



CANBERRA & GOULBURN  
YOUTH MINISTRY

AUGUST 2017

# *Youth Ministry*

FORMATION - CELEBRATION - MISSION





## ARCHDIOCESAN VISION FOR YOUTH MINISTRY THREE YEARS OF YOUTH

VISION	EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST, LIVE A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH		
	AN ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY BASED ON THE CSYMA FOUR-PHASE MODEL OF FORMATION THAT ESTABLISHES DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAYS FROM CATHOLIC SCHOOLS INTO CHURCH COMMUNITIES (PARISHES AND ECCLESIAL MOVEMENTS).		

STRUCTURE	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	YOUTH MINISTERS	CHURCH COMMUNITIES (PARISH AND MOVEMENTS)
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AIMS	To facilitate evangelisation and discipleship opportunities for young people to encounter Christ;	To empower young people to lead a new evangelisation through participation in the life and mission of the Catholic Church;	To build evangelisation pathways between Catholic schools and local Church communities (Parish and ecclesial movements);	To provide further formation opportunities by drawing young people together for Archdiocesan and national youth ministry initiatives; and	To resource Catholic schools and local Church communities with formation programs for young people.
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FOCUS AREAS	1. SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY (CSYMA)	2. YOUTH EVENTS	3. YOUTH MINISTERS (YMI)	4. CHURCH	5. MISSION	6. TEACHER AND CHURCH LEADER FORMATION
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THREE YEARS OF YOUTH	2017. FORMATION	2018. CELEBRATION NATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH	2019. MISSION
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# Update

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Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is building a new vision that seeks to invite young people to encounter Christ, live a life in the Spirit and participate in the mission of the Church. The model of youth ministry is centred around the development of discipleship pathways from Catholic schools into Church communities (parishes and ecclesial movements), with young people leading formation initiatives for other young people.

At the core of this model is the conviction that Catholic schools can be centres of the new evangelisation, providing a context for students to encounter Christ and enter into a lifelong path of participation in the life and mission of the Church.

This update seeks to inform the Archdiocese of Youth Ministry initiatives being driven by this new model. Looking at the Youth Ministers, Parish based youth ministry, Catholic school based youth ministry, key events and a number of other related areas.

If you would like further information on any of these initiatives or how your parish, school or community can be more involved, then please contact Huw Warmenhoven.

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# Youth Ministers



A key part of the Archdiocese's vision of youth ministry is the development of Youth Ministers. Youth Ministers are engaged part-time or full-time in school and Parish communities that support the development of local and regional youth ministry initiatives that draw young people into participation in the life of the Church. The Youth Ministers are all part of Youth Ministers International, that provides a model of formation and mission (above).

## Huw Warmenhoven

*Youth Ministers Coordinator*

Huw is excited about the new Archdiocesan youth ministry and encouraged seeing it unfold in this the first Year of Youth (Formation) for the Archdiocese. After having worked in youth ministry for the past five years with Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia and more recently, the ACU La Salle Academy, he will be focusing on sharing his passion by inviting young people into the life and mission of the Church throughout the Archdiocese. Finishing off his law degree at university and trying his hand as an artist keep him busy in his time outside youth ministry.



## Jordan Hodge

*St Gregory's, Queanbeyan and St Edmund's College*

Jordan has been exploring his faith since he was in Year 11 and fell in love with youth ministry and the search for a deeper relationship with God over the past few years. After being a Youth Minister in Port Macquarie, he's been involved with various other youth ministries, before becoming a youth minister at St Gregory's Parish, Queanbeyan last year. This year he is the youth minister for St Gregory's and St Edmund's College, seeking to further strengthen the connection between school and parish.



## Sarah Pearson

*St Gregory's, Queanbeyan and St Clare's College*

Sarah has a passion for connecting with youth and believes that youth ministry is about building relationships that engage young people with their faith. Sarah's focus between St Gregory's and St Clare's is to share her faith and invite all young people to an experience of faith. Sarah is also at university studying a Bachelor of Education.



## Jazz Chalouhi

*Holy Spirit, Gungahlin and St Augustine's, Yass*

Jazz has a big heart for youth ministry, seeking to passionately share her faith with all who meet her. After having served with NET ministries and working in youth ministry at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, Jazz moved down to Canberra earlier this year to support the vibrant Yass youth ministry and help develop the new youth ministry vision throughout Gungahlin. She has a passion for photography, media and Coca Cola!



## Katie Golding

*Belconnen Parishes and St Francis Xavier College*

Katie has a focus this year on developing connections between St Francis Xavier and the Belconnen Parishes including supporting youth ministry initiatives within the school, leading school based retreats and continuing to build the newly formed Agape youth group. Her focus this year is to draw youth and young adults from across the Belconnen region together and into the mission of the Church. In her spare time she is an athlete specialising in middle distance track.



### **Zoe Swan**

*Belconnen Parishes and St Francis Xavier*

Zoe is working on supporting youth ministry within the Belconnen region and at St Francis Xavier. Zoe is focusing on reaching out to young people who want to explore the faith, nurture young people to share their faith with others in the school and lead them to live out their faith in the broader Church. When she isn't involved in youth ministry,

Zoe is involved in the Canberra theatre scene performing, directing and even sometimes writing.



### **Rossen de Ramos**

*Mary Help of Christians, Pearce and Marist College*

Rossen has a passion for seeing young people grow in their personal relationship with Christ and empowering them to live out their lives marked by their faith. Drawing on his experience leading the Youth for Christ youth movement in Canberra, he will be focusing on supporting youth ministry within Marist and establishing a pathway into the Parish community.



### **Chiara Catanzariti**

*St Benedict's, Narrabundah*

Chiara has an exciting vision for youth ministry seeking to share the community fellowship at St Benedict's and to bring more young people to experience the love of God. After helping to lead the St Clare's Youth Ministry Team, Chiara is looking to develop the St Benedict's Youth including a vibrant Youth Mass.



### **Alannah Hodge**

Alannah has a passion to evangelise one young person at a time and together, to create a movement of faith known for its faithfulness, acceptance, fellowship and love. Having been involved in youth ministry throughout school and been a leader of Parish based youth ministry, When she isn't busily involved in ministry or studying to be a teacher, she is most often feeding her obsession with Harry Potter.

More Youth Minister positions are currently being filled for Semester 2, 2017. In addition, Youth Minister placements are being arranged for 2018.

## **FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP**

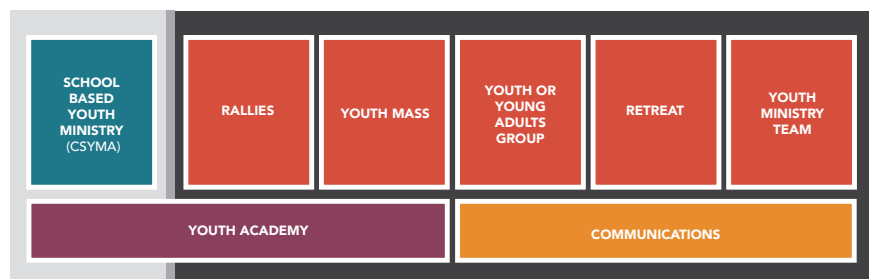
In addition to the formation and training received at the Youth Ministry Equipping School (February) and through the Signum Fidei Youth Ministry and Catholic Schools Certificate, the Youth Ministers are currently participating in an Archdiocesan Fellowship and Formation series. Gathering every fortnight, the Youth Ministers spend time in prayer, reflection and formation on themes including the new evangelisation, the evangelisation process, developing an effective Parish and school youth ministry, spiritual disciplines for spiritual growth and more.



# Church Community

YOUTH MINISTRY

WHAT IS INVOLVED?



## YOUTH RALLIES

Youth Rallies are a connecting point for young people, providing an opportunity to explore their faith within the heart of a Church community.

Incorporating music and worship, personal sharing, drama, multimedia and prayer, the Youth Rally seeks to explore faith in a contemporary way.

### RISE Youth Rally Queanbeyan

The RISE Youth Mass and Youth Rally was themed around the story of Lazarus, inviting young people from around the Queanbeyan region to celebrate and be reaffirmed in their faith. RISE was led by Fr Troy, Archdiocesan Youth Chaplain Fr Paul Nully and a team of Youth Ministers. Fr Troy opened the event with a challenge, saying “do you truly believe that Jesus gives us life and gives it abundantly? If we know this we know that through Him we will rise again”. He posed the question of what the world would be like if we all honestly believed this and lived our lives with total trust in Jesus’ promise. Music for Mass was led by the Saint Greg’s Youth Music Ministry, made up of students from the region who led the congregation prayerfully. This then moved into the Youth Rally led by Archdiocesan Youth Ministers and other youth leaders including a sharing by Sarah Pearson who spoke of God’s strengthening presence in her life. The Youth Rally closed with a prayer response, which focused on the theme of letting go of what’s holding us back allowing us to RISE up. The event saw a huge step forward for youth ministry within the Queanbeyan region, building on the already strong youth ministry foundations within the Parish.

Youth Rallies conducted include: LEAD (Archdiocesan) - RISE (Queanbeyan) - RISE (Temora)

## YOUTH MASS

Youth Masses seek to celebrate young people in the Church and invite them into greater participation in the life of the Church through the Eucharist.

Through the readings, offertory, music ministry and general fellowship, the Youth Mass targets formation to young people.

### CONNECT Youth Mass

The CONNECT Mass seeks to link and draw parishes and schools together, regionally, to celebrate youth in the Church through the Eucharist. The CONNECT Masses where ‘refreshing and rewarding seeing different schools come together’ said Rossen de Ramos, Youth Minister at Mary, Help of Christians and Marist College. Following the Mass was a time of fellowship over dinner. Rossen also said that the ‘openness of the youth was so amazing. Talking to different youth was so energizing!’

Youth Masses regularly conducted include: Queanbeyan - Yass - Narrabundah - Pearce - Gowrie - Cathedral



**SPIRIT Youth Retreat**

Young people from across the Archdiocese gathered for the SPIRIT Retreat before entering into a Rally and Mass to celebrate Pentecost at the St Benedict's Mission Centre.

**YOUTH RETREATS**

Youth Retreats provide an opportunity for young people to deepen in their personal faith beyond the school community.

Often incorporating a Youth Mass as well as opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Retreats gather young people together and invite them

The SPIRIT Retreat was a significant event that deepened young people from a variety of school and Parish communities together to be empowered by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Commencing with sessions exploring God's Love and the Gift of Jesus, personal sharing's given by Archdiocesan Youth Ministers about being open to building an intimate and personal relationship with God had a profound impact on those who attended. The participants were given an opportunity to openly discuss how they felt about their faith love within small groups before entering into an opportunity to respond on the blockages of faith in their life. This response, called 'Tied Down', was a highlight within the retreat for many. "The 'Tied Down' activity resonated with me as it was a visual representation of the fears and worries holding me down. I felt I had been relieved of some of the worries I was carrying and felt closer to God" said Bailey Marshall (Agape Youth Group Belconnen). The celebration led into a Youth Mass, which was a powerful end to the Retreat experience. "I thought that the youth participation was great ... the opportunity for prayer was my favorite part as it helped me feel more connected with God" said Sarah Pearson. Overall the power of faith was evident through the joy expressed by all who attended, in prayer and the testimonies shared.

**Youth Retreats conducted include: SPIRIT (Narrabundah)**

**YOUTH GROUPS**

Youth Groups provide the context for ongoing fellowship within a Parish community. Youth Groups have focused on running Youth Alpha as well as other programs to provide in depth formation.

**AGAPE Youth Group**

A new youth ministry is growing in the Belconnen region, seen with the new youth group at St John the Apostle Parish in Kippax called 'Agape'. Youth Ministers Katie Golding and Zoe Swan were excited to bring students from St Francis Xavier College and members of the Parish together for a night of building relationships, reflection and growing closer to God. In their first sessions, they challenged the youth to write down any questions they had about their faith, which will lay the foundation for the rest of the year. The first Agape Youth Group was obviously a fun, uniting and faith filled experience. It will be exciting to see it continue to grow throughout the rest of the year and into the future.

**Youth Groups regularly conducted include: Queanbeyan - Kippax - Yass - Gungahlin - Pearce - Narrabundah**



## CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS

Cross-cultural mission opportunities are a key part of the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry vision, allowing Youth Ministers, teachers and students to participate in the universal mission of the Church.

Opportunities for youth and young adults to participate in mission opportunities will become more available next year in the national Year of Youth and leading into 2019 in the Archdiocesan Year of Mission for Youth.

### CSYMI England Mission

Youth Ministers from the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn joined with Youth Ministers from the Youth Ministers International network to lead a two-week cross-cultural mission to England.

The mission had a vision to establish Catholic Schools Youth Ministry England (CSYME). Focusing on four Dioceses in the United Kingdom (Southwark, Arundel and Brighton, Northampton and Salford), the team of seven Youth Ministers conducted school outreach to over 2,500 students that included core sessions on the theme 'Follow = Come + Go' that broke upon how living out the Christian faith involves coming into a relationship with Jesus and going forth to live out the mission of the Church.

The team also helped to lead teacher formation initiatives for over 200 teachers that focused on equipping and empowering Catholic schools to become centers of the new evangelisation. Stuart McPherson, a Principal from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, said that the Youth Ministers and CSYMA vision was 'hugely impressive' and a hope for the future of the Catholic Church.

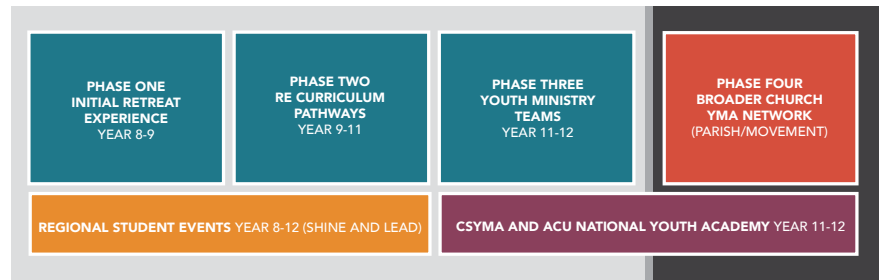
Sharing the CSYMA vision across England was an exciting opportunity for the Youth Ministers who have all had a personal experience coming through the models of student formation. One of the team, Daniel Underhill, shared that his "experience of the mission was amazing, the highlight being how open the staff and students were to us and, more importantly, their openness to faith. I look forward to seeing CSYME develop in the near future."

This mission also provided an opportunity to support local leaders to continue to develop CSYME following the mission. This included building on a strong relationship already established with the Archdiocese of Southwark. Five Catholic Education and youth leaders from Southwark came over to the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn earlier this year to join with all the Youth Ministers involved in Youth Ministers International to be equipped and formed at the annual Youth Ministry Equipping School.

It will be exciting to see more fruit come from this Equipping School as Youth Ministers also prepare to lead similar cross-cultural missions to the Northern Territory and Uganda later this year.

**Upcoming Missions include: Northern Territory - Uganda**





The year is well underway and there has been some great momentum and uptake of the Youth Ministry Program within Catholic Schools in our Archdiocese. Currently there are ten secondary schools implementing the Youth Ministry curriculum this year and another four looking at implementation for next year.

Key to the implementation across the Archdiocese has been the Phase One - Retreat Experience for students. The Retreat experiences this year have run across numerous schools and as recently as last week a team of volunteers from the Archdiocesan Youth Ministers came together to assist in running these retreats at Lumen Christi Pambula and Carroll College Broulee. The feedback received from some of the staff spoke volumes of the days.

*They (the Youth ministers) were very inspiring and connected really well with our Year 9 students. The variety of activities they guided our students through were all really engaging, especially the drama skits and small group discussions. Many of the students have commented really positively on the experience and have indicated that they would like to explore CSYMA further in the school setting.*

*It is great to see that a few sparks could be ignited by the activities and talks that your team had with our students. It truly is the Holy Spirit in action.*

**Michael Hergenhan**  
 Head of Religious Education and Identity Lumen Christi

*Your planning and execution of the day's activities touched hearts and received very positive feedback from staff and students alike. You were Faith-filled role models and you communicated by example. I was inspired by the day..*

**John Liston**  
 Lumen Christi

Out next big event to build on the Youth Ministry models in Catholic schools will take place at the gathering of our Youth Ministry students in years 9 -12 for the Shine Youth Mass and Youth Rally and then a Year 9 -10 Shine Student Conference being held at John Paull II college in Nicholls which currently has over 300 registrations. Following this we will be taking a group of students, youth ministers and teachers on an 8 day Youth Ministry trip focused on continuing to build our relationship within Indigenous communities within the Northern Territory.



## CATCH THE WAVE

Catch the Wave is an initial retreat experience that is the First Phase of the Youth Ministry Model.

Covering topics including God's Love, the Salvation Message, the Gospel message in Modern Society and Reconciliation and Forgiveness, Catch the Wave proclaims the basic Gospel message to students as they begin their journey through Youth Ministry.

### Western Deanery Catch the Wave Retreats

Renewal is happening in the Western Deanery throughout Tumut, Temora and Cootamundra. Earlier this year, hundreds of students from across the Deanery gathered for Catch the Wave Retreats as well as a Youth Rally and Youth Mass.

Catch the Wave was a key experience for Year 9 students that broke open the basic Gospel message including sessions on God's love, the Salvation message and forgiveness that included inviting young people to respond through an invitation to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Students from Year 8 also gathered regionally for the I AM retreat that drew young people to view their self-image through the lens of faith.

The response from the students was one of openness and a willingness to encounter Christ, with the vast majority entering into the Sacrament of Reconciliation along with a desire to express their faith.

The Retreats were conducted by several of our Archdiocesan Youth Ministers as well as Catholic Education Staff and local Priests.

The Retreats provided an opportunity to draw young people into an experience of the broader Church, including a Youth Rally and Youth Mass that celebrated young people in the life and mission of the Church.

Catch the Wave Retreats conducted include: St Anne's, Tumut - McAuley, Temora - Sacred Heart, Cootamundra - St Edmund's, Griffith - St Clare's, Griffith - John Paul College, Gungahlin - Lumen Christi, Pambula - Carroll College, Broulee



## RETREATS

In addition to Catch the Wave, the Youth Ministers assist in conducting retreats within their school communities and beyond. These include year level retreats, reflection days or special themed retreats often conducted in partnership with teachers and other Diocesan agencies.

### Made for More Retreat

A renewal of youth ministry within the Western Deanery is emerging with a focus on transforming the Catholic school as a place of faith formation and building pathways for youth into the life of the Church.

In May, an Archdiocesan Team to run the 'Made for More' Retreat for students at Sacred Heart Central School in Cootamundra. The Team, comprised of Youth Ministers, students (from the St Clare's Youth Ministry Team), teachers, Catholic Education Office staff and Priests brought into reality the vision of Catholic Education and the Archdiocese coming together.

The Retreat focused on empowering young people to realise they are made for an extraordinary life that can be lived to the full when lived with faith and that they can 'do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (Phil 4:6). The young people responded positively, with one student saying that the retreat help them understand 'that God is relevant and actually with me forever' and another saying they came to realise 'we are made for more and that God loves us.'

Throughout the rest of the year, staff will begin implementing school based models of student formation (Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia) that will follow on from the retreat experience. It is exciting to see this vision to draw young people into the life of the Church take another step forward, gaining even more momentum as more retreats are run throughout the Western Deanery over the coming months.

Additional Retreats conducted or supported include: Sacred Heart, Cootamundra - St Edmund's, Griffith - St Clare's, Griffith - John Paul College, Gungahlin - St Francis Xavier College, Belconnen - Marist College, Pearce



# Teacher & Leader

FORMATION

WHAT IS INVOLVED?



## PORTA FIDEI

Porta Fidei Teacher Renewal Experience is a formation initiative developed by CSYMA to support teachers in experiencing a formation of the heart.

Run by teachers, the retreat experience delves into God's love, reconciliation and forgiveness and leads into a commitment to their vocation as teachers.

### Porta Fidei: Teacher Renewal Experience

Early Career Teachers from across the Archdiocese came together for a CSYMA Porta Fidei Teacher Renewal Experience – the Door of Faith on the 7th June.

With nearly 50 participants from our Catholic schools, the experience proved to be a key formation opportunity for staff. One teacher who attended described the Retreat as a 'liberating walk amongst the chaos that allowed me to let God in our mess and heal us from the inside.'

The Retreat included sessions on faith as an experience of God's love, the Kerygma, the renewal of faith and teaching as a vocation. Presentation from fellow teachers were incredibly powerful, providing a context for peer-to-peer formation as well as inputs from a number of Priests including Fr Tony Percy VG and Fr Chris Eaton MGL who formed the integral connection between school and the broader Church.

Archdiocesan based Stephen Kirk provided the musical backdrop for the Retreat, coming to the fore as he led the group in prayer and worship.

The Retreat truly renewed the teachers in the vocation to teaching whilst empowering them to turn to the classroom as a context of formation for their students. One participant said the Retreat 'has renewed my understanding of why I wanted to become a teacher helped me find my focus again' and another saying that the Retreat gave them 'the courage, confidence and strength to continue in this unique vocation with the energy to make a difference.'

The faith formation of teachers has been expressed as of critical importance at a national level by the National Catholic Education Commission. Moving forward, the CSYMA Porta Fidei Retreat was an opportunity to open themselves to the Door of Faith in their lives, with one teacher saying they are ready to 'commit to making more time for their faith' in their daily life.

The Porta Fidei Retreat is one of a number of initiatives from Catholic Education targetted to the formation of Early Career Teachers.



## YOUTH LEADERS MORNING TEA

The Youth Leaders Morning Tea is an initiative to connect Youth Leaders from Parishes, Schools and ecclesial movements together to network and receive formation to support their ministry.

### Youth Leaders morning Tea with Sr Mary Goretti

Earlier this year, the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Youth Ministry invited leaders of youth ministries across the Archdiocese to come together and be formed for the mission of the Church.

Partnering up with Catholic Mission to deliver the morning tea, the youth leaders were able to hear from Sr Mary Goretti, who leads a medical facility in rural Uganda, on how she has lived out her calling in the mission of the Church.

Gathering the Archdiocesan Youth Ministers together with other youth leaders will be important to continue to build pathways for young people to engage more broadly in the life of the Church.



# YOUTH MINISTRY *Communication*



YOUTH  
MINISTRY  
APP

SEARCH 'CANBERRA YOUTH MINISTRY'

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## YOUTH MINISTRY APP

The CG Youth Ministry App provides a means to connect young people from across the Archdiocese to ongoing formation opportunities.

### The Youth Ministry App

After its development in the first half of the year, the Youth Ministry App is currently going through a second wave of young people involved in Youth Ministry initiatives in Parishes and schools signing up. With daily gospel reflections, blog posts and updates on upcoming formation and mission opportunities, the Youth Ministry App is a key way that the Archdiocese is connecting and building ongoing relationships with young people.

## SYNOD ON YOUTH, FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. . . to be focused on the theme of "Youth, Faith, and Vocational Discernment." It will be held in October 2018. The Synod aims to accompany the young on their journey to maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they discover their plan for life and realize it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the Church and of society."

### Synod on Young People: An International Conversation

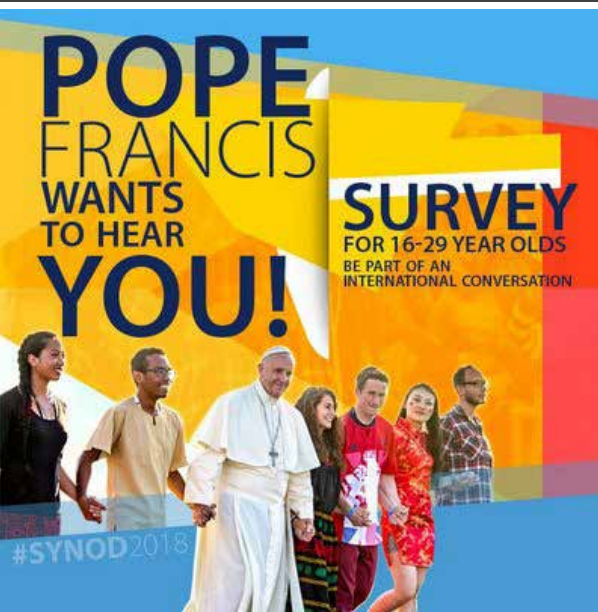
Young people are being called to share their views on faith, life and Church through an online conversation, released by the Australian Bishops, in preparation of the Synod on Youth. All young people, aged between 16 and 29 years, are being invited to take part and share on a range of topics including: their experience of being listened to, the impact of new media, friendships and influences of the modern world and how they can engage with the Church.

Recently in Rome, Ashleigh Green, a young Catholic from Sydney, said to a gathering of young people that one of her hopes for the Church in Australia is that 'we can better engage our most disadvantaged and marginalised young Australians'. 'I hope that we can use the common yearning for social justice as an avenue to engage youth and I hope that we can create new spaces for community within the Church,' she added.

This survey provided a great opportunity for all young people to have their voice heard, recognising the importance of young people as the future of the Church.

Pope Francis has also called all young people from around the world to join this inclusive, international conversation as he said that the Church 'wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities'. Pope Francis went on to say that, 'Every young person has something to say to others...all of us need to listen to you!', and he added 'even young people who consider themselves agnostics, even young people whose faith is lukewarm; even young people who no longer go to Church; even young people who consider themselves atheists'.

Over 200 young people from the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn completed the online survey and contributed to this important, international conversation leading into the Synod on Young People.



# Music Ministry

## MUSIC MINISTRY: MUSIC FROM THE HEART

Music From The Heart is a music ministry formation workshop for leader of Parish and movement music ministries.

Providing formation on the liturgy and the theology of music, Music From The Heart seeks to empower musicians and leaders across the Archdiocese to bring worship to life in their Church community.

### Music from the Heart

Formation for music ministry in Parishes, movements and schools across the Archdiocese will be a key factor over the next Three Years of Youth. The first formation opportunity to achieve this was 'Music from the Heart.'

Music from the Heart was a music ministry formation day for leaders of music ministries and youth ministries hosted by Mary Help of Christians Parish, Pearce. Focusing on music within the context of the liturgy, the day covered a range of topics from theological formation to practically equipping the participants to lead music ministry. With inputs from Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Archdiocesan musicians and worship leaders Stephen Kirk and Jaki Kane, the workshops formed leaders to bring music and worship to life in their Church communities.

Rossen de Ramos, Youth Minister for the Mary Help of Christians Parish and Marist College said that the "formation was fruitful towards deepening my understanding of the meaning of what music is all about and how it related to my Catholic faith. I'm really excited about bringing back into my Parish all the knowledge, wisdom and skills I learned from the day."

The formation day culminated with participants leading the music for the Parish Vigil Mass. It will be exciting seeing the flow on from this day into the heart of the local Church communities.

More music ministry formation days are currently being planned in additional Church communities throughout the Archdiocese through the rest of the year.



# Other Ministries

## OTHER MINISTRIES: MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Essential to the success of the Youth Ministry vision in the Archdiocese is having the Youth Ministry from the Archbishops Office of Evangelisation work closely with leaders from other ministries including Marriage, Family and Relationships, Catechists and of course Catholic Education.

This could be seen recently in the MFR Retreat run on Human Dignity at St Francis Xavier College, with the senior Youth Ministry Team and Youth Ministers assisting in running the Retreat.

### Delving into the Ethics of the Body at St Francis Xavier

What can I learn from the church about relationships and sexuality? And how are the church teachings on “being human” relevant in helping me be my best self in relationships? In May this year, students from year 12 at Saint Francis Xavier College engaged in a seminar about Human Sexuality and the Ethics of the Body where these questions and more were addressed, examined and discussed amongst the year group. The seminar was one of a number of pilot projects taking place around the Archdiocese to support teachers in providing their students with much needed input and reflection opportunities regarding relationships.

The students were given an opportunity to listen to personal experiences and the valuable insights on the Christian Perspective on Human Sexuality before breaking open gender specific topics. One of the talks addressed the topic of fertility and how important it is to value yourself in a relationship. Youth Minister Zoe Swan said that she thought “it was relevant and interesting as it raised topics that girls don’t necessarily know a lot about, so it was really great to listen and ask any questions we had.” The boys engaged in a seminar which spoke on the importance of being confident in faith and personal abilities. Lachlan Bull, a year 12 St Francis Xavier students said he thought “Steve Proud was able to resonate with the boys through his personal testimony along with his strong talk about how men shield themselves from certain topics in modern society. I think his talk was inspiring to hear and was easy to relate parts to my own life.”

A highlight of the afternoon for the students was certainly the Q&A panel. Prior to this the students composed any question they had about the Catholic Church and the topics raised during the seminar. This time allowed the students the opportunity to have their tough questions answered directly, and generated great discussion. The questions aroused so much interest that they could have gone on for many more hours into the night. The Seminar granted the students an insight and the chance to pull apart relevant tough topics with the pastoral and authentic presentation of the Church’s teachings from lay and religious Church leaders provided a much-needed voice into the lives of the students.



# Upcoming Events

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

CATCH THE WAVE YEAR 8	SHINE YEAR 9 & 10	LEAD YEAR YEAR 11 & 12	RISE RALLIES YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS	SPIRIT RETREAT YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS	AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL YOUNG ADULTS
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

There are events constantly on throughout the Archdiocese. Visit the [cgyouthministry.org.au](http://cgyouthministry.org.au) website to stay up to date.

### Shine Youth Mass and Youth Rally

13th August 2017

St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka

### Shine Student Gathering

14th August 2017

John Paul II College, Nicholls

### Marian Procession and Youth Pilgrimage

8th October 2017

St Clement's Galong

### Leading the New Evangelisation (ACU)

31 August - 2 September 2017

Haydon Centre, Manuka

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival

7th - 9th December, 2017

Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney



COME FOLLOW THE MERCIFUL ONE.  
IT'S OUR TIME TO SHINE.

**Shine**  
STUDENT GATHERING

CALLING STUDENTS TO GATHER, CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER, BE EMPOWERED THROUGH FAITH AND EXPERIENCE THE BROADER CHURCH.

We invite year 9 & 10 students to attend on the 13th and 14th August 2017 for a chance to explore their faith, along with other students throughout the Archdiocese. Various workshops facilitated by staff and students and Church leaders will be running during the event.

The gathering will start with an Archdiocesan Youth Mass and Rally on Sunday from 5:30pm at St Christopher's Cathedral. All members of the Archdiocese are invited to attend the Youth Mass and Rally. Dinner is provided for all participants.

WHERE	WHEN	WHAT
ST CHRISTOPHER'S CATHEDRAL + ST JOHN PAUL II COLLEGE, NICHOLLS	SUNDAY AUG 13 (5.30PM - 9.00PM)	KEYNOTES
	MONDAY AUG 14 (9.00AM - 3.00PM)	WORKSHOPS
		SACRAMENTS





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FORMATION - CELEBRATION - MISSION

