

THE YOUTH SUNDAY NEWS

Introducing...

Meet the Youth Ministry Internship Team for 2024/25! Formed as a new team in September, these 7 committed volunteers have enjoyed their first term leading our residential retreat program at the Emmaus Youth Village. Arriving from the Philippines, Mexico and within our own Diocese too, we are excited to see the development of these faithful young adults and know they will be an inspiration and witness to our young people.

We look forward to visiting parishes soon after securing a new mini-bus. Please keep the team in your prayers, and say hello if you see them around!



Back row from left to right: Chloe, Lily, Andres, Lenin. Front row: Ellah, Ryan, Olly

2024: Year of Prayer

Pope Francis asked the global Church to make 2024 a year of prayer, particularly centred around the Lord's Prayer.

Pope Francis also announced the first **World Children's Day**, in May 2024 and so to celebrate we partnered with the Department for Education and received over 2,500 amazing entries in our "Kingdom of God" art competition!



Primary Festival 2024 involved over 3,000 year 6 pupils spread over 6 amazing days. We sang, danced and praised the Lord! Following film, drama and group activities, we reflected on our call to share our gifts and talents with the world. As St Paul wrote to the Romans, "The same Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you" - right here, right now!



Secondary Festival was a jam-packed program featuring our 2024 Festival Band, Malayalam drummers @8BeatzOfficial, Catholic singer Adeniké Adewale and Guvna B. We heard incredible speakers John O'Connor, co-director of Junction 42, Sarah Kime, Maria Westerhope and SVP's Charlie Bennet. Thanks also to the powerful performance by Our Lady and St Bede's drama group. Clergy from across the Diocese provided the opportunity for confession, with a queue of young people choosing to receive this sacrament during an hour of prayer, before our Festival Mass presided by chair of the YMT Board Fr Marc Lyden-Smith.

Festival Volunteers of all ages help make this festival happen, to get involved next year, contact admin@ymt.org



This year, YMT had the privilege of leading the Youth Section for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. 36 young people truly shone in enthusiasm, dedication, and openness to the experience. Their hard work and youthful energy were felt throughout the pilgrimage. Whether participating in the candlelight procession, the international Mass, or serving alongside the Hospitalité team, these young people embodied the spirit of service and faith.

Next year, we are excited to take even more young people on this life-changing pilgrimage, and we also encourage adults to join us as helpers with the Hospitalité team. The opportunity to journey to Lourdes, serve others, and grow in faith is one we hope many more will experience. For more information, please email lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk.

For news & updates...



@YouthMinistryTeam

@ymttiktok

For enquiries...

Email admin@ymt.org
or call 01207 592244



2024 marks 30 years of YMT. We'd like to thank everyone who has helped to serve, support, pray for and fundraise for youth ministry in our diocese. We will be celebrating at our events throughout the Jubilee year, and we hope you will be able to join us.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!



World Youth Sunday

Once again, YMT has been part of the team preparing and producing the parish and school resources for World Youth Sunday and the World Youth FUNday live-stream event. You can access the resources for free at wys.cymfed.org.uk

Faith in Action

Congratulations to young people in our Diocese from year 6 - year 10 who have received various levels of the Faith in Action award this year.

Pope John Paul II Award

An amazing 162 sixth formers from Hexham and Newcastle schools received the Pope John Paul II Award this year, marking their significant contribution to volunteering and reflection in their local community. Well done to all!



YMT Internship 25/26

Applications are open for the next academic year to join the 10-month internship program, and live with the on-site team at the Emmaus Youth Village.

You will help to lead our residential retreat activity program, participate in other YMT events and ministry opportunities, and will be supported to complete registered online qualifications of your choice. It is a year of faith and personal development.

Email Internship@ymt.org



Weekend bookings open! Support the Youth Village and book a lodge. Perfect for large or extended family bookings, GCSE/A-Level study weekends, Church/Community group weekends. Email nsalkeld@ymt.org

2025 Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has called the global Church to mark 2025 as a Jubilee year, with the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope". We have been exploring this theme and in particular what it means for young people during our retreat program, and look forward to attending and participating in Jubilee events throughout 2025.

We are also pleased to be part of the team for England and Wales collating the "Digital legacy" of the Jubilee: *Minutes of Hope*. For more information or to get involved, visit minutesofhope.com.



Coming up...



Flame: "Unstoppable" Saturday 15th March

Join up to 1000 young people and group leaders from our Diocese on the Flame Train to Wembley Arena for the UK's largest Catholic Youth Congress



The Source Tuesday 13th May

Join us at St Mary's Cathedral to praise with live music, hear from guest speakers and gather for free chips with y9+ from across the Diocese. All Welcome.

GET INVOLVED!



Festival Fortnight including Significance weekend

Primary Festival: 23-27, & 30 June
Secondary Festival: 2-4 July

Significance Festival (all welcome, more details to follow): 28-29 June

Wait a Minute...

Our daily video reflections from across the Diocese continue to invite us for a moment of prayer throughout the Advent and Lent Seasons. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed this year. We hope you can tune in and join us!

