

The Word of Youth

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Not JUST kids :)



“Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!”

Pope Francis (2013)

“Children should be seen and not heard.” I’m sure we have all heard that - or a version of it - before, perhaps more directly to some than to others. I remember hearing these words when I was small, and although ‘the grown ups’ may have been joking many of them certainly thought that there were certain things children could and couldn’t say – fair enough. Unfortunately, this kind of culturally embedded attitude leads to a more damaging and lasting belief that young people, quite simply, are ‘just kids.’ My own experience during this Year of Faith has been of a youth that is a lot more than ‘just’ anything.

Continuing to build upon our

understanding of the Incarnation, our young people were asked to get out there and use the example of Christ to help them to get involved in witnessing to charitable service.

You will read in this issue about three immersive service projects that they lead in the weeks leading up to Christmas: In the ‘Good Sam Guide’ service project our youth researched the services and support facilities available to those, like the man attacked by robbers and left for dead, who are lost and abandoned in one way or another;

The ‘Youth Can’ project allowed participants to choose a charitable cause and to design

a colourful eye-catching way to collect donations; and the ‘Gospel Greatness Peacemaker Awards’ project offered the opportunity to celebrate the work done by many people in our communities.

My experience has been that young people exude goodness and imagination; they genuinely care about the suffering of their fellow human beings, they radiate the Holy Spirit.

The next time anyone, adult or youth, is tempted to think that young people are ‘just kids’ remember that they are both Just, and Kids – they glorify God by their lives.

PERTH CATHOLIC YOUTH PROJECT



Coming Events

17th June
Alton Towers

23rd June
YOUTH MASS
St John’s Perth

25-28th July
Scotland’s RIO
World
Youth Day
at
Stirling University

2-4th August
Dunnolly
Outdoor



Study Support @ 3GS

Rising to meet new challenges the 3GY team decided to offer study support offering our senior candidates more than just a 'wing and a prayer'!

In a term packed with life changing exams and practical projects for assessment, it was time to give our young people the help and motivation that they would need. With all the ingredients for success - planned study sessions, peer support, and internet access when required, printing facilities.

There was time to unwind too. The sessions ended with a short prayer for the intercession of St John Bosco whose work with students led to him being acclaimed the patron saint of teachers.



Making discoveries with Perth's young Catholics

A visit to Dundee gave members of 3GY an opportunity to learn about the city's shibuilding and whaling industries and the brave men who set off to Antarctica in search of new frontiers.

SS Discovery is the perfect place to find out all these things, but even more so on a day when an icy wind is blowing and the driven snow obscures the city skyline. Can you just imagine....?

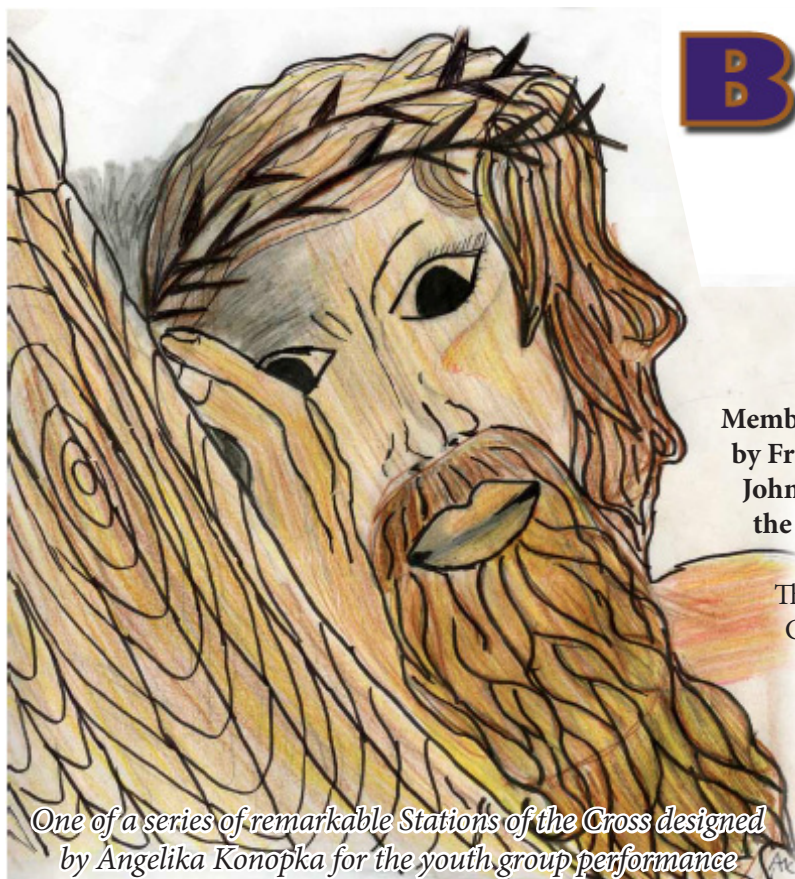
The award winning exhibition brought to life the cramped crews' quarters and the basic medical knowledge but also the detailed scientific drawings.

3GY's Ruairidh said, "the ship is an inspiration to us all. In its day it was no less impressive than the Spaceship Enterprise in Startrek or the Apollo missions".



Piecing together the past gives new hope for future generations

The group had planned a picnic at Camperdown Country Park to follow but the wintry weather forced them to retreat to the comfort of the city's McManus Gallery. "The youngsters are not quite ready yet to match the achievements of Captain Scott," said project leader Frankie McGuire.



Born for this

Members of the Perth Catholic Youth Project, directed by Frankie McGuire, performed 'Born for This', in St John the Baptist RC Church on Monday evening, at the start of Holy Week.

The musical drama is based on the Stations of the Cross and is a mixture of original music and songs and powerful, moving prose narrative.

The young Perth actors portrayed the anguish of Gethsemane to the agony of Calvary; from the grief of Veronica on the road to Golgotha to the joy of Mary Magdalene at the Resurrection.

One of a series of remarkable Stations of the Cross designed by Angelika Konopka for the youth group performance



L-R - Back Row - Michael Ellacott (Musical Director), Fiona Quail, Gordon Allan, Frankie McGuire, Natalia Konopka, Joseph Taylor, Lisa Terry; Front - Sian Sievwright, Christina Craven, Zuza Zelinska, Wiktoria Chorostkowska, Ruaridh Blain, Harris Blain, Emilia Kenyon and Weronika Bernat.

Parish Mission attrac



Baptised in Christ

Pupils from the St John's Academy and Kilgraston School helped the Redemptorists on the second day of their mission to the parishioners of St John's parish, Perth. Ruaridh and Harris led the procession with the parish's oldest baptismal register, dating from 1831, and water to be blessed for the baptismal font.

As he sprinkled the Holy Water on the congregation, Fr Kieran Brady asked parents to make a sign of the cross on their children's forehead, in blessing.

Welcoming the children and their families, Fr Kieran reminded them that they were the most important part of God's creation. At our baptism we are called to be part of his Church and the day of our baptism was

the MOST important day of our lives.

He recalled Pope John XXIII's words, that even after his ordination as priest and installation as Pope, baptism remain the single most special day of his life because "that was the day I was called by the Father to make a difference in the world."

Samuel's calling was acted out by Fergus and Grace reminding us of the importance



of recognising what God wants us to do. Eli two sons didn't turn out the way he wanted, they stopped practicing their faith and had become a source of shame and scandal for him. But God had chosen this old man to influence the life of Samuel.

Simeon too played an important part in that 'little golden thread of faith' being passed on from mother to son, father to daugh-

ter, grandparent to grandchild. In the Gospel, the old man's words to Mary also warned of the pain that she would feel as the mother of Jesus, 'a sword will pierce your heart.'

John the Baptist transformed the life of the young Jesus - so too in all our families we can think of someone who transformed our lives; who showed us the person we could become; who passed

on the faith to us. No family is perfect but there are many examples of Holy families who make time with their children, speaking about the things that matter. You loved them into being and gave them the faith. God knows what you have done for them and at times he calls us to be like the father of the Prodigal Son - who wants his child no matter what they have done.

ts young participants



3GY join Fr Kieran in a re-enactment of the Lord's Last Supper

The Blessed Sacrament

There are so many distractions in life, of things that do not matter. We need to make time for Christ in our lives.

Emphasising the importance of these first steps in the faith, the child gathered in front of the altar to lead the singing of 'Walk With Me O My Lord.'

It was the turn of the Perth Catholic Youth Project to help out during the Parish Mission on Wednesday evening. Members of the 3GY Youth Group stepped forward to help Fr Kieran in a moving recreation of the scene in the Upper Room at the Lord's Last Supper.

In setting the scene, Fr Kieran explained that it would have been the youngest members of the family who helped prepare the table - often asking their parents, who is the empty seat for, or where is our Messiah?

Youth Worker, Gordon Allan, read St Paul's account to the Corinthians where Jesus gave the apostles the bread and wine saying, 'this is my body... this is my blood.'

Fr Ronnie McAinsh was preaching in his home parish for the first time in 47 years of priestly service. He told a rapt congregation that the

cross around his neck, his Mission Cross, was a constant reminder of God's love.

He spoke of how Last Wills and Testaments can be sources of joy and sorrow. What Jesus' left for us is not just a little token of affection, but it was His body, His blood, - all of Him. The gift of the Eucharist is his Good Friday, the Gift of Himself and we are forever strengthened by His love.

The Eucharist means sharing; Jesus giving up his life for us - but what does it really mean for us?

Fr Ronnie retold the story of Fr Maximillian Kolbe, who, in Auschwitz, offered himself in the place of a family man, with a wife and five children, who had been sentenced to death. Kolbe's act, to all, would be viewed as an unbelievable act of love and goodness; laying down his own life for another.

When the man whose life had been spared, now a great grandfather, met Pope John Paul II he said, "it is difficult to understand that a man has laid down his life so that i may have mine."

"But is this what Jesus did too," said Fr Ronnie, "not just for one but for every single person in

the world. He died so that we may live. Our strength must come from Communion where we come together in God's love and we must not take the gift of the Eucharist for granted as it is Jesus laying down his life for us.

"In our lives the Eucharist is not a luxury it is an essential."

In Christ's own words, 'unless you eat of my flesh and drink of my blood, you will not have life within you.'

Report by

Aileen

McEwan

(Caritas Project Youth Worker)

Cross walk to mark the start of Holy Week 2013



Dunfermline Abbey trip finds saints and sinners



report by Ruaridh Blain

Scotland. Queen Margaret, already in poor health herself, died four days later.

Dunfermline, birthplace of seven kings (including Charles I), and empress, a queen and four princes. It is also the final resting place of nine kings, five queens, six princes and two princesses.



Margaret, sister of English Edgar the Atheling, was shipwrecked in the Firth of Forth whilst fleeing from the Norman invasion of England. She came ashore just east of Rosyth at St Margaret's Hope. In 1070 she married King Malcolm Canmore in Culdee Chapel (on the site of the present abbey).

The reign of Malcolm and Margaret had a profound influence on Scottish history and culture. Malcolm, although he could neither read and

write, was a well travelled, intelligent and wise man, fluent in not only the native Gaelic but also in Northern English, the 'British' of Strathclyde and Cumberland, Norse, Norman French and Latin. Margaret could only speak English, which became for the first time the language of the Scottish court. Thus the English speaking part of Scotland became dominant with Dunfermline as its capital, threatening to displace St Andrews as the hub of ecclesiastical affairs in Scotland.

But in the end

Sadly their benevolent reign ended in 1093 when Malcolm and his eldest son Edward were killed at Alnwick during another English attempt to invade

The War

Edward I of England, in a fury borne of frustration at failing to subdue the Scots, burned Dunfermline abbey. After Scotland's victory at Bannockburn Robert the Bruce ordered that the abbey be rebuilt and decreed that a light should burn perpetually at St Margaret Shrine, giving order that his own interment should also be Dunfermline Abbey.

Mislaid

Robert the Bruce was buried at Dunfermline Abbey in 1329 but was forgotten over the centuries until excavation work was carried out during the building of a new church on the site of the old ruined choir.

Bruce's remains

A tomb was discovered containing the remains of Robert the Bruce, identified by a shroud of gold



Coming face to face with Robert the Bruce

cloth and the fact that the breastbone had been severed to facilitate the removal of his heart. (Knowing he would be unable to travel, Robert the Bruce instructed that his heart be removed and taken to the holy land in atonement for his killing of the Red Comyn).

Dunfermline ceased to be the royal Burgh after the death of James I, with Charles II (first to inherit a United Kingdom throne) the last monarch to stay

at Dunfermline palace in 1650, after which the palace became a ruin.

Fire

The town was almost destroyed by fire in 1624 with the result that it has few antiquities in relation to its long and fascinating history. It became a handloom weaving town noted for its damask linen and silks but perhaps Dunfermline is best known today as the birthplace of Andrew Carnegie.

Projects serve to teach new lessons in faith



Operation Youth Can prepares to spray paint its message to the parish

Throughout Lent 2013, the youngsters at 3GY worked on a series of service projects aimed at demonstrating how the Catholic Faith is lived out in the wider world. Youth Can aimed to identify a charity worthy of support and then, through public-

ity and awareness raising, to make a collection for it. Working with the support of leader, Liam Pearson, the youngsters identified Sr Aloysius' Mercy Project for Romania. Collection bins were designed and painted to catch the eye of pa-

rishioners in all three local parishes. In the end a great amount of goods were collected and they will be taken to Romania by the S6 pupils who set off their this summer with Frankie McGuire and staff from St John's Academy.

Peacemaker Awards



Our group was asked to plan and run the Gospel Greatness Peace Maker Awards. The first stage was to research and plan, which we had to do. We and our leaders had the idea to prepare nominations for the Peacemaker. We made nomination ballot boxes and nomination slips to allow everyone

to vote. We designed and made certificates, awards, and we planned our Peace Makers Award Ball. Some of us put voting boxes and slips in the three Perth parishes. After a few weeks we collected them and wrote down the names and reasons for nomination of each of the nominees. Then we sent certificates

of nomination and an invitation to the ball. Through our award and certificates we wanted to say thank you to all nominees for their contribution to our parish communities.

Award Ball

The ball was on 26th April and allowed us to gather most of our Peace Makers together. Member of the youth group helped to prepare the Church Hall for presentation of the awards and for the service of food to our guests. Frankie and Marie cooked the food which was fabulous; especially Frankie's chicken with a secret sauce. After the meal we presented our Peacemakers with certificates and a handmade dove statue. Just after the ceremony we watched a video and sang the hymn: 'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace.'

Good Sam Guide

Another group of 3GY worked to produce a Good Sam Guide. Aimed at highlighting local sites which gave help to others - like the Cancer Research - the young people were challenged to find out how much good work was going on in our home city. Leader Lisa Terry said, "we called it the Good Sam Guide after the parable of the Good Samaritan."

One week, the group invited a representative from the Salvation Army to come and tell them about the work they do with homeless and poor families.

"They are amazing people in all the work they do," said Zuzia.

The group also approached the local planning office and were given a large scale map of Perth to plot their Good Sam Guide places.

Great 3GY Bake Off



Operation cookie takes over Fr Tom's new kitchen

Alton Towers

3GY plans a trip to Alton Towers leaving at midnight on Friday 14th and returning 24 hours later at roughly midnight on Saturday 15th June.

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church this week and that all young people S1-S6 in the parishes are welcome - you do not need to be a member of the youth group.

If you are interested please phone 01738 635074 or speak to Frankie at the back of the church to book your place! The cost will be £50.

Dunolly

3GY week at Dunolly Adventure Outdoors, 2nd - 4th August. Cost £100 - includes transport, full-board and all activities - one place left - a reserve list has been set up.

Activities include: Rafting, Kayaking, Climbing, Gorge Walking and more! See Frankie for a sign-up sheet or call 01738 635074.

3GY Summer adventures at home and abroad

Our report from World Youth Day 2013 in the next issue

Romania

Thank you to everyone for their generosity and contributions of items to be taken to Romania in July by groups of senior pupils and staff from St John's Academy. We are full up on donations and, therefore, are no longer collecting or receiving anymore items at this time. Financial donations can also be made by contacting 01738 635074. Thank you once again for your generous donations.

3GY QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If the only prayer you say in life is thank you – it is enough."

Meister Eckhart

Eckhart von Hochheim O.P. (c. 1260 – c. 1327), commonly known as Meister Eckhart was a German theologian, philosopher and mystic, born near Gotha, in the Landgraviate of Thuringia in the Holy Roman Empire.

Contact Details

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Youth Coordinator

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Wordsearch for the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

E	V	E	N	V	A	E	H	S	E
L	I	V	E	N	D	A	E	R	B
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BREAD
EVER
BLOOD
ANCESTORS

HEAVEN
FLESH
ETERNAL
DEAD

LIVE
DRINK
FATHER
ANYONE



THEME: Happy and Supported in Faith

SUMMER 2013 (Apr – Jun)	<i>Take this all of you</i>	New Lanark Sunday 19th May Minibus	Alton Towers Sunday 16th June Coach	Saturday 18th May 5pm, Joint Youth Mass and Barbecue Holy Family, Dunblane Sunday 23rd June St John's, Perth Final Mass Theme: 'Take this all of you' and summary of theme	Leader Meetings: 20/04 and 01/06 Dunolly Adventure Centre 2-4th August 2013
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