



RC Diocese of Galloway

Youth Office

Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

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Subject: Galloway Diocese Youth Events

Dear Parent/ Carer,

The Diocese of Galloway Youth Office runs events for young people throughout Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. Over the last year, my team and I have been working hard to establish and grow these events to bring young people together in:

- **Friendship** with one another: spending time with friends and making new friends from other schools, supporting their secondary transition.
- **Faith** through the celebration of Mass, talks, and reflections to encourage them to grow in knowledge and love of God.
- And most of all, to have **fun** whilst taking part.

On the back of this letter, you can find details of some of the events that we have coming up. Our events are open to young people in P6 – S4 from August to February, with P5 invited to take part from March to August as they approach P6.

While our events do have a Catholic focus, young people of all faiths and none are invited to take part, with the majority of our events being free of charge and, where a charge is unavoidable, we also offer bursaries and grants to support participation. All of our events are supervised by PVG vetted and trained adult leaders who are responsible for the safety and well-being of all participants, while our activities are coordinated by our Junior Leaders in S3. We have developed this model over the last twelve months with over 200 young people involved, and giving very positive feedback on all of the events to date.

In East Ayrshire, our monthly events take place in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, normally on the third Sunday of the month from 5.00 – 7.00 pm. We also run events which bring all four of the regions we cover together for which we provide transport to enable participation.

We've been visiting your child's school today to talk about our events and to show them photos from some of the events we've run over the last 12 months and would love to welcome them along to some of our events. You can read about what's coming up overleaf; if you have any questions, please feel free to be in touch.

God bless,

Fr Kevin Rennie

Youth Chaplain
Diocese of Galloway

UPCOMING RCDG YOUTH EVENTS...

<h3 style="margin: 0;">Youth Evenings (P5-S4)</h3>		<p style="margin: 0;">Various Dates – 5.00 – 7.00 PM St Joseph’s RC Church, Kilmarnock Free of charge</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">22nd March – Joseph</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">17th May – Eucharist</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">21st June – The Church</p>
<p>Our monthly Youth Evenings combine times of prayer and discussion with games, activities, pizza, and lots of fun! Each evening begins with a short Mass at 5.00 pm, following which the young people continue in the hall with games and activities led by our S3/4 Junior Leaders. During the evening, there’s a short talk on the theme of the evening given by the Junior or adult leaders, and supper: pizza, juice, crisps and sweets, provided – all free of charge.</p> <p>The evenings give young people lots of time to spend with friends and having fun getting to know one another while also learning about God. There’s no need to sign up, but if your child is coming for the first time, please complete a Consent Form by scanning the QR code.</p>		
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Easter Youth Gathering</h3> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>The Holy Spirit – P5-S4</i></p>		<p style="margin: 0;">Saturday 18th April – 11.00 AM – 4.00 PM St Teresa’s RC Church, Dumfries (Free transport from St Joseph’s, Kilmarnock and St John’s, Cumnock) Free of charge</p>
<p>The Easter Youth Gathering is an all day event which brings together young people from across the Diocese for a day of faith, fun, and games as they gather to celebrate Easter. The day follows a similar format to the Youth Evenings, with a range of different games and activities led by our S3 Junior Leaders, Mass, two short talks on the theme of the Holy Spirit, and lots of fun! Lunch, a BBQ, pizza, crisps, sweets and juice is provided free of charge and it’s a fantastic opportunity to meet other young people from across Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway.</p> <p>Last year we welcomed almost sixty young people to the event and we can’t wait to return this year! Free transport will be provided from Kilmarnock and Cumnock, book your seat when registering. To register, scan the QR code or go to our website.</p>		
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Advent Youth Retreat</h3> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Current P6-S3</i></p>		<p style="margin: 0;">Friday 27th – Sunday 29th November Gowanbank SU Centre (near Darvel) (Free transport from St Joseph’s, Kilmarnock) £140.00 (Bursaries Available)</p>
<p>Following the success of our 2025 Advent Retreat we can’t wait to return this year. Join us for a weekend of outdoor activities, talks, games, prayer, and Mass as young people spend the weekend away with their friends, and making new friends too. Over the course of the weekend young people will take part in archery, archery tag, and tree climbing, as well as talks, reflections and discussion as they learn more about God and his love for them. The weekend is open to all young people currently in P6-S3 (P7-S4 at the time of the retreat).</p> <p>Register before Easter and only pay a £50 deposit with nothing further to pay until June, and get it for the discounted rate of only £140 (£160 after Easter). Scan the QR code or go to our website to see pictures and for more details.</p>		

FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT ANY OF OUR EVENTS OR WHAT’S HAPPENING, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: YOUTH.RCDG.ORG.UK.