



GALLOWAY YOUTH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026



SUMMER 2026! We've had a fantastic summer of events as we welcomed First Communicants from across the Diocese in July, introducing them to Galloway Youth and inviting them to become a part of our events – and it's been wonderful to see so many taking up that offer! We then followed that with our Young Adults' BBQ and the Summer Youth Gathering – bringing together young people from across the Diocese as we got ready for back to school! It was a great chance for them to catch up with friends they hadn't seen over the summer and to have lots of FUN at the same time! A particular highlight of the day was the opportunity to celebrate Mass outdoors in the garden of St Joseph's, Kilmarnock – the first time for many of the young people to experience Mass outdoors. Our summer of fun was rounded off with our Whithorn Youth Pilgrimage as part of the National Youth Pilgrimage, which saw almost 40 young people gather for a morning of fun and games at Our Lady & St Ninian's Church, Newton Stewart, followed by a fantastic buffet lunch in the garden. Afterwards, the group enjoyed hearing from Fr Philip Kitchen as he shared his knowledge of St Ninian and Whithorn ahead of Mass with the Diocese in St Martin & St Ninian's Church, Whithorn – we sadly didn't make the beach this year due to the weather, but we're starting to pray now for a good day for next year! Thank you to all of the young people who have taken part in events over the summer, and to all of the volunteer leaders who have given of their time freely to facilitate and run the events – and now that we're back to school, there's even more events coming up!



Youth Office
Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

YOUTH EVENINGS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN P5-S4

**JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE
THE MYSTERY OF THE MASS!**

AN EVENING OF FUN AND GAMES, FAITH AND FRIENDS (AND PIZZA).

27TH SEPTEMBER	25TH OCTOBER	15TH NOVEMBER	13TH DECEMBER
CELEBRATING THE MASS	THE LITURGY OF THE WORD	THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST	LIVING OUR FAITH

5.00 PM - MASS
FOLLOWED BY GAMES, ACTIVITIES, PIZZA,
AND A TALK IN THE HALL UNTIL 7.00 PM.

ST TERESA'S, DUMFRIES	ST PETER-IN-CHAINS, ARDROSSAN	ST MARGARET'S, AYR	ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK
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@ youth@rcdg.org.uk Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

YOUTH EVENINGS RETURN SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

The wait is almost over! Our monthly youth evenings resume on Sunday 27th September – and **they're now open to any young person in P5-S4**, there's no charge, and you don't have to be Catholic (but you do still have to take part in all elements of the evenings) to come along! Until Christmas, we'll be exploring the theme of the Mass: what happens at Mass and what the various parts mean.

27th September – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (*The Beginning of the Mass*)

25th October – The Liturgy of the Word

15th November – The Liturgy of the Eucharist

13th December – Living our Faith

As usual, each evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm, following which we'll continue in the Hall with games and activities – old favourites and a few new ones too – supper (pizza, crisps, sweets, juice), and a short talk on the theme of the evening.

Whether you're new to Galloway Youth or a regular, we look forward to welcoming you along. If you're coming for the first time, please complete a general consent form by scanning the QR code on the right.



Our evenings take place monthly in: St Teresa's, Dumfries; St Joseph's, Kilmarnock; St Margaret's, Ayr; and St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan. So, what are you waiting for? Come along and be part of the fun!

Bishop Frank needs YOUR help!

**He needs a new Christmas card to
send to all his friends
– and he wants you to design it!**

**Are you in P5–S4? Draw your
favourite Christmas-themed design
and send it to us! The winning design
will become the Bishop's Christmas
Card for 2026, as well as being
available to buy from our Youth Office!**

Closing date: Friday 9th October

Ask your parent/ carer to email your design to:
christmas@rcdg.org.uk including your name and age. The
winner will be notified in mid-October with their card being
featured as the Bishop's Christmas Card. The winner will
receive printed cards, their design on a set of Christmas
Baubles, and a certificate from Bishop Frank.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION: Bishop Frank needs
a new Christmas Card, and he wants YOUR help to find it! Are
you in P5-S4? Do you enjoy drawing? Draw your favourite
Christmas-themed design and send it to us:
christmas@rcdg.org.uk. Closing date: Friday 9th October. The
winner will be announced shortly after.

RESIDENTIAL EVENTS

Looking for something a bit different? Why not join us for one
(or both) of our fantastic upcoming residential!

ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT – NOW ONLY £140:
Registration is now open for the 2026 Advent Youth Retreat.
Join us for a weekend of outdoor activities, including: tree
climbing, archery, archery tag; arts and crafts, silent disco and
lots more! We'll also have times of prayer and discussion on the
theme of Advent, Mass, Reconciliation (Confession), and much
more!

The retreat takes place at Gowanbank (near Darvel) from
Friday 27th – Sunday 29th November. Free transport is provided
from Dumfries and Kilmarnock, with leaders available to meet
young people from the bus station as well if required. Young
people will be in shared rooms with their friends/ young people
of a similar age, with boys and girls in separate rooms.

The total cost for the weekend is £140.00, with funding available
to support any young person in need or families with more than
one young person taking part. For pictures from last year and
to register, see our website.

2027 GALLOWAY'S SEOUL: In 2027, Pope Leo will gather
with young people from around the world in Seoul, South Korea
for World Youth Day. While we cannot travel there from
Galloway, we look forward to following the events taking place
in Seoul from Gowanbank as we take part in Galloway's Seoul –
a five-day celebration of World Youth Day taking place at
Gowanbank.

From 7th – 11th August 2027, we'll be taking over Gowanbank
(near Darvel) to follow the events of World Youth Day. Each day
will include: a time of Catechesis (faith learning) led by a visiting
priest/ the Bishop, Mass, outdoor activities, including: canoeing,

hillwalking, tree climbing, archery tag, and more; all meals, and
times of prayer and discussion. The whole event is being
organised and led by the Galloway Youth Office team and so
young people will already know the leaders from other events.

The week costs £400 per person, which includes all activities,
meals, supervision, and transport (from Kilmarnock/ Dumfries).
It's open to anyone in P6–S5 this year (P7–S6 at the time of the
event). We recognise that today the cost of living is expensive
and so, to support young people in taking part, we have grants
and bursaries available, as well as having bimonthly fundraising
events. For full details, and to register, see our website.

YOUNG ADULTS' EVENINGS

Our monthly Young Adults' evenings resume on Sunday 13th
September when our Youth Chaplain, Fr Kevin Rennie, will be
speaking on the theme of "Life and Death: What do we believe?".
The evening will focus on many of the challenges to life faced in
society today and look at the Church's teaching on these issues.
All young adults are invited to join.

The evening takes place in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, and begins
with Adoration at 6.00 pm following which Fr Kevin will speak
in the hall. Don't live in East Ayrshire but want to take part?
Online participation is available to any young adults from
outside of East Ayrshire, to register to follow online, go to our
website and click on 'Young Adults – Online Participation'.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

JOIN THE 200 CLUB: Join the 40+ members who've already
become part of the Youth Office 200 Club and help support our
work while being in with a chance of winning cash prizes. For
only £5 per month, you can join the Youth Office's 200 Club and
be in with a chance to win monthly cash prizes: 20%, 10% and 2
x 5% of that month's draw. Join the growing number of people
from across the Diocese and beyond who are helping support
our work and taking home cash prizes at the same time. For
details, and to register, go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk/200-club or
email us for a registration form.

*The winning numbers from the July draw: 1st – 44 2nd – 47, 3rd &
4th – 3 & 42. All winners have been contacted.*





2026 ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT

RCDG Youth - Diocese of Galloway Youth Office

Weekend includes: Outdoor Activities <i>(Tree climbing, Archery Tag, Archery and more!)</i> Talks, Prayer, and Mass All Meals & Accommodation		27TH - 29TH NOVEMBER	
GOWANBANK		£140 PP	
Open to Youth in P7-S4 in 2026/2027.			

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO YOUTH.RCDG.ORG.UK
TO SECURE YOUR PLACE TODAY!

