

YOUTH MINISTRY

PLEASE SUPPORT THE YOUTH MINISTRY SPECIAL COLLECTION WHICH WILL BE TAKEN UP ON THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 8TH AND 9TH, 2025

Selection of the activities underway:



JUBILEE OF YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

A group of 53 young adults from 22 parishes travelled to Rome this summer for the Jubilee of Youth Pilgrimage. The group was inspired and uplifted after a powerful week-long pilgrimage, with over one million young Catholics from around the world. Throughout the pilgrimage, the group took part in daily Mass and catechesis, walked through the four Holy Doors, and shared in moments of music, prayer and reflection.

The group was grateful for the prayers and support they received from the parishes across the Diocese during the pilgrimage.

YOUNG ADULT MASS

SS. PETER & PAUL'S SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 7PM

Following on from the Rome pilgrimage, we're excited to announce a new Young Adult Mass at Ss. Peter & Paul's Church. This will take place every Second Sunday of the month, beginning **9th November 2025 at 7pm**. This Mass will be a space for young adults to gather, pray and grow in faith together. If you'd like to get involved - whether through music (youth choir), serving, reading or hospitality, we'd love to hear from you!



MARANATHA

Maranatha is a faith-based, high energy music event for post-primary school students from parishes across the city and county within the Diocese of Cork and Ross. Almost half the post-primary schools in the Diocese engaged earlier this year, with 500 students coming together for a day of faith, fellowship, and music. The day began with an engaging Catechesis workshop in the morning and ends in an uplifting music concert in the evening, celebrating the joy of faith and community.





LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Each year, the Diocese of Cork and Ross goes on pilgrimage to Lourdes in September. Young adults are invited to come as helpers and assist with the pilgrimage - volunteering in the hospital, helping care for the assisted pilgrims and contributing to the Masses and Liturgies as servers and readers. Lourdes is a unique opportunity to live out your faith in service to others.

ALPHA YOUTH

The thing we hear most in parish is we want more young people involved. One initiative now being piloted in a number of parishes is a collaboration between school and parish using Alpha Youth as a tool for engaging young people with faith and connecting them with their local parish.

Having completed Alpha Youth through the school with parish volunteers engaged in this, the hope is that a number of those young people will want to continue to meet as a young adult faith group in their parish and find their space in their local parish.

By making Alpha Youth a welcoming and engaging experience, parishes can foster deeper connections with young people and help them grow in faith within the church community.



SYCAMORE & FOUNDATIONS IN THEOLOGY

The Diocese of Cork and Ross, in collaboration with UCC Chaplaincy and the Presentation Brothers LEAF Project, offer two programmes for young adults (18-35 years).

Both programmes take place on **Wednesday evenings from 5.45-8pm in Mardyke House, Cork, T12 W8RP**, running concurrently over 10 weeks:



- **Sycamore Formation Series:** A welcoming and accessible starting point for young adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith.
- **Foundations in Theology:** This is an introductory programme exploring the fundamentals of our Christian faith, presented by a variety of expert speakers.

Each session begins with food and refreshments, and provides participants with an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion. The evening ends with Compline (night prayer).



ALTAR SERVERS

We recently produced new altar server training videos, filmed in Barryroe and Kilbrittain parishes, and these are available on YouTube and corkandross.org.

The purpose of these videos is to equip and empower parents with the confidence to train altar servers themselves, helping to build altar server ministry as part of parish youth life. We are looking at alternative models where the parents take the lead supported by the priests. If we don't train people they won't stay at it and these videos are a support to help and ensure that altar serving continues to grow and thrive.

Last year, we recorded a full-length video with altar servers in Ballincollig and now – thanks to the new recordings in Barryroe and Kilbrittain – we will soon have a suite of short, practical videos covering everything from arriving at church to serving through to the end of Mass. Through this initiative, altar servers will not only learn how to serve Mass but also be encouraged to reflect on their faith and their own personal growth.



SS. PETER & PAUL'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY

The Cork Cathedral *Family of Parishes* has started a community for young adults of faith aged 18–30. Currently 7 young adults are living in Saints Peter and Paul's Young Adult Community for the academic year.

This community is a place for both men and women to grow in faith, make lifelong friends, and get involved in projects and ministry within the Cathedral *Family of Parishes*.

SS. PETER & PAUL'S CAFÉ

A new Faith Cafe will shortly be opening in Cork City Centre beside Ss. Peter and Paul's Church. Currently work is taking place in creating an environment that is warm and inviting, where good coffee and food is served and people, young and not so young, can meet in a friendly Catholic environment. This cafe also presents a unique opportunity for encounter, conversion (encountering Christ personally), discipleship (growing in Faith), and mission (equipping and sending).





CONNECT

Connect is a gathering for young people of faith and for those who are searching between the ages of 18-35. The day includes a talk with a guest speaker, Mass, adoration, food, time for discussion, confessions and much more! Our most recent CONNECT took place on October 18th at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Anne, Cork City, where over 100 young adults came together to share in this uplifting day of faith and fellowship.

WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUP

A Discernment Group for Young Women aged 18-40 to explore the beauty of the call to Consecrated Life. Meeting each month from September to May, there is time of prayer, adoration, Mass, presentation and discussion sessions on topics for spiritual formation, discernment, Consecrated Life and an opportunity for retreat during the year. For more information, please contact Sr. Caitríona:

womendiscern@corkandross.org



MEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUP

The Cork and Ross men's discernment group is for Catholic men (aged 18 to 40) interested in discerning diocesan priesthood. This Discernment Group will help you explore diocesan priesthood in a small group where you will find support and fraternity. Together, you will be given the opportunity to pray, discuss the priesthood, listen for God's voice and learn how to answer His call. For more information, please contact Fr Cian: vocations@corkandross.org



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