



The Youth Sunday News

POPE FRANCIS INVITED THE GLOBAL CHURCH TO COME TOGETHER IN THIS JUBILEE YEAR 2025 TO REFLECT ON OUR SHARED CALLING TO BE PILGRIMS OF HOPE. FOLLOWING HIS PASSING, POPE LEO XIV HAS CONTINUED TO INSPIRE US - ESPECIALLY THROUGH HIS YOUTH SUNDAY MESSAGE - TO BE COURAGEOUS WITNESSES OF CHRIST IN OUR WORLD TODAY. AS WE LOOK BACK OVER THE YEAR, WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AND MOMENTS THAT HAVE EMBODIED THAT HOPE ACROSS OUR DIOCESE...

The Jubilee Begins...

Pope Francis invited the global Church in this Jubilee year to respond to our call to be Pilgrims of Hope. Our Youth Ministry Interns have thoroughly enjoyed creating the Pilgrims of Hope and "Living Hope" retreat programs and expressing their faith through the activities and reflections shared throughout the year. We also visited the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, along with participating in various Jubilee events throughout the year.



As part of the Jubilee launch in schools, we worked as part of the national team to create the digital legacy for the jubilee:

"Minutes of Hope has grown, with the help of our partners, to become the largest digital project ever undertaken by the Catholic Church in England and Wales. We are collating thousands of one minute videos showing the hope our faith can bring to the world today."

If you've got a story, testimony or example you want to share, upload your minute of hope video to inspire hope during the year of Jubilee and beyond. Go to: minutesofhope.com

Hope Alive Diocese Jubilee Day

It was great to join with various parishes and ministry groups in the diocese. Our team enjoyed welcoming participants and attending the talks and seminars. It was wonderful to connect with many parishioners during our youth ministry seminar, where we exchanged tools and opportunities, including the Faith in Action and Pope John Paul II Award programs.

Significance Festival 2026

We hope you can join us at the Emmaus Youth Village on 27-28th June for our annual celebration of Youth Ministry in the Diocese



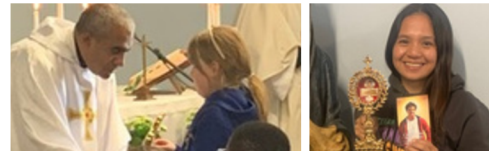
H&N UNSTOPPABLE at Flame 2025

March 2025 saw the gathering of over 10,000 young Catholics at the iconic Wembley Arena for the Flame event, a highlight of the Year of Jubilee. This vibrant assembly brought together thousands of enthusiastic youth from across England and Wales, including 1000 from our Diocese, all eager to explore their faith. Highlights included Bear Grylls, World Youth Dance Crew, Hallow's Bryan Enriquez and Isaac Harvey who captivated the audience with testimony of faith and resilience. Cardinal Vincent Nichols led the arena in Adoration to conclude the day, with music led by One Hope Project. Attendees left feeling rejuvenated and empowered, ready to be beacons of hope in their communities (after a sleep on the train!)



St Carlo Acutis, a new patron for youth!

The Relics of Carlo Acutis were welcomed to the Youth Village, where Monsignor Anthony delivered an inspiring sermon about Carlo's life, pets, hobbies and interests. We celebrated Mass St. Thomas More Blaydon during their retreat, as well as representatives from six local primary schools, allowing students to pray and venerate the relic while reflecting on their families and loved ones. YMT were also involved in 24 hours of prayer and other events to mark the visitation, and celebrated St Carlo's Canonisation in September!



Celebrating Faith in Action



Congratulations to the 160 Sixth Formers who received the Pope John Paul II Award this year at the Diocesan ceremony in February. Students were honoured by Bishop Stephen Wright for their outstanding contributions. Bishop Stephen noted that true happiness comes from service and gratitude. We hope our sixth formers find fulfilment in their work and continue inspire hope in the Church and the world.

Congratulations also to the students from 62 primary schools and 10 secondary schools who achieved the Faith in Action award this year. It is amazing to celebrate the wonderful, faith-filled and active young people in our Diocese. If your school or parish would like to support the Faith in Action award in your school, then get in touch!



THE SOURCE

This year we have enjoyed two Source events, at St Mary's Cathedral Newcastle. In May, Inez who shared her Caribbean inspired Christian music and her testimony, finding her identity as a beloved child of God.

In October, we had music with the festival band, plus special guests Andrea from St Anthony's 6th form with her original Christian song, and Georgina from the Lourdes Youth Section. Chelsea, our wonderful intern from Uganda, shared her story, with a powerful encouragement to trust in God, throughout life's challenges.

Bishop Stephen introduced and lead Adoration, with 350 young people from schools and parishes across the diocese treasuring this moment of silent prayer.

Thanks to all school staff and parish volunteers who support young people to attend. We'll see you on **February 5th for the next Source!**



Youth Council is BACK!

It was great to gather at St Mary's Cathedral with youth representatives from schools and parishes across the diocese at the initial re-launch in May, PLUS an amazing first residential in October.

Youth Council is a fantastic group of fired-up young leaders, passionate to be a voice of youth in the Church and empower other young people too. We can't wait to see what plans God has in store as we relaunch together. They have already shared some great resources for parish celebrations of Youth Sunday, and helped welcome everyone to the Source in October!

Youth Council is open for 2 representatives of each parish, school or other group, and **our next meeting is January 11th** at St Mary's Cathedral.



Jubilee Festivals 2025

This year's school Festival theme "Fear Less, Hope More" were inspired by the Jubilee Year and Pope Leo XIV's call to journey forward "without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves."



Over six days, the Primary Festival welcomed around 2,500 Year 6 pupils from 82 schools for a day of music, prayer, and creative activities inspired by the Northern Saints. Each pupil received a Pilgrim Passport to accompany their journey around the Youth Village and to continue exploring faith at home. Together pupils built a cross of "pilgrim staffs" as a symbol of our journey with God.



More than 600 students in Years 9 and 10 camped at the Emmaus Village for the Secondary Festival, where Bishop Stephen reminded them that "perfect love casts out fear." Across three days, young people heard stories of faith and resilience including guest speakers John and Joanne O'Connor & singer Talia Dean. Fr Mark Millward lead a beautiful reflection before reconciliation, and Fr Damien Cassidy celebrated our Festival Mass. We also enjoyed performances from many talented students, and danced the night away at a silent disco!

The festival closed with a moving Rosary procession around the site and a lively concert from guest artists SAINTZ. Donations collected throughout the fortnight supported the Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project.



If you are interested in participating in

- Youth Ministry Internship
- Lourdes Youth Section
- Youth Council
- YMT Festival Volunteer team

or have a skill or talent to offer to the Emmaus Youth Village, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch: internship@YMT.org



H&N Lourdes Youth

Our Lourdes Youth Section volunteers were a real credit to the Diocese this year — a shining example of service, prayer, and joy throughout the pilgrimage. Aged 16 and over, the young volunteers spent the week together at Hotel Alba, dedicating their days to supporting elderly and sick pilgrims so they could fully take part in the pilgrimage experience. Many of the group found inspiration for future paths in healthcare, hospitality, or ministry, while others took the time to pray and reflect on God's calling in their own lives. We're incredibly proud of all who served this year and look forward to accompanying the Youth Section once again next summer as we mark the centenary of the Hexham and Newcastle Lourdes Pilgrimage. **Registration is now open!**

Visit of the Papal Nuncio

We were glad to welcome Archbishop Buendía to the youth village during our retreat with St Leonard's Durham. He told us about his role as the representative of Pope Leo in the UK, as well as his previous roles in countries around the world!



Meet YMT Interns 25/26

Welcome Team 25/26! Luis, Ellah, Janine, Chelsea, Thomas and Lenin have hit the ground running with training, community building and some great retreats at the Youth Village from Year 4 to Year 13 groups! In their first month, they have also loved visiting St Robert's and St Anthony's secondary schools, and hope to meet lots more of you soon!



Follow YMT on social media to keep up to date with the team and upcoming opportunities and events!

