

Introduction

Since Days in the Dioceses began before World Youth Day 1997 in Paris, the program has increased in size and popularity with each international gathering. This year, as Sydney and Australia prepare to host World Youth Day 2008, Days in the Diocese will again play a very significant part in welcoming and celebrating the local and international church.

As the Catholic Church in Brisbane, we have a unique opportunity this July to welcome young people of faith from all over the world into our local faith communities as part of Days in the Diocese. In 2005 I had the great pleasure of participating in Days in the Diocese in the Diocese of Paderborn, Germany. During days spent there, I experienced a wonderful sense of excitement and community as young pilgrims arrived and were welcomed into the homes and communities of this diocese.

Having had this experience of Days in the Diocese I realise how crucial the involvement of local communities is in welcoming guests, extending hospitality and providing visitors with a real and genuine experience of the local Catholic Church. It would not be possible to create all of these feelings and experiences from an archdiocesan office because so much of one's experience of Days in the Diocese will emerge from whom they meet and what they encounter in the local community that is hosting them.

In asking local communities to play host to groups of young people from all over the world it is important that we are able to provide relevant information, support and resources. This Hosting Manual is one step in providing the support necessary to carry out this task. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the communities of the Archdiocese for their continued commitment to Days in the Diocese.

So at this exciting and faith-filled time let us come together and work together, deaneries, parishes, schools, congregations and organisations to each play our part in welcoming the world to the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Bishop Brian V Finnigan
Auxiliary Bishop, Brisbane
Chair – WYD08 Preparatory Committee

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DAYS IN THE DIOCESE HOSTING MANUAL

This resource has been created to support and assist local Host Communities in preparing to host overseas visitors as part of Days in the Diocese this July. It aims to provide relevant information and useful resources with regards to the three main elements of the program; BrizStay, ACtS and Local Events.

It seems there is a myriad of things to do as we prepare to welcome our international guests so this manual has been created in an attempt to streamline the dissemination of relevant information to hosting communities. All of the information that is presently available has been included in this manual. Much of the information supplied is provided as a guide or as suggestions only. Individuals or groups using the manual are encouraged to use or take the appropriate information and adapt to suit the needs of their Host Community.

Under each of the three tabs there is a Background and Theological Reflection on the particular aspect of Days in the Diocese. The role of the Host Community is clearly defined and also included is support from the WYD Secretariat in the form of ideas, checklists and templates relating to each area.

More information will become available over the next four months and the WYD Secretariat will maintain regular communication with the key Host Community contacts BrizStay, ACtS and Events Coordinators. Up to date information will be supplied in a format that can be easily added to this resource.

THE ROLE OF THE HOST COMMUNITY

During Days in the Diocese the Archdiocese of Brisbane will host up to 150 groups from all over the world. Each of these groups requires a 'Host Community' that is willing and able to welcome and accommodate them for the duration of the program. The invitation to be a Host Community is open to every parish and Catholic Secondary School throughout the archdiocese. In taking on this role, Host Community's are agreeing to provide the various aspects that make up the Days in the Diocese program being; BrizStay, ACtS and Local Events (welcome, social gathering, farewell).

As a Host Community the parish or school community becomes the focal point of the Days in the Diocese experience and activities for each and every overseas group. Parish or school facilities become hubs or meetings points, a place to gather, worship and celebrate.

Three roles have been identified as being required by each Host Community in order to effectively prepare and deliver the Days in the Diocese program at a local level. Each of the roles is outlined below.

BrizStay Coordinator

The BrizStay Coordinator is someone who is nominated by their local community (parish or school) to take on the coordination of the homestay element of Days in the Diocese. Initially this role involves promotion of BrizStay within the Host Community. Displaying posters, speaking at masses, arranging for notices in the parish bulletin, encouraging individuals, couples and families to register their interest to participate in the program. As time goes on, the BrizStay Coordinator will play a key administrative role, evaluating and approving the BrizStay applications from their community. They will also establish contact with the overseas group their community will be hosting and they will make the allocation of pairs of pilgrims to host homes. Another important aspect of this role is keeping BrizStay Hosts and the Host Community informed during the weeks leading up to Days in the Diocese.

ACtS Coordinator

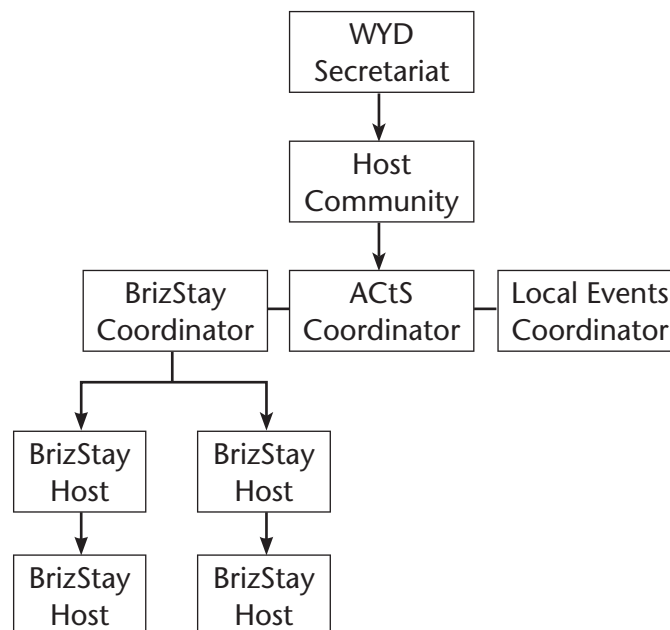
The ACtS Coordinator is responsible within their Host Community for identifying and organising a social service activity that pilgrims can take part in on Friday 11th July 2008. The aim of this aspect of the program is for local and international young people to come together and put their faith into action by engaging in a service project. Coordinators are encouraged to look at what organisations or programs already operate in their local community or identify a need in the community that pilgrims could assist with. Coordinators will be responsible for the practical and logistical preparations of this activity and are also encouraged to allow time for participants to reflect on the purpose of the activity at the beginning of the day and its subsequent outcomes at the conclusion.

Local Events Coordinator

The Local Events Coordinator is a nominated person responsible for coordinating any events that take place in the Host Community as part of Days in the Diocese. The primary events that will take place in Host Communities are the welcome, farewell and social gathering as well as any other events/liturgies the community may wish to have eg morning and/or evening prayer or gatherings before or after social service activities. Some deaneries have chosen to stage whole of deanery events and some parishes will work together to hold events during Days in the Diocese. In these cases the Local Events Coordinator will be responsible for working with other Local Event Coordinators to organise these events.

DAYS IN THE DIOCESE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Below is a representation of the Days in the Diocese organisational structure in its most basic form. Many parishes and/or deaneries have their own committees and structures already in place to facilitate Days in the Diocese. However, for the purposes of the WYD Secretariat, we will continue to communicate with each Host Community via the three main Days in the Diocese roles that have been identified. Coordinators in these roles are then able to disseminate the relevant information to other parties and stakeholders involved.



BRISBANE DAYS IN THE DIOCESE PROGRAM

Thursday 10/07/08	Friday 11/07/08	Saturday 12/07/08	Sunday 13/07/08	Monday 14/07/08
	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	Farewell/ Commissioning	Travel to WYDSYD
<u>Central Registration</u>	Day of Social Service: ACTS	<u>Heart of the City</u>	<i>Host Community/ Host Family time</i>	
Welcome Events	<i>Host Community/ Host Family time</i>	<i>Host Community/ Host Family time</i>	Travel to WYDSYD	

Bold = Key Local Events

Italics = Optional Events

Underline = Archdiocesan Events