



GALLOWAY YOUTH NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



MILLPORT SPONSORED CYCLE: On Thursday (6th August) our fundraising for Galloway's Seoul got off to a flying (or rolling) start as nine young people, accompanied by five youth leaders, cycled around Millport. The young people and leaders completed a circuit of the island – 10 miles – a fantastic accomplishment for the whole group, but especially some of our members who had very limited cycling experience (in one case, it was one of our leaders' second time on a bike!). Meanwhile, Fr Kevin completed almost six full circuits, cycling 57 miles, just slightly shy of his 60 mile target. It was a fantastic day out for the entire group with the young people then enjoying some time in Millport to explore the shops and to experience the Millport Fayre. To date, over £1,200 has been raised in support of our young people's participation in Galloway's Seoul. If you've not had a chance to donate yet, don't worry – you can still donate online to support our efforts! Just scan the QR code or go to our website.

SCAN TO DONATE!



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

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SUMMER YOUTH DAY

THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS AND THEIR EXAMPLE TO US!

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

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 11.00 AM - 4.00 PM

ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK
FREE TRANSPORT FROM: SALTCOATS, MAYBOLE, AYR AND DUMFRIES.

OPEN TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN P5-S4 IN 2026/2027.

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YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO WHITHORN

Join us for a day of:

- Fun and games in Newton Stewart
- Mass with the Bishop on the Beach
- Lunch: Pizza, Crisps, Sweets, and Juice included.

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST

FREE OF CHARGE P5-S4

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!
Open to P5-S4 in 2026/2027

Free transport from: Saltcoats, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Maybole, Girvan and Dumfries.

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2027 GALLOWAY'S SEOUL

EXPERIENCE WORLD YOUTH DAY IN GALLOWAY IN 2027

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

SCAN FOR DETAILS

Week includes:

- Outdoor Activities (Canoeing, Paddleboarding, Tree Climbing, Archery Tag and more!)
- Talks, Prayer, and Mass
- All Meals & Accommodation
- Participant's Pack (With lots of goodies and souvenirs!)
- Following events from Seoul online and recreating others at home.

7TH - 11TH AUGUST 2027 - GOWANBANK SU CENTRE P7-S6 (IN SCHOOL YEAR 2027/2028) - £400 PER PERSON

As the form of registration, there is nothing to pay, with the first payment of £75 due by September. For full details, scan the QR code or email youth@rcdg.org.uk.

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.

YOUTH EVENINGS RETURN

Our monthly youth evenings resume in September. Until Christmas, we'll be exploring the theme of the Mass: what happens at Mass and what the various parts mean. Over the four months we'll be reflecting on:

27th September – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (*The Beginning of the Mass*)

25th October – The Liturgy of the Word

15th November – The Liturgy of the Eucharist

13th December – Living our Faith

As usual, each evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm, following which we'll continue in the Hall with games and activities – old favourites and a few new ones too – supper (pizza, crisps, sweets, juice), and a short talk on the theme of the evening.

All evenings are **completely free of charge** and there is **no requirement to be Catholic** to take part – any young person is welcome to come along, however all young people have to participate in the faith elements of the evenings.

Whether you're new to Galloway Youth or a regular, we look forward to welcoming you along. If you're coming for the first time, please complete a general consent form by scanning the QR code on the right.



Our evenings take place monthly in: St Teresa's, Dumfries; St Joseph's, Kilmarnock; St Margaret's, Ayr; and St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan.

RESIDENTIAL EVENTS

Looking for something a bit different? Why not join us for one (or both) of our fantastic upcoming 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 from last year 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.

YOUNG ADULTS EVENINGS

Our monthly Young Adults' evenings resume on Sunday 13th September when our Youth Chaplain, Fr Kevin Rennie, will be speaking on the theme of "Life and Death: What do we believe?". The evening will focus on many of the challenges to life faced in society today and look at the Church's teaching on these issues. All young adults are invited to join.

The evening takes place in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, and begins with Adoration at 6.00 pm following which Fr Kevin will speak in the hall. Don't live in East Ayrshire but want to take part? **Online participation** is available to any young adults from outside of East Ayrshire, to register to follow online, go to our website and click on 'Young Adults – Online Participation'.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

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 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 June draw: 1st – 39, 2nd – 32, 3rd & 4th – 48 & 30. All winners have been contacted.



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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 ·    Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth