

On this National Youth Sunday we take an opportunity to celebrate the Young People in our Church and what they can bring to world. Many of you will know that the most recent Synod, which concluded on the 23rd of October focused heavily on Young People and how we as a Church can recognise, not only their struggles and needs but also the richness, talents and energy that they can share with us all.

In the final document and in the letter from the Synod Fathers to Young People it reminded us that Young People are not the future of the church, but the present and that they must be involved in building a brighter future. Maybe as a parish this weekend is an opportunity to think about how Young People are already involved or how they could be more involved in Parish life and in contributing to the richness of your communities.

As a Youth Service we are working hard to support Young People where they are at in life and accompanying them in their faith journeys. To that effect we have launched our website as a one stop shop to find out about what's going on in our diocese and to find resources and ideas to engage young people. Maybe today you could visit www.ndcys.com and find out more.

We have also launched a YouTube Channel with the hope of reaching Young People in a relevant and accessible way. In the Synod Document the role of social media was recognised as an invaluable tool for reaching young people and sharing the Good News. We encourage you to check out [Youtube.com/ndcyslives](https://www.youtube.com/ndcyslives) and hit 'subscribe' to not only support this brand new resource but also to keep up to date with everything that's going on across the diocese.

Pope Francis said that we must look to the 'eternally young Christ' and this is maybe a reminder to us all to cherish and celebrate our youthfulness, whatever age we are. To be inspired and energised by those around us to show the world a young and vibrant church that has a bright future ahead.

This year is a very special year too for The Briars, our Diocesan Catholic Youth Retreat Centre. The oldest of its kind in the country, it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. This incredible milestone is due entirely to the support of our parishes and schools and to the amazing people who have worked, volunteered and given to the centre over the years. We are aiming to raise £50000 pounds this year to refresh the buildings and help us build a sustainable centre for the next 50 years to come. One way you can help us out straight away is to register with 'The Giving Machine' A free service which automatically donates money when used for shopping online. It's free to use and won't cost a penny, all you need to do is select The Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service as your chosen charity.

We would also like to invite you to a festival weekend in June 2019. On Saturday the 29th and Sunday the 30th we are having a huge celebration festival which we'd love to see you at, with Bishop Patrick celebrating a celebration Mass at 11:30pm on the Sunday. More details will follow next year!

Finally, can we take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support over the years, please have a look at the exciting developments online and most importantly, on this National Youth Sunday, take the opportunity to value, celebrate and engage with the Young People of your Parish.

Thank you from all of us at NDCYS,

Tom Baptist
Director of Youth Services