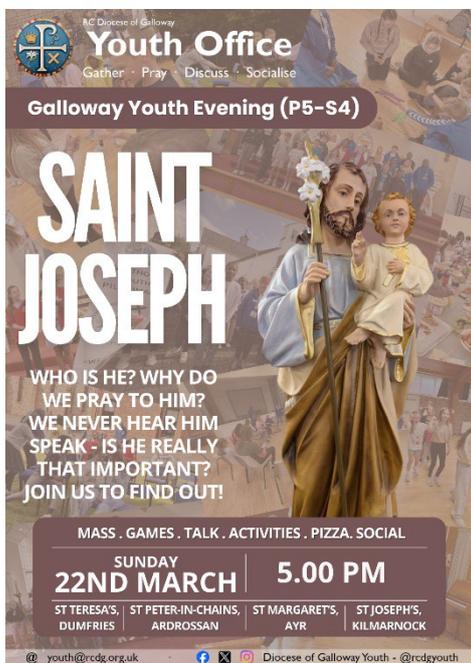




**GALLOWAY
YOUTH
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2026**



WE ARE GALLOWAY YOUTH: Young people from across the Diocese were delighted to start the new series of Youth Evenings on Sunday 15th February by thinking about Lent: why we observe it, and what we're invited to try and do as part of it. Young people started their evenings with Mass, before continuing with games and activities. In Ayr, Fr Ben Mkeri (Maybole and Girvan) spoke about the importance of using Lent as an opportunity to grow in love of Jesus, and suggested that the young people may want to consider cutting back on using their phones for instance. Elsewhere, young people heard from our Junior and Adult Leaders about their experiences of Lent and some of the things that they'll be doing this year. Everyone had a fantastic evening, and enjoyed the special addition of pancakes to our supper selection to mark the approach of Lent.



Youth Office
Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

Galloway Youth Evening (P5-S4)

SAINT JOSEPH

WHO IS HE? WHY DO WE PRAY TO HIM? WE NEVER HEAR HIM SPEAK - IS HE REALLY THAT IMPORTANT? JOIN US TO FIND OUT!

MASS · GAMES · TALK · ACTIVITIES · PIZZA · SOCIAL

SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 5.00 PM

ST TERESA'S, DUMFRIES | ST PETER-IN-CHAINS, ARDROSSAN | ST MARGARET'S, AYR | ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk



2026 ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT
RCDG Youth - Diocese of Galloway Youth Office

Weekend includes:
Outdoor Activities
(Tree Climbing, Archery Tag, Archery and more!)
Talks, Prayer, and Mass
All Meals & Accommodation

27TH - 29TH NOVEMBER
GOWANBANK £160 PP

REGISTRATION OPENS
2ND FEBRUARY 2026

Open to Youth in P7-S4 in 2025/2027 (currently P6-S3).
Register today for a discounted rate of £140pp, and only pay a £50 deposit.

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

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk



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EASTER YOUTH DAY

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION - HIS LOVING SACRIFICE FOR US.

MASS · GAMES · TALK · ACTIVITIES · PIZZA · BBQ · SOCIAL

SCAN TO REGISTER

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL
ST TERESA'S, DUMFRIES
FREE - LUNCH INCLUDED

Free event for Youth in P5-S4. Free transport available from: Saltcoats, Ayr, Kilmarnock, and Cumnock. Scan the QR code to register and book your seat.

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk

YOUTH EVENINGS: NOW OPEN TO P5 UNTIL THE SUMMER! We know that there are lots of P5s who've been excited to start joining our events, and now, until the summer, they can! As we look towards the summer, our Youth events are now open to P5 to come along and to get involved as they approach P6.

Our March Youth Evening falls on **Sunday 22nd March** (please note the change of date from that previously published to avoid Mothers' Day) and runs in all four clusters:

- St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock
- St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr
- St Teresa's, Dumfries
- St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan

Join us for Mass, followed by pizza, games, activities, and a short talk. In March, our young people will be thinking about Saint Joseph, the foster Father of Jesus: who was he, what can we learn from him, how important was he?

If you're coming along for the first time (especially important for P5) please remember to fill in an Annual Consent Form online: youth.rcdg.org.uk.



EASTER YOUTH GATHERING: We can't wait for our next Diocesan Youth gathering – our Easter Youth Day on Saturday 18th April! We'll be joined by young people from across the Diocese – last year we welcomed over 60 and we're expecting even more this year! – as we

gather to celebrate Easter. We'll also be thinking about the Holy Spirit as part of our Diocesan Year of Prayer: who is the Holy Spirit? How can he help us?

Join us in St Teresa's, Dumfries as we gather for a day of games, activities, Mass and talks! Free transport is provided from: Saltcoats, Ayr, Kilmarnock, and Cumnock to help you to take part, with the day itself running from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Interested? Scan the QR code or go to our website to register to take part, and remember, if it's your first event you also need to complete an Annual Consent Form.

2026 ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT
27th – 29th November 2026 - £140

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN – REGISTER BEFORE EASTER SUNDAY TO QUALIFY FOR THE EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNT.

Join us for a weekend of activities, talks, prayer, reflection and friendship as we return to Gowanbank SU Centre for our 2026 Advent Retreat! Open to young people in P7-S4 (current P6-S3). The weekend costs £160 with an early bird discount to £140 if you register before Easter Sunday, which includes everything: transport, food, accommodation, and activities! When registering, you'll only be asked to pay a £50 deposit, with a further £45 due in June, and £45 in October.



YOUNG ADULTS (S5-30)



GALLOWAY YOUNG ADULTS 12TH-16TH OCTOBER ROME 2026 £1000

JOIN US FOR A FANTASTIC 5-DAY
SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL PILGRIMAGE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER SCAN THE QR CODE.

COST INCLUDES:

- ✓ Flights and airport transfers
- ✓ City Centre Accommodation (Twin/ Triple Rooms)
- ✓ Breakfast and Dinner
- ✓ Visits to all four Papal Basilicas
- ✓ Wednesday Papal Audience



MORE INFORMATION @ youth@rcdg.org.uk
 f X Instagram Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

2026 YOUNG ADULTS PILGRIMAGE: Join Young Adults from across the Diocese as they head to Rome for their 2026 Pilgrimage. From 12th – 16th October, they'll enjoy a five day spiritual and cultural programme which takes in a variety of different churches and sites around Rome and further afield. The cost of the pilgrimage includes:

- Transport to/ from Edinburgh Airport, departing from and returning to St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock.
- 4 nights accommodation in a City Centre hotel, approximately a 5 minute walk from the Pantheon.
- Visits to all four Papal Basilicas
- Wednesday Audience with Pope Leo
- A walking tour of the city
- (Participants 18 and over) A free day to explore the city
- Breakfast and Dinner each day

The pilgrimage is open to all Young Adults in current S5 to age 30 and will be led by Fr Kevin Rennie (Diocesan Youth Chaplain) and Margaret McGrath (Diocesan Youth Leader). In the run up to the pilgrimage, the group will also be undertaking a range of fundraising activities to reduce the overall cost.

Register by Thursday 5th March to guarantee the current price, registrations can still be received after this date, but the cost of flights may change affecting the total price – to check, please email the Youth Office.

UPCOMING YOUNG ADULTS' EVENINGS

1st March (Mass – 5.45 pm)

The Holy Spirit

Fr Ben Mkeri, CSSp



29th March (Mass – 5.45 pm)

An Evening with Bishop Frank

Bishop Frank Dougan



YOUNG ADULTS EVENING: The next Young Adults evening takes place tonight (Sunday 1st March) when Fr Ben Mkeri, CSSp, will be joining the group to speak about the Holy Spirit, both in general and in the context of our Diocesan Year of Prayer. The evening begins with Mass at 5.45 pm in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, before continuing in the hall from 6.30 pm.

Want to join but don't live in the area? It's now possible to follow all of our Young Adults' talks online. If you're a Young Adult in S5 to age 30 living in the Diocese, you can follow the talk via Microsoft Teams, just go to our website and complete the registration, and we'll email you a link to the meeting to join in.

When following online, you'll be able to see and hear everything that's happening, as well as to ask questions and to take part in discussions. By joining online, you'll also be able to join our Young Adults' WhatsApp group, to keep in touch and to hear about all that's coming up.

And don't forget! In March, we've got two Young Adults' evenings as Bishop Frank joins us on Sunday 29th March for *An Evening with Bishop Frank*. He'll be chatting to the group as well as taking any questions they may have – not to be missed.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

These products are available to everyone – not just those who've attended events or are youth or young adults themselves – and by buying Youth Office products you're helping support our work.

ONLINE STORE: Our online store is open all year round, whether you're looking for some stationery, a new mug for work or home, pens or a gift for someone. We're regularly updating our selection, go to <https://youth.rcdg.org.uk/shop> to see what's on offer.

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JOIN OUR...

200 CLUB

and help support Youth and Young Adults ministry in Galloway.

£5 per month

Cash Prizes to be won!

(20%, 10% & 2 x 5% of the Total Income)

Go to youth.rcdg.org.uk to register today and help support Youth Ministry in Galloway.

The Youth Office is licensed to operate a 200 Club under license no SAC/298.

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk f X Instagram Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

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 winning 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 January draw: 1st – 15, 2nd – 3, 3rd & 4th – 39 & 14. All winners have been contacted.