



## Melbourne Youth Cross

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

### Introducing the Melbourne Youth Cross

The Youth Cross of the Archdiocese of Melbourne was commissioned by Archbishop Denis Hart on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014. It celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the presentation of the World Youth Day Cross to the youth of the world by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1984, and commemorates his canonisation by Pope Francis on Divine Mercy Sunday 2014.

When Saint John Paul II entrusted the World Youth Day Cross to young people he asked them to 'bear it in the world as a sign of the love of the Lord Jesus for humanity'. The Melbourne Youth Cross is a reminder of this invitation and will be a sign of God's love for the young people of Melbourne.



### Suggested uses for the Melbourne Youth Cross

Youth groups, parishes, schools and communities in the Archdiocese of Melbourne are invited to use the Melbourne Youth Cross for their liturgies, retreats, rally nights and other events. The Melbourne Youth Cross can stand upright as a focal point during prayer, or it may be laid flat to allow young people to gather around it. It can also be carried during pilgrimage walks or other processions. In time, thousands of young people from the Archdiocese will have carried the Cross and prayed before it.

### About the Melbourne Youth Cross

The Melbourne Youth Cross is 2.4 metres tall, and accompanied by a steel base. The two beams of the Cross are detachable to assist with transportation.

The Melbourne Youth Cross is inscribed with the following text:

*The Youth Cross of the Archdiocese of Melbourne was commissioned on 13 April, 2014, on the occasion of the 29th World Youth Day and the 30th anniversary of the presentation of the Jubilee Cross of Redemption to the youth of the world by John Paul II, the patron saint of World Youth Days.*

*"Carry the Cross of Christ throughout the world as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity and announce to everyone that only in the death and resurrection of Christ can we find salvation and redemption."*

*Saint John Paul II, 22 April 1984.*

The Melbourne Youth Cross was constructed by Melbourne-based carpenter Joseph Van Strijp:  
[josephtheworker.com.au](http://josephtheworker.com.au).

### Requesting the Melbourne Youth Cross

All youth groups, parishes, schools, and communities in the Archdiocese of Melbourne are invited to host the Melbourne Youth Cross. To request the Cross, please submit a booking enquiry form through the AOY Youth Ministry Library at [www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Youth-Ministry-Library](http://www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Youth-Ministry-Library) or contact the Archdiocesan Office for Youth at [aoy@cam.org.au](mailto:aoy@cam.org.au).



## **Transporting the Melbourne Youth Cross**

Groups requesting the Melbourne Youth Cross will need to arrange to pick up the Cross and base from the Archdiocesan Office for Youth at 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. The two beams of the Cross detach to assist with transportation. The Cross can be transported in most regular vehicles by putting the seats down and angling the Cross. As a blessed sacramental, the Cross should always be treated with care.

## **Caring for the Melbourne Youth Cross**

The Cross should not be left outdoors for extended periods of time in inclement weather. Nothing should be taped or stuck onto the Cross, and candles should not be placed directly on the Cross when it is laid flat. Cloths may be draped over the Cross.

Ensure that you have a sufficient number of people to assist with lifting the Cross and placing it in its base. When the Cross is being placed in its stand, one person should guide the vertical beam into the metal sleeve, while the others gently lower it. The horizontal beam can then be attached by a team of two people.

If the Cross is being processed, a minimum of four people should carry the Cross. The Cross should be carried at shoulder height.

When the Cross is not in use, it should be held in a secure location.

If the Cross is damaged while in your care, please contact the Archdiocesan Office for Youth at 03 9287 5565.

## **Assembling the Melbourne Youth Cross**

The horizontal beam of the Melbourne Youth Cross attaches to the vertical beam with bolts.

Ensure that the horizontal beam is placed against the vertical beam the correct way up (the top of the cross is marked). Insert the four bolts from the front to the back, and then thread a washer onto each bolt, followed by a wing nut and tighten. It will be sufficient to tighten the nut by hand.

## **Praying with the Melbourne Youth Cross**

The Melbourne Youth Cross may be used in many creative and prayerful ways in liturgies, retreats, and other youth events. The Cross may be erected upright and remain present during an event, or it can be used as a more direct focus for prayer.

## **Venerating the Melbourne Youth Cross**

Veneration of the Cross is an ancient act of reverence for the instrument of our salvation. When we venerate a Cross, we do not adore the actual material of the Cross, but we affirm that the Cross represents the love of Jesus crucified. Implicit in the veneration of the Cross is also the anticipation of the Resurrection: that the Cross has been transformed into a sign of redemption and salvation.

Young people may be invited to venerate the Cross at specific points in a prayer service, or they may be invited to approach the Cross any time over the course of an event. Young people may choose to genuflect (kneel on one knee), touch or kiss the Cross. They should feel free to approach the Cross as they feel comfortable doing. Other creative ways of reverencing the Cross include placing a candle or written prayer before the Cross. Emphasise to young people that the external action of venerating the Cross is an expression of their internal faith in and love for Christ.

## **Eucharistic celebrations with the Melbourne Youth Cross**

The Cross may be processed in at the beginning of a Eucharistic service. If appropriate to the time of the liturgical year, the Cross may be venerated after the homily. Prayers before the Cross may also be led in the time of thanksgiving after communion.



## Nights of reconciliation

In a reconciliation service, it is appropriate for the Cross to be erected upright as the central focus. Use lighting and darkness, cloths and candles to help create an environment which supports prayer. A suggested format for an extended form of the Second Rite of Reconciliation may include:

- Opening song
- Introduction – including a greeting from the presiding priest, and possible testimony from a young person
- Opening prayer
- Liturgy of the Word and Homily
- Examination of conscience
- Rite of Reconciliation
- Opportunity for individual confession and absolution
- Veneration of the Cross
- Proclamation of Praise – the Magnificat or other song of praise is suitable
- Concluding prayer of thanksgiving
- Concluding song

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament may also be incorporated. When the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, ensure that it, and not the Cross, is the primary focus.

## Way of the Cross

The Melbourne Youth Cross may be used to pray the Way of the Cross. A printable reflection guide for the traditional Way of the Cross is available at: [www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Online-Resources](http://www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Online-Resources) and look under “Seasonal Resources”.

Suggestions for praying the Way of the Cross include:

- Simple dramatization involving young people, using the scriptural Stations of the Cross. Allocate 3-4 young people per station, where one young person will narrate the scriptural passage while the others use silence and simple movements to dramatize the narrative. Consider having a simple unifying prop such as a purple cloth to identify the Jesus figure in each group. A ‘stage’ may be set up with simple lighting and the Melbourne Youth Cross in the background.
- Virtual Stations of the Cross, using videos available for download online. Use the Melbourne Youth Cross as a focal point for prayer, whilst projecting a video on a screen. A recommended version is available from <http://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross>
- Stations of the Cross in your parish church. Carry the Cross in between each station.

See the Lenten resource produced by the Archdiocesan Office for Youth for more information, available at [www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Online-Resources](http://www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Online-Resources) and look under “Seasonal Resources”.

## Processions and pilgrimages

The Melbourne Youth Cross can accompany pilgrimages or processions involving young people. Traditional occasions for processions in Australia include Palm Sunday, the Feast of Corpus Christi, Marian feasts and St Patrick’s Day.

(Suggested for praying with the Melbourne Youth Cross have been adapted from Cross Roads: National Pastoral Planning Handbook for the Journey of the WYD Cross and Icon.)



## Other resources

### Suggested prayers:

Cross of Christ – by Saint Pope John Paul II

Hail, Cross of Christ!

Wherever your mark is found,  
Christ bears witness  
to his Easter Mystery –  
His passing from death to life.  
He bears witness to love,  
to the inner power of a life born of love  
that overcomes death.

Hail, Cross of Christ!

wherever you are raised up,  
on the battlefields,  
in the prison camps,  
on the roadsides,  
in all the places where people suffer  
and struggle with death.

In the places where they work,  
study and engage in creative activity.

In every place, in the heart of every man and every woman,  
every boy and every girl,  
and in every human heart.

Hail, Cross of Christ! Amen.

### Suggested songs

- At the Foot of the Cross - Fr Robert Galea
- No Greater Love – Fr Robert Galea
- Song of the Cross (Love lifted on the Cross) - Susan Hookeong Taylor, Ana Da Costa
- Behold the wood of the Cross - Bob Hurd
- Behold the Cross - Gary Pinto
- How Deep the Father Love for Us - Stuart Townsend
- You are my King (Amazing Love) - Billy James Foote
- Run to the Cross - Sarah Kroger
- Lord Hear my Prayer – Taize
- You were on the Cross – Matt Maher

Music scores for compositions by Fr Robert Galea, Matt Maher, Taize and other artists are available through the AOY Youth Ministry Library.

### Suggested readings

- Matthew 10:38 - And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.
- Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matthew 27:32 - As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross.



- Mark 8:34 - And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Luke 14:27 - Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
- John 19:17 - They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.
- John 19:25 - Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
- Acts 2:23 - This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.
- Acts 5:30 - The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.
- Acts 10:39 - We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem
- 1 Corinthians 1:17 - For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.
- 1 Corinthians 1:18 - For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- Galatians 6:14 - But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
- Ephesians 2:16 - And might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.
- Philippians 2:8 - Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- Colossians 1:20 - And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.
- Colossians 2:14 - Having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
- Hebrews 12:2 - Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 1 Peter 2:24 - And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

(Suggested readings adapted from Diocese of Wilmington: Catholic Youth and Young Adult Ministry)

### Other Resources

- Cross Roads: National Pastoral Planning Handbook for the Journey of the WYD Cross and Icon.

Prepared for the national pilgrimage of the World Youth Day Cross prior to World Youth Day Sydney 2008, Cross Roads includes detailed information and suggestions about hosting and praying with the World Youth Day Cross. Available to borrow from the AOY Youth Ministry Library.

