



Parish Resources 2021-2022

Catechetical Centre Website www.catecheticalcentre.org

The Catechetical Centre website has a wide variety of creative resources to support the work of schools, families and parishes for Religious Education and Faith Formation. We would be grateful if you would share the details of the website with staff, parents and members of your Boards of Governors/Management. If you feel there is anything that we could add to the website, which would be of benefit, we are open to suggestions.

Diocesan Mass for Opening of School Year

Bishop McKeown will celebrate a Mass for the opening of the school year on Wednesday 22nd September at 10.00am via the webcam at Saint Eugene's Cathedral. I would appreciate it if you would share this information on your website and social media platforms. The Mass will be recorded.

The links for watching the Mass are:

- <http://www.steugenescathedral.com/webcam.html>
- <https://www.facebook.com/StEugenesCathedral/>

Season of Creation-Diocesan Online Programme-27th September-4th October

Pope Francis established 1st September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation, or Creation Time, is marked throughout the Christian world from 1st September to 4th October (*Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. There will be a special week of focus in the Diocese of Derry and the materials are available at <https://catecheticalcentre.org/primary-school-resources/season-of-creation-2021-restoring-our-common-home/>



Synodal Journey in the Irish Church

In March 2021, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference announced a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland leading to a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years. We are in the initial phase of this process, involving a nationwide conversation giving time for prayer, listening, consultation and discernment, on the theme of synodality. A national task group has been set up and parishes are invited to share their insights into the Church in Ireland – past, present and future. There will be a Diocesan framework to help with the facilitation and structure of this synodal pathway in parishes. More information available at www.catholicbishops.ie/synod/background/

Diocesan Youth Commission-Vision for Youth Ministry

The Youth Commission continues to work towards the implementation of *Vision for Youth Ministry 2018-2021 in the Diocese of Derry*. This Vision fits into the broader Diocesan Pastoral Plan and strives to support parishes as they continue to develop Youth Ministry. The Commission has trained youth leaders in many parishes and continues to be available to assist you in reaching young people in your parish. Considering current public health guidelines, we are offering online support to parishes at this time and parish, or deanery Youth Ministry Meetings will take place via zoom. If you would like to discuss online parish programmes or engaging with young people online and the safeguarding implications for this please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.1:1.2:1.3:2.1:2.2:3.1:3.2:2.3*)

Diocesan Youth Ministry Team -Parish Leaders and Volunteers

We are continuing to connect online with parish leaders and volunteers involved in Youth Ministry. Our team are currently offering online zoom meetings for parish leaders to come together to share practice and explore ways to engage with youth at parish level in these exceptional times. It is a difficult time in parish when many ministries that are specifically for young people still cannot take place to ensure everyone's safety. However, there are still some aspects of face-to-face ministry possible and in addition there are creative ways to engage young people online such as online programmes and social media platforms. Parishes interested in these and the safeguarding protocol for them are welcome to get in touch.



Zoom meetings for parishes are also available to provide information on various programmes and initiatives such as Children's Liturgy, GIFT, Alpha, Nua, Summer Camps, JPPII and Youth Pilgrimages all of which we hope and pray will return in due course.

We continue to offer parish leader online training sessions for example in Zoom, Facebook and Instagram. For more details contact yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.1:1.2:1.3:2.1:2.2:3.1:3.2:2.3*)

Renewal- Parish Leader Mentoring with Derry Diocesan Youth Ministry

This is a six-week mentoring programme for parish and volunteer leaders working with young people aged 13-18. The online webinars will provide leaders with an opportunity to come together in prayer and support, celebrate and share best practice and strategically plan the next steps in their parish for Youth Ministry. The mentoring programme will explore:

- What and Why of Youth Ministry?
- Exploring Christus Vivit the apostolic exhortation from Pope Francis to young people
- Shift from Catechetical to Accompaniment - what this means
- Different leadership and ministry approaches (intentionally engaging young people from a range of backgrounds)
- Animating volunteer Parish Teams and developing a parish sub-group to focus on working with children and young people
- Engaging young people online – ideas and safeguarding support
- Models for employing a Parish Pastoral leader for Youth Ministry - first hand testimonies
- Explore forming a Parish Youth Council
- Diocesan Youth Ministry initiatives and training for parish based programmes such as GIFT for Year 8-10 / Year 1-3 and Youth Alpha
- Parish representatives will be supported in planning the way forward as we move to a fuller reopening of churches and parish life.

This programme will run for 6 weeks beginning Thursday 4th November at 7.30pm. If you are interested in finding out more about Renewal or developing Youth Ministry in your parish, please contact yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org

Parish Retreats for Young People

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Team are available to offer a parish retreat or reflection time to a group of young people in your parish. Parishes can choose from engaging workshops, personal testimonies, various types of prayer, group work and team building, PJPII Award Parish Launch and exploring parish ministries. For more information or to book a retreat contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org

G.I.F.T. Growing in Faith Together Parish Programme – Post Confirmation

This is a parish programme. Participants are recruited through their post-primary schools and/or their parish. The programme is aimed at students in KS3/Years 1-3. Several parishes have delivered G.I.F.T 1 for year 8/year 1 students. It is hoped to run G.I.F.T 2 for year 9/year 2 students after Christmas but this will be subject to public health guidelines. Bearing in mind current social restrictions and with completion of a risk assessment the G.I.F.T 1 programme could run this Autumn in parishes. The G.I.F.T programme creates opportunities for young people to grow in faith through the experience of friendship where students have an opportunity to participate in a varied holistic programme of activities in a spirit of faith, fun and prayer together. There will be a training day for Parishes interested in delivering G.I.F.T. on Saturday October 23 in Cathedral Hall, Derry. To adhere to social restrictions places will be limited. For more details or to book your parish place please contact the Diocesan Pastoral Youth Leader at yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org

Safeguarding Training for Parish Leaders working with Children and Young People

All leaders and volunteers working with children and young people in the parish must be recruited and vetted in accordance with the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and have completed training with the Safeguarding Team. There must be at least one leader in the parish who has completed the full day's safeguarding training and all other leaders need to complete a safeguarding training workshop as a minimum requirement to work with children and young people. To this effect any new leaders and volunteers who have not yet completed a safeguarding workshop are invited to do so on Wednesday 6th October at 7pm via Zoom. This training will include safeguarding guidance on working with young people online. To reserve places on this workshop please email safeguarding@derrydiocese.org

World Youth Day 2021 - Feast of Christ the King – 21st November

Pope Francis has called for a relaunch of the celebration of the Annual World Youth Day traditionally held on Palm Sunday, to be held on the Sunday of the Solemnity of Christ the King. World Youth Day celebrated in each particular Church has great value for the young people and the entire local ecclesial community. The key message for young people is 'Receive Christ! Welcome him as King into your lives! Without him there is no true peace, no true inner reconciliation and no true reconciliation with others!' On this day the universal Church will place young people at the centre, pray for them, and engage young people as protagonists in our Church. We will provide a parish liturgy to mark this occasion and as a Diocese plan to hold a local pilgrim walk for young people and a Youth Mass.

Derry Youth Community

The Derry Youth Community continue to seek new members for the incoming year. Young people are invited to commit to ten months working with the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team to serve the young people of our Diocese. Pastoral outreach for the community includes retreats, talks, Pope John Paul II Award support and other faith formation initiatives (including programmes such as Youth Alpha and GIFT). There will be a greater focus on developing and delivering online youth material this year and assisting with the Diocesan Youth Ministry Online Programme. For more information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre.

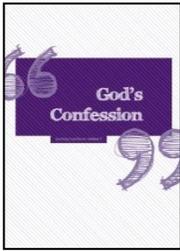


Ambassadors of St Paul Programme

This programme aims to enable young people in Year 10 to explore the role of faith, hope and love. Resources are available from the Catechetical Centre. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan (1.2:2.1:3.1)*)

Parish Liturgies

If you are interested in developing a Family Mass, Children's Liturgy or a Liturgy for those with Special Educational Needs in your parish, support is available. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2:2.1; 3.1*)



God's Confession

This is a five-week programme for Year 13 / Year 5 students and adaptable for adults in a parish setting. The programme focuses on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It enables those participating to explore the invitation of God in the sacrament and the response that they can make. A celebration of the sacrament is an integral part of the programme. This programme has been written by Marguerite Hamilton, Sean Mullan, Thérèse Ferry and Fr Paul Farren. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2: 1.3: 2.1:3.1*)

Pope John Paul II Award

The Pope John Paul II Award will be completed in local parishes and community. The Derry Youth Team have also put in place an online youth programme that will help young people complete tasks and activities as part of their award. The 15th Annual Award Ceremony will take place on Tuesday 5th of April 2022 in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, but the form of this ceremony is dependent on public health guidelines.



Regarding the new cohort of students materials will be sent to schools via the award leader for a video launch to Year 13/Senior students before the end of September. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 13.1*) Given the significant level of change in every parish and the variation in parish ministry we are encouraging parishes to think about what ways, if any, the young people who would like to do their award this year can get involved in the parish. We propose each parish does this on an individual basis and communicates this to the new young people who sign up via a parish introductory evening virtual or in the actual parish if social distancing can be maintained and restrictions allow. If you would like more information about this please contact yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org or lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org

Papal Cross Award

This is a tremendous opportunity for those students who have achieved GOLD in the Pope John Paul II Award. If you are aware of some young people completing Gold in your parish this year you might invite them to consider staying involved for another year by doing their Papal Cross. In addition to parish and social awareness involvement and the diocesan youth ministry online programme participants are asked to undertake a project of their choice. We hope Papal Cross Students will have the opportunity to do an accredited leadership course with Youthlink NI during this year. Please contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org for further information. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2:2.1:3.1:3.3*)

Pope John Paul II Award Parish Leaders

Many parishes have appointed a Parish Award Leader to help coordinate young people as they fulfil the parish involvement strand of the award. If you do not have a parish award leader, we would encourage you to nominate one. There will be an Induction meeting via zoom for new parish award leaders on Wednesday 20th October at 6.30pm. There will be a meeting of parish award leaders via zoom on Wednesday 20th October at 8pm to discuss guidelines for completing the award this year considering Covid-19 Restrictions. For more details or to book contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org

Derry Youth Ministry Online Programme

The Youth Team are offering young people the opportunity to get involved in an online programme that will begin on 27th September 2021. This programme will run for 8 weeks each term and include a range of faith, social action and personal development sessions for young people. It will be delivered via the #derryyouth social media platforms of Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Youth programmes such as Youth Alpha Online will be delivered via zoom. For more details contact the Diocesan Youth Coordinator lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org

Derry Youth Ministry Scholarship

Following on from the success of the Derry Youth Scholarship last year, involving 10 young people, we are now recruiting for Year 2. Senior students are invited to apply for the Scholarship. The Scholarship is a programme enriched with faith formation, community involvement and opportunities to gain life and team building skills. It offers:



1. A chance to learn about and grow in faith with a community of young people
2. Gain a qualification in youth ministry e.g., Level 1 OCN course with Youth Link NI
3. Experience and participate in service through community outreach projects
4. Have a laugh and a fun time getting to know yourself better and those you journey with
5. Continue or become an active member of your parish and/or diocese
6. Be well equipped and supported with your discernment and transition from school to working life or university

For more information contact lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org

Fan the Flame Mass 2022

The annual Fan the Flame Mass, for young people who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the coming year, will take place on Thursday 9th June 2022. The format this will take is dependent on Public Health Guidance. Hopefully we will see you at Celtic Park! (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1*)



Mass for Deceased Children and Young People

A Mass will be celebrated for all the deceased children and young people of the diocese in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on **Sunday 7th November at 7.00 pm.** All are welcome. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1*)

Catholic Schools Week 2022

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from **Sunday 23rd January to 30th January.** The theme this year is *Catholic Schools – Life to the Full.* A Mass to launch Catholic Schools Week will be held in St Eugene's Cathedral on **Thursday 20th January at 10am.** Further details to follow. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1*)



Youth Link NI

Youth Link NI is the inter-church youth service for Northern Ireland. It exists to provide support and training for youth workers and to provide good community relations experiences for young people. Most training is accredited at OCN Level 1, 2 or 3. Courses or sessions can be on youth leadership, community relations, citizenship and peace and reconciliation issues. Youth Link will be available to provide courses or training to students in your parish and they are open to facilitating one-off sessions or training on a particular skill or theme. For more information contact yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.3; 3.1; 3.2; 3.3*)

Children's Sacramental Preparation Workbooks - 'Journeys in Faith'

Our Sacramental workbooks, **Shalom** for First Reconciliation, **Celebrate** for First Eucharist and **Filled With Joy** for Confirmation are available from the office. These workbooks are very helpful for children who are preparing for the sacraments. The accompanying teachers' notes and Sacramental PowerPoints are now available by email on request. An Irish translation of the sacramental books is also available. (*See attached order form*). (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1 :3.1*)

Sacramental Talks Format-New Parent Booklets

This year, mindful of the ongoing COVID situation, the Catechetical Centre Team will continue to offer Sacramental Talks evenings for parents, in keeping with PHA and Diocesan Guidelines. Our paramount concern has to be the health and safety of all involved and attending talks.

We are happy to engage with schools and parishes to discuss what best suits their needs. Parishes may wish to cluster for online talks. We also have family preparation booklets available in English and Irish. *Friends of Jesus/Cairde Íosa* for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion preparation and *Disciples of Jesus/ Deisceabail Íosa* for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Suggested Formats for a Sacramental Preparation Evening

- Live talk via webcam for parents with appropriate activity for children. The family preparation booklets and children's activity will be delivered to school/parish beforehand. We can travel and use the webcam in your parish church or present from Cathedral Hall's webcam.
- We may be able to offer Face to Face talks for parents but this will only be if PHA and Diocesan Guidance permits.

If you are interested in finding out more about the sacramental talks or the parents' booklets you can indicate it on the order form attached. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan:1.2:1.3:2.1:2.2:3.1*)

Anna & Simeon Year 8/Year 1 Programme

This programme for Year 8/Year 1 students is intended to encourage young people to make prayer an integral part of their lives through personal prayer and prayer for others. The prayerfulness of Anna and Simeon is key to this unit of work. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2.1: 3.1*)

Godly Play is a gentle way to invite children to listen to God's word and explore its meaning for their lives. It does not tell the children what to think, or give them 'the right answer', but sets up a safe and sacred space in which to proclaim Scripture in a way that facilitates children's hearing, understanding and response. Godly Play can be used in children's play or prayer groups, schools, family worship, as part of Sacramental Preparation etc. A number of people have trained in Godly Play and are available to facilitate sessions. The ideal would be if there was enough interest to have more people in the diocese trained in this method. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: /2.1: 3.1: 3.2: 3.3*)



God's Confidence

This is a five-week parish-based programme for children who have just received the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is designed to be led by a group of lay people and training for these people will be provided by the Centre. If you are interested in this please indicate on the order form. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2: 1.3:2.1:2.2:3.1:3.3*)

Baptism - Gods Invitation

Training is available for parish baptism teams to deliver the above programme. If you are interested in this please indicate on the order form. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2: 1.3:2.1:2.2:3.1:3.3*)

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

A time of reflection and support for those engaged in the Ministry of the Word or for Eucharistic Ministers is available, facilitated by the Adult Faith Team in the office. If you are interested in this please contact our office. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2: 2.1:3.1: 3.3*)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Support is available for parish teams working with adults receiving the sacraments. If you are interested in this please contact our office. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2:2.1: 3.1: 3.3*)

Diocesan Religious Education Conference

Following on from the success of the first Conference, our second two-day international Religious Education Conference will be held in the diocese with keynote speakers focusing on the spiritual development and ongoing formation of the Catholic Educator, the role of the leader/teacher in a Catholic school and new methodologies for Religious Education. There will be keynote speakers, discussion forums and liturgies. One day will be dedicated to Post Primary Schools 25th August 2022 and one day for Primary Schools, 26th August 2022. Further details to follow. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 2.2; 3.1*)

Working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre

offers the MA in Catholic School Leadership. The new cohort of students will begin this course in October and there is still time to enroll. This is a post graduate programme dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who have an interest in leadership roles within the Catholic School system. We are able to offer a small bursary to students who meet a set criteria. If you require any further information please contact The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre +44 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org or visit our website <https://catecheticalcentre.org/masters-in-catholic-school-leadership/overview/> (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2.1; 3.1; 3.3*)



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Resources Order Form If you are interested in any of the resources outlined above you can indicate it on the attached order form.

Director: **Rev Paul Farren**
Advisor in Primary RE: **Thérèse Ferry**
Advisor in Post Primary RE: **Mary O'Boyle**
Diocesan Pastoral Youth Leader: **Yvonne Rooney**
Diocesan Youth Coordinator: **Lizzie Rea**
Secretary: **Anne Marie Hickey**

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, The Gate Lodge, 2 Francis Street, Derry, BT48 7DS
Tel: 02871 264087 Email ddcc@derrydiocese.org



Twitter The Door of Faith @derrydiocese.org



Instagram door_of_faith



Facebook facebook.com/DerryDiocesanCC/



**DIOCESE of
DERRY**