

IBYC & WYD CELEBRATIONS



From July 10-14, Mater Dei student and staff representatives participated in IBYC, *International Benedictine Youth Congress*, as a prelude to World Youth Day, at a wonderful setting on the shores of Collaroy Plateau along the northern beaches of Sydney.

There were 240 students, pictured left, who were all World Youth Day Pilgrims from Benedictine Colleges from 11 countries as well as representatives from our “sister” Good Samaritan Colleges from Australia.

The Eucharistic celebrations were very uplifting. Each Mass and prayer session was run by a different school. The stand out mass was the African one. The passion and the music during the mass were amazing.

Another memorable moment during the congress was when three Mater Dei students gave a short presentation about Mater Dei. The 240 pilgrims and visitors responded to them with cheers, hoots, whistles and much flag waving.

The following days were lead-up days to World Youth Day and they were rich and full, culminating in the walk across the Harbour Bridge. From there it was onto Randwick for Saturday's celebrations as a prelude to the big day on Sunday.