



# Ideas for Youth

- Have a **Team Building Evening**-New Group, Getting to Know, Reflect on what is faith? (task worksheet & and share ideas) Explore their expectations. Plan some concrete activities for everyone involved. (Chose from list below) Are they interested in a trip, where could you go? Would they like to meet again as a group?
- Resources and materials for **Youth Group Meetings** for example on **prayer** can be found at [www.catholicyouthwork.com](http://www.catholicyouthwork.com)
- **Invite a guest** for an evening from Local Clubs, 'Catholic Comment', Youth 2000, Charities such as Trocaire, SVP, or other groups and organisations. Have a short input 20 mins and have discussion or questions afterwards.
- Get involved in the **Teen Spirit** project ([www.teenspirit.ie](http://www.teenspirit.ie) )
- Join with a couple of parishes and invite **Elation Ministries** to lead a workshop on music or to do the music for you-have a Youth Mass in the parish, let young people take part in several ministries.
- October Dress up for **Barnardos**: <http://www.barnardos.ie/DressUp>
- **Feast of Christ the King-Commissioning Service** for all the young people from the parish taking part in JP11. (sample available from [yvonne.rooney@kandle.ie](mailto:yvonne.rooney@kandle.ie) )
- **YOUCAT**-introduce the group to this book and website. Have set tasks, reading or quizzes based around it.

- **Remembrance Service in November**, invite the young people to get involved in the liturgy that already exists for example organise candles to represent those who have died in the last year. Have a memory tree or tree of life with paper leaves, on the leaves young people invite people to write the name of the loved ones they are praying for/remembering.
- Help with **Christmas Display of Art in the Church**.
- Create a '**Christmas Live Crib**' in the Church grounds on Christmas Eve. JPPII Students are the live characters and if possible get some real animals, stable with straw etc. The students invite the local primary school kids to come view the crib and donations could be given to SVP or a chosen charity.
- **Charity Information Evening**-choose 3 options; e.g. Trocaire, Mary's Meals & SVDP, present who they are, what they do and make a plan for at least 1 fundraising event. Delegate roles to certain members; advertising & marketing, event management, recruiting volunteers, promoting, finance team etc...
- Organise your group to attend part or all of the **Christmas Retreat in Newbridge College 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> December**. More details on [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)
- Sign up for the **Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage** next summer. This will be in August and will have a few faith centred preparation days prior to the trip. Fundraising for this pilgrimage could happen as a parish group.
- **Catholic Schools Week**, create a prayer wall in your school, the local primary school, or in the parish. **27<sup>th</sup> January -2<sup>nd</sup> February**. Create a notice board in the parish about the schools of the parish.
- **Art** –Paint, draw, design some art for display in the Church, could be weekly connected to the gospel, could be just for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

- **Christmas-Support Toy appeal with SVDP or Toys for Tubs 2FM** could speak at Mass or in local primary school, on local radio station, put a notice in the local papers.
- Come along to the **School Congress and the Diocesan Congress 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2013**
- Make **resources for use in the local primary schools**; Option 1 a PowerPoint on St Brigid for juniors, Option 2 PowerPoint on St Patrick for Senior school, Option 3 a PowerPoint on SVDP and the work they do locally, how can the kids help. Could make other resources also, blogs, whiteboard interactive ideas.
- **30<sup>th</sup> January 'Grandparents Day'**, get young people to host an evening Mass or celebration for Grandparents, invite them at Masses the weekend before, design a prayer card for Grandparents and distribute in their school or the national school. Celebrations could include, art workshop, music and entertainment, bingo, coffee/tea morning, quiz etc
- **Parish or Diocesan Youth Day**- Invite local parishes to cluster together and organise a day event Sat or Sun for Youth in the Parish. Outline of the day could include: Gathering Liturgy, Celebrate life- fun, game, paint, song or reflection. Workshop 1, Sharing/testimony, Workshop 2, end with prayer time or Mass if it's on a Sunday. Have a choice of 2 workshops from about 6 possibilities could include: Magis, Andrew O Connell, Youth 2000 Mission Team, NET Ministries, Prayer Guidance, Meditation, Drumming, Evangelisation, Love and Relationships, Vocations, Gap Year opportunities, How to pray, How to use the Bible.
- **Invite NET Ministries, Youth Alpha, Youth 2000 Mission Team** for a morning or evening event
- Begin a **parish youth evening** once a month, prayer, scripture, sharing, speakers, music, reflections, activities
- **K & L Advent and Lenten Scripture Reflection Books** could be easily adopted to use with a young adults group.

- Faith Development Services will be offering a **youth day for exploring ministries in the parish 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013**
- **Parish Website -Youth Section/ Facebook or Youth Blog.** Create a **Parish Newsletter** 3 times a year with an update of what young people are involved in or what is available to them. Let the young people create this and come up with the material.
- Have a **parish competition for the Year of Faith** such as paint a bible story (junior), draw a symbol for faith (senior), chose any quote that best explains faith for you and why? (Teenager) Design a logo about faith for young people and explain it! (Teenager) Set deadlines for all and display work in the parish centre or Church.
- Organise a trip to **Glendalough, Croagh Patrick, Knock, Lough Derg, Summer Festivals in Knock and Clonmacnois.**
- **Candlemas Day-Decorate candles** for Year of Faith or for first communion, confirmation class, and they could be used as part of liturgy and blessed.
- **Valentine's Day**-Explore the meaning of the day but make the connection to the 'Love letter from God'. Use this for a quiet time of prayer with the young people like a meditation. Ask them to repeat one line or phrase that sets with them. The letter goes home with them for personal use another time. Click here for a copy of the Letter (I have attached letter also)
- **Palm Sunday**- Young people could get involved in procession with Palms
- **Easter Liturgies**- Young people could get involved-Washing of the Feet, Modern Youth Reflections based around Stations of the Cross, Passion Play, Easter Vigil Readings, Easter Sunday –Create Easter Garden.
- **May-Month of Our Lady.** Create May altar in the local Church or School.  
Can they meet prior to May or during May to learn the 20 Mysteries of the Rosary, what are they, where are they found in scripture, how can we connect them to our own lives such as; the Wedding Feast of Cana-prayer for married couples, Birth of Jesus-make room for Jesus in our lives, Transfiguration-ask God to help transform a situation in our life, Presentation-we present our

intentions for our own family, Descent of Holy Spirit-call on the gifts and fruits of the Spirit in my life.

How can they display the mysteries in the parish? Ideas could include art and display boards in Church, on the parish website, in the newsletter, creating a trail in the Grotto area if one exists or design a leaflet for leaving or displaying at the side altar dedicated to our Lady.

- **Year of Faith with Veritas** including movie of the month etc... Sign up to this link through VERITAS.