



GALLOWAY YOUTH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF THE GALLOWAY YOUTH NEWSLETTER

We've had a fantastic year at Galloway Youth and have been delighted to share it with so many young people new and old. As we head into the summer, we've had our last Youth Evenings of the session, and are looking forward to the summer. But just because our Youth Evenings stop for the summer, it doesn't mean that we stop – we've a *fantastic* lineup of events for you to join!

SUMMER WITH GALLOWAY YOUTH

25TH JULY 11.00 AM – 4.00 PM	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION DAY (ONLY OPEN TO FIRST COMMUNICANTS)	
15TH AUGUST 11.00 AM – 4.00 PM	SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING	
30TH AUGUST ALL DAY	WHITHORN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE	

OTHER EVENTS

YOUTH EVENINGS 5.00 – 7.00 PM	27TH SEPTEMBER 25TH OCTOBER	15TH NOVEMBER 13TH DECEMBER
27TH – 29TH NOVEMBER		ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT
7TH – 11TH AUGUST 2027		GALLOWAY'S SEOUL

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS:
@RCDGYOUTH - YOUTH.RCDG.ORG.UK

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION DAY: Did you celebrate your First Holy Communion this year? If you did, we invite **YOU** to join us on Saturday 25th July to celebrate at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock. Over the course of the day, we'll have a great selection of our favourite games, pizza and a BBQ, a couple of short talks about the Eucharist (Holy Communion), and celebrate Mass as part of the day. You'll meet some of our fantastic Junior Leaders who lead our activities, and find out what it's like to be a part of Galloway Youth!

Following the First Holy Communion Celebration Day, we're inviting you join us for any of our events (*excluding residential*) throughout the year – just sign up by scanning the QR code.

Please note, this event is only open to young people who celebrated their First Holy Communion this year.

SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING: The 2026 Summer Youth Gathering takes place in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock on Saturday 15th August from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. The day is open to all young people going into P5-S4 and is completely free of charge. Over the course of the day, young people, led by our S3/4 Junior Leaders, will take part in a wide variety of games and

activities, as well as hearing two short talks on the theme of the Saints. The day also includes lunch: pizza and a BBQ, and Mass.

Scan the QR code to register and, if it's your first Galloway Youth event, be sure to complete a Consent Form as well. When registering, you'll have the opportunity to book free transport from: Dumfries, Cumnock, Ayr, or Saltcoats.



WHITHORN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE: St Ninian, the patron of our Diocese, landed in Whithorn when he first arrived in Scotland. Each year, the Diocese gathers on the beach by St Ninian's Cave – where Ninian retreated to for prayer – to celebrate Mass.

This year, young people from across the Diocese will travel to Whithorn as part of the pilgrimage. The day will begin in Newton Stewart where we'll enjoy a range of games and activities followed by lunch: pizza, crisps, sweets and juice. After lunch, the coach will take us to near the cave from where we'll walk to the beach. On the beach, we'll hear from Fr Philip Kitchen about the importance of St Ninian before joining Bishop Frank for Mass. After Mass we'll have a packed supper on the beach, or at Newton Stewart (weather dependent).

There is no charge to take part however young people are asked to bring a packed supper. Transport is available from: Saltcoats, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Maybole, Girvan, Dumfries, and Kirkcudbright. Scan the QR code to register and remember, if it's your first event, please also complete a Consent Form.

RESIDENTIAL EVENTS

ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT: Registration is now open for the 2026 Advent Youth Retreat. Join us for a weekend of outdoor activities, including: tree climbing, archery, archery tag; arts and crafts, silent disco and lots more! We'll also have times of prayer and discussion on the theme of Advent, Mass, Reconciliation (Confession), and much more!

The retreat takes place at Gowanbank (near Darvel) from Friday 27th – Sunday 29th November. Free transport is provided from Dumfries and Kilmarnock, with leaders available to meet young people from the bus station as well if required. Young people will be in shared rooms with their friends/ young people of a similar age, with boys and girls in separate rooms.

The total cost for the weekend is £160.00, with funding available to support any young person in need or families with more than one young person taking part. For pictures and to register, see our website.

2027 GALLOWAY'S SEOUL: In 2027, Pope Leo will gather with young people from around the world in Seoul, South Korea for World Youth Day. While we cannot travel there from Galloway, we look forward to following the events taking place in Seoul from Gowanbank as we take part in Galloway's Seoul – a five day celebration of World Youth Day taking place at Gowanbank.

From 7th – 11th August 2027, we'll be taking over Gowanbank (near Darvel) to follow the events of World Youth Day. Each day will include: a time of Catechesis (faith learning) led by a visiting priest/ the Bishop, Mass, outdoor activities, including: canoeing, hillwalking, tree climbing, archery tag, and more; all meals, and times of prayer and discussion. The whole event is being organised and led by the Galloway Youth Office team and so young people will already know the leaders from other events.

The week costs £400 per person, which includes all activities, meals, supervision, and transport (from Kilmarnock/ Dumfries). It's open to anyone going into P6–S5 this year (P7–S6 at the time of the event). We recognise that today the cost of living is expensive and so, to support young people in taking part, we have grants and bursaries available, as well as having bimonthly fundraising events – more details to follow.

Do you want to take part? Scan the QR code to find out more information and to register.

Next Fundraiser: The next fundraiser will be a sponsored cycle around Millport, taking place on Thursday 6th August. Over the course of the day, young people will cycle round the island of Millport several times, with the option of sponsoring them by distance, or simply directly for taking part. Keep an eye on our social media: @rcdg youth for more details and how you can support our young people.

SPOTLIGHT ON JUNIOR LEADERS



We're hugely grateful to all of our leaders – adult and junior – for their commitment to supporting youth events across the Diocese, we couldn't do what we do without their support. To thank our S3/4 Junior Leaders and Mentors on Saturday 6th June we had our first Rewards Day, attended by many of our Junior Leaders.

The day began with a meeting of the Youth Forum – the group which is made up of the Junior Leaders and Mentors and which informs the direction and work of the Youth Office. The meeting reflected on the year's events before looking at the draft programme for next year. Afterwards, we enjoyed a pizza lunch before heading down to the Garage in Kilmarnock for crazy golf and bowling. It was wonderful to be able to thank the Junior Leaders for their ministry and to give them a chance to share their thoughts on youth ministry in the Diocese.

What do our Junior Leaders do? Our Junior Leaders are responsible for organising the games and activities at our events, as well as leading the talks. Their role gives them the opportunity to gain leadership experience, support younger young people who are taking part, and also share faith and love of Christ with others.

Are you heading into S3? Would you like to join our team of Junior Leaders? If you'd be interested in joining our fantastic team of Junior Leaders, you can email the Youth Office – youth@rcdg.org.uk – or speak to your RE teacher in school. After the summer, Fr Kevin and Margaret will be visiting schools and talking to young people about the opportunities on offer.

YOUNG ADULTS (S5-30)

JULY YOUNG ADULTS' EVENING: On Sunday 5th July, Marianne Luchessi from the Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Glasgow will be speaking on prayer: looking at various forms of prayer, how we pray, and taking the group through some practical examples. The evening begins with Adoration from 6.00 – 6.30 pm in the church.

BBQ SUMMER SOCIAL: Our Young Adults had a fantastic evening at the Summer BBQ last year, with almost thirty coming to enjoy a good BBQ and great company. Following on from their Spring Social in Ayr, they can't wait for the next one on Saturday 8th August at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock. The evening begins with the group joining the parish community for the 6.00 pm Vigil Mass, following which they'll head into the garden to enjoy their BBQ. Aged S5 – 30? Scan the QR code to register to join them.



Young Adults

Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

Young Adults (S5-30) Programme

5th July

Prayer: How and Why?

Marianne Luchessi
(Jesuit Spirituality Centre)





8th August

BBQ Summer Social

St Joseph's, Kilmarnock
(After 6.00 pm Vigil Mass)

13th September

**Life and Death:
What do we believe?**

Fr Kevin Rennie



St Joseph's, Kilmarnock (KA3 1HB)

or join via Teams - register online: youth.rcdg.org.uk

6.00 - 8.00 pm

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk

Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdg youth

SUPPORT OUR WORK, JOIN OUR 200 CLUB!

Join the 50+ 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 win 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 May draw: 1st – 21, 2nd – 42, 3rd & 4th – 44 & 30. All winners have been contacted.

