

Recently Julian Butler SJ, a Jesuit scholastic, accompanied a group of 14 young people from Australia and New Zealand to World Youth Day and *Magis*, a Jesuit-run lead up program in Lisbon, Portugal. Among the 14 were five alumni from St Ignatius' College, Adelaide. Julian says: "The time at Magis and World Youth Day offered an extraordinary experience of being part of the global Jesuit and Ignatian family, and then the global Church. 2,000 young people connected with Jesuit ministries from 80 countries gathered for *Magis* and shared in some Ignatian formation and then experiences of faith, culture, service and pilgrimages in cross-cultural communities. The World Youth Day experience culminated in Mass with the Pope and an estimated one and a half million people. The wonderful alumni from St Ignatius' made up the backbone of our Australian Ignatian group. They met and befriended young Catholics from around the world and were open to a whole range of different ways to engage and practice faith in our contemporary context. It was a blessing for me to be able to accompany them."

At the final Missioning Mass, Pope Francis encouraged the people, saying: You have great dreams, but often fear that they may not come true; sometimes you think that you are not up to the challenge, which is a kind of pessimism that can overcome us at times. As young people, you may be tempted at this time to lose heart, to think you fall short, or to disguise your pain with a smile. As young people, you want to change the world – and it is very good that you want to change the world – you want to work for justice and peace. You devote all your life's energy and creativity to this, but it still seems insufficient. Yet, the Church and the world need you, the young, as much as the earth needs rain. To all of you, dear young people, who are the present and the future, yes to all of you, Jesus now says: *Have no fear, do not be afraid!*

You can read more from Julian on the experience here: <https://jesuit.org.au/a-real-awakening-en-masse/>