



# YOUTH Matters

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## Youth Matters

This is the first edition of 'Youth Matters', which is a newsletter for young people in the deanery and those who are concerned about our young people. Here you will find information about events for young people and news, thoughts and reflections about and from young people as the 'hope of tomorrow.' It is hoped that those reading this will put pen to paper and write in with thoughts, ideas and news. Please send these to me at the above address with a stamped addressed envelope - or e-mail. This is an opportunity for the views of young people to be heard.

Here are some views, which some young people wrote down recently.

"The parish needs more participation from young people." In answer to the question, "what would young people say to adults," the reply, "treat us like adults and listen to what we have to say," and "try to be more understanding." To the question, "what would young people say to the Church," the reply "make the Church more enjoyable," and comments about more relevant, lively and enjoyable liturgy. These views are not new.

Here is a quotation from, "Awakening the Giant." By Fr. Pat Lynch founder of the Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism.

"We need to introduce our young to the person of Jesus in a loving, joyful and effective way. We need to offer them Christ as a way of life. To communicate Jesus in this way will mean utilization of relevant resources, be it good music, which carries the gospel messages, or effective, dynamic and faith-evoking preaching which reveals a God of young people. It will mean a fresh look at liturgy, for this should always bring joy and a sense of celebration into each Eucharist."

So let's hear more from our young people and give some thought to the kind of response to the needs of young people given by Fr. Pat Lynch.

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Issue 1 Summer 2004 Produced by the Croydon Deanery Youth Project

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### Deanery News - These events come highly recommended.

#### Youth Festival - Feed My People

Date: Saturday 10th July 2004

Time: 10am - 10pm

Place: Aylesford Priory, Maidstone, Kent.

Age: 11+

Cost: £10.00 per person

Contact: Your parish priest for booking forms or

Southwark Catholic Youth Service,  
St. Vincent's Centre, Castle Road,  
Whitstable, Kent. CT5 2ED. Tel.

01227 272 900 E-mail:

james@scys.org.uk

Or Tom Caluori 0777 5592984

A wonderful weekend away. Develop new friendships, social activities, lively prayer, important issues.

#### New Dawn Youth Camp

Date: 2nd - 6th August 2004

Place: The National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham.

Age: 16+ (younger if with parents in the family camp - this is part of a big conference for all ages).

Cost: Voluntary contribution of £75 (£25 for 5-15 years) If not self-catering, meals - £40 for the week.

Travel: Return coach from London, £30

Contact: Kofi 07956 133223.

E-mail: newdawn youth@hotmail.com

Website: www.newdawn youth.org.uk or

E mail: admin@newdawn.org.uk

#### World Youth day

Date: 11th -21st August 2005

Place: Cologne, Germany.

Age: 16+

Travel: By coach with a large group from the diocese

Contact: Southwark Catholic Youth Service, St. Vincent's Centre, Castle Road, Whitstable, Kent. CT5 2ED. Tel. 01227 272 900

This will be a trip of a lifetime. Archbishop Kevin will be going with the group from our diocese. Travel by coach. There will be sight seeing, meeting lots of new people and of course seeing the pope. If interested, and you want to find out more contact your parish priest initially.

A fantastic day away. Lots of new friends. Enjoyable activities and a very important topic. Show you care, get involved.

#### Deanery Youth Weekend

Date: 2nd -4th July 2004

Time: Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

Place: St. Vincent's Residential Youth Centre, Castle Road, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 2ED.

Age: 14 -15

Cost: £45, excluding travel.

Contact: Your parish priest for a booking form or telephone. Tom Caluori 0777 5592984. E-mail: tom-caluori@blueyonder.co.uk

Are young people listened to?

Are young people involved?

As we have seen from the comments given above, there are young people who do not think the above is the case. The parish at Upper Norwood have set out to grasp this nettle by establishing a youth management committee. Recently a meeting was called of those in the parish who are involved in ministries and groups. For example, Justice and Peace, the children's liturgy of the Word, SVP and the Reading ministry. Young people who are to be Confirmed next year will be invited to join a parish group or ministry as part of their preparation. This is called, "service projects." In this way it is hoped that the young people will be listened to and involved and become fully active and fully alive members of their parish community. Ideally, young people can have their own groups eventually for example, Youth SVP or Young Christian Workers IMPACT groups.

For more information on youth management groups or the service project idea, contact Tom Caluori at the Croydon Deanery Youth Project office or e:mail.

## LETTER FROM LUCY

My name is Lucy Carson and I am the president of the Youth S.V.P. at St Dominic's Church in Waddon. Youth S.V.P. is all about helping the community. As well as helping out in the community Youth S.V.P. helps with our confidence, getting involved in the church and making friends. I have met people I would never have spoken to and also has brought me closer to people I do know. Youth S.V.P. is great for younger people in the parish. It's a chance for us to make a difference so it's not all the adults. We are capable as well and it's a chance for us to prove ourselves as individuals as well as a group.

*Lucy Carson, aged 16*

## IMPACT

This is a movement of and for young people. IMPACT is part of a movement called the Young Christian Workers for young people who are still students at school. There are two groups in the Croydon area. One at Virgo Fidelis, Upper Norwood and the other, St Mary's West Croydon. IMPACT is run by the Young people who choose their own committee. The groups enquire into issues and aspects of life affecting young people such as leisure, street crime, TV and family from a Christian point of view and take action personally or as a group. They also organise social events for young people and both groups have run discos in their parishes attracting a large number of young people. Both groups grew out of the Confirmation group in each parish. Fifteen young people took part in a weekend at the Catholic Youth Service Retreat centre at St. Vincent's Whitstable this year.

For information on how to start an IMPACT group in your parish contact Tom Caluori at the above address.



## Weekends Away

We are very fortunate to have a retreat centre for young people in the diocese at Whitstable, Kent. The St. Vincent's centre, which is run by the Catholic Youth Service has a resident team of young people and is becoming increasingly busy. This year from the deanery the centre has hosted a weekend for the Upper Norwood IMPACT group and a group from Virgo Fidelis senior school. Both groups of young people had a wonderful experience and some have already booked to take part in the deanery weekend coming up on the 2nd - 4th July this year. If you would like to book a group from your parish, perhaps from the con-

firmation programme, the address for St. Vincent's is in the events section of this newsletter. If interested in the deanery weekend away contact Tom at address above.

## Youth Clubs

The youth clubs of the deanery continue to offer young people opportunities for friends to meet, to make new friends and generally to have an enjoyable time. As well as providing opportunities for activities such as BBQ's, discos and outings they can take action in the community. One example of this is the club at St. Chads, South Norwood which raised £500 from a Quiz for St. Christopher's Hospice.

The leaders of the clubs in the deanery have been meeting recently. At their last meeting it was decided to hold an inter club quiz afternoon in the deanery at the start of the autumn term.

It was also agreed to have a training programme for club leaders starting in the autumn.

If anyone would like information about the next leader's meeting or the training programme or help with starting a club please contact Tom at the address above

## Useful addresses for Youth Ministry

Croydon Deanery Youth Project,  
Tom Caluori  
St. Joseph's College,  
Beulah Hill,  
London, SE19 3HL

020 8761 1426  
0777 5592984 e-mail:  
tomcaluori@blueyonder.co.uk

Southwark Catholic Youth Service,  
Castle Road, Whitstable  
Kent CT5 2ED

01227 272900 e-mail:  
stvincents@scys.org.uk

The Young Christian Workers  
(YCW),  
Also IMPACT  
St. Joseph's Watford Way,  
London, NW4 4TY

020 8203 6290 e-mail

August. We need to be preparing for this now. It is hoped that a large group will go from this diocese - including the Croydon deanery!

Finally, there are always young people, with the help of dedicated catechists, preparing for Confirmation in our Croydon Parishes. This is a very special time when young people are sent out to live and proclaim the good news.

*Young people...have ... "an eternal destiny, a divine origin, a divine purpose, you are sons and daughters of God, partners with God, you are heirs of God." (Joseph Cardijn, founder of the Young Christian Workers)*



#### Prayer in Preparation for World Youth Day 2005

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Saviour of the World,  
You became man,  
to give us a life in abundance.  
You promised to remain with us in Your Church  
until the end of time.  
Then Your Kingdom will come:  
a new heaven and earth  
full of love, justice and peace.  
This is our hope, our foundation.  
Thanks be to You.

Lord, we pray:  
Bless the young people around the world.  
Reveal Yourself to those who are searching for You.  
Awake those who do not believe in You.  
Strengthen the faith of those who confess You.  
Let them continuously set out to You  
like the three Wise Men from the East.  
Make them architects of a new civilisation of  
love  
and witnesses of hope for the whole world.  
Through them be close to those  
who suffer from hunger, war and violence.

Inspire by Your Holy Spirit those who are contributing  
the preparations of World Youth Day 2005.  
Make them serve Your kingdom  
with the power of their faith and their love  
and let them welcome their brothers and sisters  
from all over the world with open hearts.

Lord, You gave us Mary as our mother.  
Let Her be our advocate for World Youth Day  
so that it becomes a celebration of faith.  
Bless Your Church with new strength these  
days,  
so that She can become a credible witness for  
You.

We ask this through You, our Lord and God,  
living in the unity with the Father and the Holy  
Spirit,  
reigning forever and ever. Amen.

