was great to see so many young people. We must do it all again." John Adkins, Knights of the Southern Cross*

*"Energetic, colourful. Wonderful display of unity. People of all ages participating together" Oliver Giudici*

*"It was legendary, I would do it again and again" Lennon White*

*"I loved the day. With all the talking, walking and enthusiastic singing, we marched to the end! A great day!!" Rosie Giudici*

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