

# Derry Diocesan Online Youth Ministry Programme

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Team engage with young people in schools and parishes across the diocese in a range of ways including school retreats and parish programmes. Amidst this pandemic the team are now working from home and have moved all their initiatives online particularly to the social media platforms Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

There is now a weekly schedule for young people and their parish leaders to tune in to and get involved with. Every week under an overall theme such as **#bethelight** young people are invited to engage with the opportunity for daily prayer and reflection, tasks to keep them busy such as arts and crafts, going for walks, writing a letter, sharing their favourite scripture quote, writing in a journal, finding something specific in their home, doing a kind act for another and of course taking selfies and videos of all this to share and connect with each other.

Each day of the week there is a theme.

## **Sunday Gospel Youth Reflection**

In addition to encouraging young people to go online to their local parish that has a webcam and participate in the weekend Mass a priest or religious sister will deliver youth catechesis and reflection on the gospel for that weekend. This will be in the form of a YouTube video and will be available on Instagram and Facebook.

## **Monday Funday**

Every Monday evening at 8:30pm there will be a 'Live' on Derryouth Instagram. Here the Youth Team joined by Bishop Donal and other Diocesan Workers and Volunteers will host an online session where they will introduce the new theme for the week ahead, outline the weekly task for young people participating in their JP II Award and promote and explore some of the things they will be getting involved in over the coming week. Each 'Live' will also have a guest from a parish in our diocese to share how they are all managing, what they are doing and helping us all support each other and stay connected.

## **Tic Toc Tuesday**

Every Tuesday morning, we bounce to the hugely popular tiktok scene to invite the young people to get busy creating a set tiktok video. The team leader for the day will share a tiktok video connected to the weekly theme and invite young people and leaders to create and share their own version.

## **Well Being Wednesday**

On Wednesdays our plan involves a check in at home with all our followers to stop and take stock of how we are coping in these extraordinary days. Well Being Wednesday is about minding our head space, thinking positive, praying for each and doing things that make us feel better and build each other up. Tasks for the day include going for a walk and sharing a snippet of it with us, watching a video, prayer, art, journaling, doing an act of kindness. We share everyone's tasks and keep our posts positive and creative throughout the day.

## **Take Over Thursday**

Each week a mystery special guest will take over the social media for Derry Youth and share a day in their life. Kicking off with morning prayer they will share snippets of their day, family, locality, parish and hobbies. They lead us in prayer and set out a few tasks for the day. By evening if there identify is still a mystery, they reveal the secret! A JP II Award Year 13 student has hosted this day and had an excellent level of engagement.

## **Faith Fridays**

Every Friday we will be challenging young people to join us for different forms of prayer and reflection, and we will set various intentions for reflection and prayer. There will be a task or two to share such as a selfie of you watching Mass or record yourself singing a hymn and send to DerryYouth so we can share. Some JP II students have already performed hymns and shared them with us.

## **Scripture Saturday**

Every Saturday Bishop Donal will share a reflection on a piece of scripture via a YouTube video and we invite the young people to watch, like, share and comment. On Saturday also we invite everyone to post their favourite scripture quote or a scripture quote that is particularly comforting them at this time. It is uplifting to see these posts and how the Word of God is speaking and helping all of us in these days.

Log on to the Derry Youth Instagram, Twitter or Facebook to keep update with the latest programme details, themes, daily tasks and weekly videos.
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For more information on Youth Ministry Initiatives in the diocese contact the Youth Team

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