



# Youth Office

Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

## What's On?

### Spring & Summer 2026

# Message to Parents and Carers

We're delighted that your child is interested in taking part in youth events in the Diocese. All of our events are intended to help your child to grow in friendship with others, as well as in faith and love of Jesus, in a fun and friendly environment.

Last year we welcomed over 200 young people along to our events, with many of them returning to subsequent events. Our Youth Forum of S3 Junior Leaders shapes and directs all of our events to ensure that they are as fun and engaging as possible.

Every event mixes a variety of different games and activities, with times of prayer, Mass, and short talks reflecting on the theme of the event.

We've got lots of events coming up over the next few months - both in your local cluster, as well as for youth across the Diocese. This booklet tells you about some of the events happening this session, and some later in the year that you can register for soon. We'd love to welcome your child along to any of our upcoming events.

We're particularly excited to announce Galloway's Seoul - our 2027 World Youth Day event, which is open to all young people currently in P5-S4 - read more about it at the end of this booklet.

If you have any feedback or any questions, please feel free to be in touch with me anytime by emailing [youth@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdg.org.uk), or calling the parish on 01563 521832.



Fr Kevin Rennie  
Youth Chaplain

# Youth Evenings Continue



MASS . GAMES . TALK .  
ACTIVITIES . PIZZA .  
SOCIAL

**17TH MAY**  
The Eucharist

**21ST JUNE**  
The Church

**5.00 PM -  
7.00 PM**

**ST MARGARET'S,  
AYR**

**ST PETER-IN-CHAINS,  
ARDROSSAN**

**ST TERESA'S,  
DUMFRIES**

**ST JOSEPH'S,  
KILMARNOCK**



Coming to an evening for the first time? Scan the code to complete an Annual Consent Form to take part.

# Summer Youth Gathering

**Saturday 15th August 2026**

St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock



**Scan to Register**

*Free transport provided.*

Continue the fun of the Easter Gathering by joining us again in August for our Summer Gathering where we'll be welcoming young people from across the Diocese for their summer social. The day

includes a great variety of games and activities, pizza and a BBQ for lunch, as well as two short talks, and Mass. It's a great chance for young people who have met for the first time today to meet again and keep in touch, and of course to spend the day with their friends. Like today, Summer is open to young people currently in P5-S4 and is completely free of charge with transport provided.



# Whithorn Youth Pilgrimage

**Sunday 30th August 2026**

St Ninian's Cave, Whithorn



**Scan to Register**

*Free transport provided.*

Every year in August our Diocesan Community gathers to celebrate our patron, St Ninian, and this year is no different. We'll be taking part as a Diocesan Youth pilgrimage with our usual mix of games, activities, prayer, and lunch. The day will begin with games and activities in Our Lady and St Ninian's Church, Newton Stewart. We'll also provide lunch there: pizza, soup, sweets, crisps and drinks. After lunch, we'll head down to the shore for Mass

with the Bishop and a short talk to the group about St Ninian and the significance of Whithorn and St Ninian's Cave. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a packed supper (please bring one with you) before heading home.

# Advent Youth Retreat

Friday 27th - Sunday 29th November  
**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION EXTENDED  
TO SUNDAY 26TH APRIL**

In 2025, we ran our first Advent Youth Retreat. This took place in Gowanbank SU Centre (just outside Darvel) and was attended by 29 young people who were resident at the centre for the weekend.

Over the course of the weekend, young people took part in a range of activities including: tree climbing, archery, and nightline, as well as crafts and other games and activities. They also had times of prayer and reflection, celebrated Mass, and took part in a prayer service on the Saturday evening as they reflected on the meaning of Advent and how they could prepare for Christmas.

The weekend was a great success with very positive feedback from parents and young people alike, with many of them hoping to return in 2026.

The weekend is open to all young people in P7-S4 as of November (currently in P6-S3). Unfortunately, as the weekend is a residential there is an unavoidable cost to running it. For 2026, the cost will be £160 per person, which includes everything: food, accommodation, activities, professional instructors, transport (from Dumfries and Kilmarnock) and supervision. **Sign up before Sunday 26th April to get the early bird rate of only £140.**

When registering, you are asked to pay a deposit of £50 with a further £45 due in June, and the final £45 due in October (if you need a different payment schedule, please let us know). If the cost would be prohibitive for your child, or if you have more than one child in your family who wishes to take part, please email us: [youth@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdg.org.uk) - we have bursaries and support available to ensure that no child is excluded from participating for reasons of cost.

You can find out more about the retreat by visiting our website.



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

<b>Weekend includes:</b> Outdoor Activities <i>(Tree climbing, Archery Tag, Archery and more!)</i> Talks, Prayer, and Mass All Meals & Accommodation	<b>27TH - 29TH NOVEMBER</b>	
	GOWANBANK	£160 PP
<b>REGISTRATION OPENS 2ND FEBRUARY 2026</b>		

Open to Youth in P7-S4 in 2026/2027 (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](http://YOUTH.RCDG.ORG.UK)  
TO SECURE YOUR PLACE TODAY!



@ youth@rcdg.org.uk    [f](https://www.facebook.com/rcdg.youth) [i](https://www.instagram.com/rcdgyouth) Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth



# Galloway's Seoul

“Take courage! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33)

**7th - 11th August 2027**

Gowanbank SU Centre (Outside Darvel)

## Join us for World Youth Day 2027 as Seoul comes to Galloway!

Every two to three years, young Catholics from around the world gather to mark World Youth Day. In recent years, the event has taken place in Madrid, Krakow, Rio, and most recently in Lisbon. Next year, it will take place in Seoul, South Korea.

Having explored the possibility of travelling to South Korea, we have found that it would be too expensive and therefore exclude many of our young people from being able to participate, so instead, we'll be bringing Seoul to Galloway as we follow the event from Gowanbank SU Centre, near Darvel, where we also host our annual Advent Retreat.

### What happens at World Youth Day?

World Youth Day includes a variety of different events, following a pattern similar to the below:

- Day 1 - Opening Mass
- Day 2 - Catechesis & Mass
- Day 3 - Catechesis, Mass & Opening Ceremony with the Pope
- Day 4 - Catechesis, Mass & Stations of the Cross with the Pope
- Day 5 - Prayer Vigil with the Pope
- Day 6 - Missioning (Closing) Mass

Galloway's Seoul will run from Saturday 7th to Wednesday 11th August 2027 and replicate many of these elements, following some of them online, and celebrating them ourselves.

*What is Catechesis?* The Catechesis sessions at World Youth Day are an opportunity to learn and grow in faith, a different person each day speaks on a topic around the theme of World Youth Day - for 2027, courage and strength in Christ - before Mass is celebrated.

## What will Galloway's Seoul look like?

We will follow a similar programme to World Youth Day, but incorporating some of the on and off site activities Gowanbank has to offer as well each day.

- Day 1 - Saturday 7th
  - 4.00 PM - Arrivals
  - Opening Mass, Dinner, and Small Group Time - to give young people a chance to meet and get to know one and other.
- Day 2 - 4 - Sunday 8th - Tuesday 10th
  - Morning - Talk & Mass, followed by Lunch
  - Afternoon - Activities, followed by Dinner
  - Evening - Opening Ceremony/ Stations of the Cross/ etc., followed by breakout time.
- Day 5 - Wednesday 11th
  - Morning - Closing Mass, followed by Lunch
  - Afternoon - Games, Activities, and Farewells.
  - 4.00 PM - Departure

*Draft programme subject to change.*

## What is Gowanbank like?

Young people will be accommodated in shared en-suite rooms with up to 6 others. If necessary for capacity, some young people may also be accommodated in large outdoor tents shared with three others (*these tents have bunkbeds and amenities available, there would also be two leaders accommodated in a neighbouring tent - the young people would not be camping in the traditional sense*). All rooms are single gender and assigned according to age and friend groups to keep friends together.

All meals are included, including: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner, as well as snacks at breaktimes between activities or talks, we will ensure that food is available to meet any dietary requirements.

The facilities at Gowanbank are extensive for the young people to use when not on specific activities, including a Games Room, TV Room, Silent Disco, and lots of space both within the house and grounds for outdoor activities such as football.

## What activities are included?

We are still working with Gowanbank on a comprehensive list of activities, however some of the activities include: tree climbing, kayaking, hill walking, archery, nature trails, team challenges, rock climbing, and more.

Once the timetable is confirmed, you will be contacted to indicate which activities your child would like to take part in and we will endeavour to ensure they get the chance to do them all, but as a minimum, their top choices.

## Who can take part?

The event is open to any young people currently in P5-S4 (P7-S6 in August 2027). The cost for the whole week, which includes all food, accommodation and activities is £400.00 per person, however we will work with and support young people over the coming year in doing fundraising in their local area to reduce this cost as far as possible. If finance is a concern, we also have grants and bursaries available, we are also able to provide support if you have more than one child wishing to take part.

## How can I register my child?

To find out more information and to register your child, please scan the QR code. At the time of registering, a deposit of £50 is required. We hope to start fundraising in the coming weeks, beginning with a sponsored hill climb at Criffel (near Dumfries) and all young people registered prior to it will be invited to take part. Should your child raise the full £400 cost, your deposit will also be refunded. The next payment, £100, will be due in September.



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# Keep in Touch

There's lots happening in the Galloway Youth Office at the moment and we'd love to keep in touch. Be the first to hear the latest news, follow us on social media:



**Galloway Youth**  
@rcdgyouth



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