

The Word of Youth

3GY Publication

October 2013

Suggested donation:

Can you answer that call?



"Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as Spirit." - Pope Francis I

We live in a world where many people spend the majority of their time feeling like they are in over their head – the demands of modern living leave little time for personal reflection and pause for thought. In one of those rare opportunities to stop and think I recently realised that I am increasingly likely to 'put off' phone calls to members of my family.

I often see my phone light up and before it's even had a chance to start buzzing I have hit the 'silent' button.

This isn't because I don't enjoy talking to the people I love or that I want to deliberately ignore the people who are trying to contact me; the problem is that we begin to resent anymore demands on our time – every phone call could end with another thing 'to do' or a reminder of the time we are not spending with our loved ones.

These passing thoughts lead me to think about my faith and how as a Catholic I am called to live life to the full – in John's

gospel we read that Jesus came so that we might have life to the full. Do we need fullness of life in lives that are already so jam packed? How do we find fullness of life in a world that seems so hungry for our time? Later I came across these words:

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meets." - *Frederick Buechner*

In the thick of our 'hungry' lives there is an opportunity to rethink, reprioritise and, yes, to find fulfilment in the business of modern life.

Answering the call

The fulfilment that all Christians seek starts by avoiding the silent button because there is one call that we are all going to want to take.

That is the call of Christ to discipleship. Young people at a recent 3GY meeting inspired us all with a modern interpretation of the call of the first disciples.

In their interpretation a

number of Big Issue sellers are ignored and badly treated by passersby who even go as far as to physically push them away.

New understanding

A modern Jesus then enters the scene and at this point the audience realise that a number of the Big Issue sellers are missing items of clothing; Jesus clothes them, and fills their cup before leaving to allow the usual passersby to do the same.

At the end of the scene Jesus returns to beckon his new disciples. This heartfelt drama left us all with a new understanding of a well known Gospel reading.

It does not matter how we are called, what matters is our openness to being true disciples who take their relationship with Christ, the love and gladness lavished upon them by God, as their starting point and then follow Christ in the mission of discipleship: to love, to liberate, to lead and – when we have our priorities straight – to launch into the world with true joy.

The theme for the 3GY year is 'Christ is Calling' which we will explore in short 'faith snaps' such as the skit that you heard about earlier in this article. We have an exciting new program planned for the year that also includes our annual Advent retreat, eight day trips to explore the country together, movie nights, a Holy Week production, prayer opportunities, and a pilgrimage to Santiago.

Openness

Permeating the whole year will be our openness to the voice of God in all that we do as young disciples of Jesus Christ: come and follow us as we follow him.

"Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as Spirit." - *Pope Francis I*

By Frankie McGuire

MEET OUR YOUTH LEADERS @ 3GY

FRANKIE MCGUIRE

Frankie McGuire is the Youth Project Coordinator for the Catholic parishes here in Perth. He was born in Rutherglen near Glasgow and lived most of his life in the Lambhill area of the city before heading to Stirling University in 2005.

In 2009 he graduated in History with Professional Education and is now a member for staff at St John's Academy, Perth.

During his time at Stirling he was president of CathSoc and a member of a residential chaplaincy team based at St Mary's Church where he helped to run the active youth ministry in the parish.

He is enjoying the opportunity to develop youth ministry here in Perth and says that it has been a pleasure to get to know people in the parishes here.



GORDON ALLAN

Gordon joined the Navy aged 15 and also served a 25 year stint as a fire-fighter. He was used to a very regimented system, something handy in helping keep 3GY under control!

He has recently become an Apostle of the Sea. This means he's giving practical, and spiritual, support to seafarers who are far away from their home country, who often have very little English.

At 3GY he is switching between assisting with the football group and being generally useful, getting extra food, helping in the kitchen and keeping order during the learning sessions. Gordon has also taken up work as a guide at Balhousie Castle.



CONTACT DETAILS

Frankie McGuire
Youth Coordinator
Tel 01738 635074

MARIE LAURIE

Marie is a Biology teacher living in Perth and a former pupil at St Columba's High School. As a parishioner of Our Lady's Parish in Letham, she thought it would be a good idea to get involved in the 3GY youth project. Marie helps to run the Arts and Crafts Group for young people and enjoy working with the Caritas pupils to bring together new project ideas to teach to the younger members.



JUSTYNA JABLONSKA

Justyna is 24 years old and comes from Poland. She loves craft projects, good books and cooking.

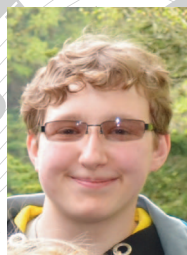
Justyna is studying Graphic Design at University of Dundee. You will recognise her easily as a person with a big smile and open heart.

She loves encouraging others to follow their dreams and is looking forward to helping young people develop and deepen their faith.



NATALIA KONOPKA

Natalia is a student of Visual Communications at Perth College UHI. Originally from Rawicz in Poland, Natalia has studied at St John's Academy and Dundee College and makes a much valued contribution to the Polish community in Perth - as a translator for appointments at the bank, doctor, dentist, lawyer etc. Alongside her voluntary work and studies in Perth, Natalia works at McDonald's in Perth.



LISA TERRY

Lisa is a former pupil at St Columba's High School and starred in the youth group's production of 'Born for This' during Holy Week this year and is looking forward to next year's musical/ play. Lisa is an occupational therapist at Ninewells in Dundee and brings an infectious enthusiasm to her work with young people.



CHERYL KELLY

Cheryl is the newest member of the youth team. A member of Our Lady's parish - Cheryl is a legendary footballer and hopes to begin coaching the sport in the near future. Well known as an ever-cheerful checkout assistant in ASDA she is replacing her younger sister, Lisa, who has started her studies at Aberdeen University.



ANDREW MITCHELL

Having spent a lifetime in Catholic Education, Andrew continues to work with Perth Youth Orchestra and enjoys both photography and publishing - so he is an enthusiastic youth team member keen to promote the work being done by the Perth Catholic Youth Project across all the Perth parishes. As a father of six and grandfather seven times, he is used to encouraging young people to bring out their best.



LIAM PEARSON

Liam has been a youth leader for around 3 years. He is a former pupil of Our Lady's Primary/St Columba's High and has worked in insurance for eleven years. Liam is engaged to Emily and they are due to wed in July 2014. He is pleased grateful to have the opportunity to give something back to the Church and act as a role model for the younger generation. He believes we can create a vibrant future for our children in the way we connect with them, educate them and open their minds to the glory, love and peace of Christ.



ANDREW CRINES

Andrew is from Perth and was recently a pupil at St John's Academy. Andrew is currently working in Boots and volunteering as a youth leader in the youth project. Andrew helps run the sports group and enjoys the banter and the chance to meet new people.



3GY take the plunge at Dunolly Outdoor Centre

During the summer holiday some members of 3GY went to Aberfeldy to take part in some adventures. In the Dunolly Outdoors Adventures. Our team met in St John's Church Hall before heading off for the outdoor centre at Aberfeldy where we started some teambuilding games.

Natalia Konopka reports

Next morning we had to squeeze into watersuits and set off to do some canyoning. This was especially tough for some of us. In a few parts on our trail, when we had to face very strong current and high rocks, where we had to climb.

On the way back we jumped from these river cliffs into the water. One of the rocks we had to jump from was about 2-3m high. It proved too much for at least one person in the group - but not for me!

After our lunch we went kyaking along a four mile river course. That was something new for most of us. Over all everyone got use to it, but it doesn't change fact that some of us capsised. We had lot's of fun in there. When we came back to the house we had our tea and we watched some movies.



The last day was very exciting and we all went rafting. When we were on the water we had to paddle as a team. When our boats got close to each other some people were jumping over the other rafts and then they tried to throw the rest to the water. Those already in the water pulled others in too. That was most exciting thing to all of us. All instructors tried to put the rafts in line but there was one raft which capsized what was big suprise for all of us. The same raft capsised on rapids so I feel very lucky that I wasn't on that boat.

Once we were dried off dry and fed, we went to do archery. Most suprising was that all of as were very good in it. We learned lots of new skills.



PHOTO GALLERY



WoYo's editorial team



Green fingers make the garden grow



Animal Magic at St Andrews



Helping with church flower arrangements



Getting in the shot at St Andrews



Soul food for an empty tummy



3GY on a visit to Alton Towers

World Youth Day 2013

Scotland's Rio



While millions of pilgrims flocked to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to see Pope Francis and take part in the World Youth Day 2013, Scottish Catholics marked the event with Scotland's Rio, a unique four day event held at Stirling University campus.

Members from every Scottish Diocese were joined by young Catholics from Lancaster Diocese from NW England and Down

and Connor Diocese in N. Ireland.

The Bishops of Scotland welcomed over 250 young people, aged 14-35 for prayer

and worship as well as catechesis and various social gatherings.

Justice and Peace worker Miriam McHardy was among a group of inspiring speakers who addressed the gathering.

Bishop Stephen Robson repeated the message Pope Francis

was bringing to the three million youth who had gathered on Copacabana Beach in Brazil, he said - "Go and make disciples of all nations".

The message was summed up in three simple ideas - "Go, do not be afraid, and serve."

"It is good for all of us here to live the faith together with young people from different parts of our home countries, but now you must go, now you must pass on this experience to others."

Perth Youth Coordinator Frankie McGuire (back row 2nd from right) with members of the Dunkeld Diocesan group.

Caroline Laidlaw and Maureen McKenzie from Dunkeld led groups from Dundee, Cupar and Dunblane - many of whom are now looking forward attending the next World Year Day, in Kraków, Poland in 2016.



Hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholics are attending the opening ceremony of World Youth Day on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Inspired

AILEEN MCEWAN RE



Working in Budimex Hospital was an unforgettable experience. I understood it would not be easy and I was unsure how I would cope emotionally especially on the first day as I entered the babies ward and discovered most were orphaned. Although I have to say it was extremely humbling to meet children who did not let their illnesses or troubles get them down.



*A universal language
- make it with Lego*

Bringing a smile

In particular, a little girl called Anna, who suffered from many heart problems and due to this could not speak. Despite her condition she was very well natured and brought a smile to everyone's face; all she wanted to do was cuddle everyone she met.

Sister Marie and I took her back to her ward and wherever we went someone wanted to say hello to her. It certainly made me reflect on my own life: all the little things which I stressed about and I thought were huge problems I realised were incredibly insignificant.

**CARITAS Award
winner
Aileen McEwan
is a regular
contributor to
WOYO and wrote
this account of a
visit by pupils
and staff from
St John's
Academy to see
the ongoing
legacy of
Sr Aloysius' work
in Romania**

Loved

During the trip I began to see life a lot more simply: as long as you are loved and cared for everything else should fall into place.

I realised love is the basic ingredient to saving any child and when you think about it, it's something anyone can do. The children merely needed someone to dedicate time to them, look af-

ter them, feed them, clothe them but most importantly love them.

I found the common cause of many of the children's illnesses was their abandonment. There are probably hundreds of abandoned children in that hospital, I only met a handful, but that was enough to realise how fortunate I am to have had all the love I've had in my life.

Without my parents I would not be the person I am today. I learned that on the first day when I met Betty, who herself had also been abandoned as a baby, introduced me to Nicoshaw who due to the lack of interaction in his early development is thought to be mentally retarded.

Selfless workers

The people, who worked at the hospital, including Betty, were selfless, kind and loving people but the problem is there are so many children in need they cannot possibly devote the time every child needs.

It was so hard to accept the cure for someone like Nicoshaw was constant love and care but that was not available.

I met another two abandoned babies, one of them, Robert was extremely underweight and due to his abandonment he cried almost always unless he was held.

His cure was quite clear; he just needed someone to be there



Headteacher Mrs Audrey May and Patrick Rooney display the children's artwork

to Love

SPORTS FROM ROMANIA



Headteacher Mrs Audrey May and youth coordinator Frankie McGuire visit a project close to Sr Aloysius' heart

with him. The reason he cried was because he knew someone would soon be leaving him.

Desperate For Love

Robert could not talk or walk yet but could understand whoever came into his life would leave him: I desperately wanted him to have the love he deserved.

I thought of my own family, when my little cousin was born we were so excited to cuddle, hold and love him: it was a natural response. For me, it was impossible to imagine a baby understanding he did not have this.

As an outsider to the situation in Romania, I found the need quite overwhelming yet the

Romanians I met; nurses, doctors, volunteers, parents were very courageous, resilient and faithful people and trusted in God their children would regain health and the orphaned children would find loving parents.

Faith was a great comfort to them; I think we too felt our faith helped us through the trip. Vis-

iting a cancer hospice was a source of inspiration for me as I was beginning to feel overwhelmed.

Trust in God

I was astonished at the hope of the woman who founded the hospice which came from her trust in God.

Sr Aloysius had stressed the impor-

tance of love and happiness and told us to do whatever makes us happy because life is too short.

An open heart

I realised if life is short it should not be filled with unhappiness and the children at the hospital without parents need our love. After the hospice visit I no longer felt sad or overwhelmed, I was

happy to be somewhere I could help and following the example of the woman we had met I trusted each child would be loved and looked after.

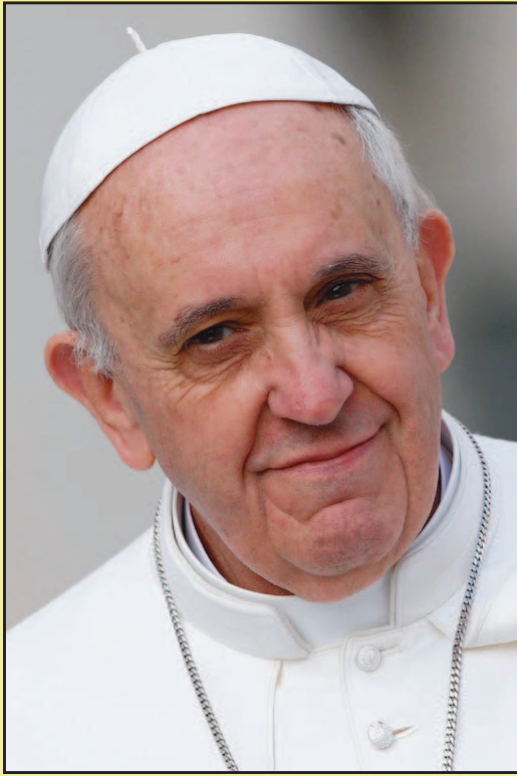
All children deserve love and I would implore anyone who can to continue the legacy of Sister Aloysius and visit Budimex Hospital. All you need to bring with you is an open heart. All you need is love.



Aileen and Chloe are full of hugs



Youth Coordinator Frankie McGuire meets teaching staff at St Joseph's RC School, in Bucharest



On Wednesday 13th March 2013, members of the Perth Catholic Youth Project found their normal weekly activities interrupted when the College of Cardinals ended their historic consistory to announce the name of the new Pope.

Witnessing a moment in history they will never forget

White smoke had been seen above the Vatican and almost 30 youngsters crowded around the large plasma screen in the St John's Church house in Perth to await news of the election of a successor to Pope Benedict XVI.

Fortified by pizza and many witty asides from Fr Tom. "Why is St Peter's Square round?" quipped one voice in an attempt to test the parish priest's wealth of knowledge on all matters ecclesial.

Thumbs scanned the social media sites to see if there were still any ongoing Vatileaks - perhaps a tweet or a new Facebook status.

But then, in the traditional manner, came the official announcement "Jorge Mario Bergoglio," - even Fr Tom was silent now.

Among those inspired to find out more about the new Holy Father - Patrycja Kowalinska sent this report to WoYo - together with an excellent caricature of Pope Francis that she found. Congratulations to Patrycja who has won a £20 voucher for a High Street store of her choice.

God Bless Our New Holy Father

Patrycja Kowalinska
writes about

Jorge Mario Bergoglio

Born 17 December 1936

Age 76

Brought up by Italian parents, Bergoglio worked as a technician before entering seminary. He was ordained a priest in 1969 (age 33). From year 1973 he was Argentina's Provincial superior of the Society of Jesus for six years.

Jorge became an Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 (age 62) and a Cardinal in 2001 (age 65). On the 13th of March 2013 the papal conclave elected Bergoglio, who chose the papal name *Francis* in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis is the first from the Americas and the first from the Southern Hemisphere.

Pope Francis is a very gentle man and caring human being walking on earth who wants to do well in life and let people follow his footsteps to letting your-

self trust and let God live in your heart. As Pope he doesn't want to be someone popular or someone well into fame, he wants to be normal just like everyone else. Francis for his hobby supports Argentina's football team and likes tango dancing.

Pope Francis is a very humble man. When he is driven in his papa mobile he often sees disabled, ill, poor and sick children and adults. He tells the driver to stop and comes out of the papa mobile gives hugs and speaks to them.

Pope Francis receives calls and messages which often say "Please pray for me, because next day I might not wake up." He often gets letters from sick people which might not recover from illness. Pope also visits Chil-

dren Hospitals, Care Homes and abandoned ones when ever he visits he sees those cheery smiles on children's faces. He also calls people unexpectedly to talk with them and hear about problems.

Pope Francis' said "Bringing the Gospel is bringing God's power to pluck up and break down evil and violence, to destroy and overthrow the barriers and selfishness, intolerance and hatred, so as to build a new world."

This is a very powerful quote which speaks to us all and makes it clear that War is not the answer. Once Pope Francis said "Pray for the most unfortunate ones, because they don't have the right to speak up and thou their country suffers" We in life should take a moment to reflect and to pray for the innocent and homeless. Pray for the war to end, to make World a peaceful place to live in. Before war destroys us all.



Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela 17th-27th July 2014



Join us on the way

At the recent meeting with families and young people interested in joining a pilgrimage to Compostela in July next year, Frankie McGuire outlined the plans, so far.

The aim is to meet up with an adult group from Perth who are proposing to celebrate the Feast of St James the Apostle, on Thursday 24th July, at the site of his shrine in Compostela, the most north-westerly corner of Spain.

The Youth Pilgrimage from Perth will leave on Thursday 17th July and return on Sunday 27th.

Flights from Scotland will arrive approximately 4-5 hours coach journey away from the start of the Camino (pilgrims way).

For the next six days the group will walk the 70 mile journey to Santiago de Compostela stopping at secure hostel accommodation, rather than the traditional Alberguel, in delightful small towns along the way.

The total cost is estimated at £600-£650 - but with a programme of fund raising already started, it is possible for 3GY to offer places on

the pilgrimage at a cost of £450-£500.

The pilgrimage is open to all young people aged 13 and over and will be organised according to the guidelines set down by the Diocese of Dunkeld.

The cost of the pilgrimage includes all food, all coach transfers, air fares and accommodation.

Recognising that this is still a high sum for most families it is suggested that, following an initial deposit of £100 in November, monthly payments of £50 would be possible. The period of payment

could be extended in cases of particular hardship.

Whilst fund raising will help cover a subsidy for everyone - advice is available for individual families seeking to reduce their costs by finding funds and fund raising ideas.

Local trusts are generous in their support for projects that work with young people.

It is traditional to keep a pilgrims diary along the journey and each person will have a pilgrim pass which will be stamped at the stops to prove their credentials as pilgrims.

"We are looking forward to going on the pilgrimage to Compostela next year."

"The 70 mile walk looks very scary but over six days it will be fun."

"We are all looking forward to being at the festival of St James in Spain."

Says Anya and Maria

For those parents who would like to join the group for the three days of celebration in Compostela, Fr Tom announced that he was arranging 3 nights accommodation in the Benedictine House, close to the cathedral,

for £194 - a bargain considering that it was peak season in the city.

Parents could make their own transport arrangements - perhaps taking advantage of cheaper flights than would be available to a group.



Santiago de Compostela's Cathedral has the world's largest thurible

Welcome to our newest members

What do our members have to say about their experiences at 3GY.

Leah (12) is in her first year at the youth club and says her best memories are from the recent trip to St Andrews and Falkland Palace. She is most looking forward to next year's pilgrimage to Compostela. Finlay (11) and Julia (14) are new to the youth group and have already declared the Ninja games as their favourite moments. Julia also enjoys the Arts and Crafts group.

The last Youth Mass, at Holy Family Church in Dunblane was very well attended by members of the Perth Youth Group and many are looking forward to the next Youth Mass which will be in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, on Sunday 6th October at 12 noon.



**3GY meets on Wednesdays
from 6-8.30pm in
St John's Church Hall**

Making the science work

CARITAS reporter Ruaridh Blain writes



CARITAS project helps to build parish connections for youth



CARITAS volunteers get an opportunity to meet their project supervisors over lunch

During youth group I had the chance to observe the activity of the Arts and Crafts group making lava lamps.

When I first heard this I had thought they would heat the bottle to make the mixture go up and then cool off so that it could go down.

When I went to see it happening I learned that they were using water, oil food colouring and antacids.

The lava lamps worked by having a small amount of water at the bottom of the bottle which was mixed with food colouring of the persons choice.

They then added oil to the water and then added the antacid and sealed the bottle.

This works because as water and oil don't mix the oil will lie on top of the water without mixing.

When the antacid was added it reacted with the water to produce carbon dioxide gas. The gas would then push part of the mixture of food colouring and water to the top.

Once the gas had reached the top it left the oil and allowed the mixture to fall gently to the bottom of the bottle.

This however only

works if the bottle is a screw cap.

Two of the girls in the art group had brought in sports cap bottles and unfortunately they had a habit of "literally" blowing their tops.

What happened here is that the build up of carbon dioxide gas caused an increase of pressure against the sports cap and started to push the lid up.

This happens until the lid is fully allowing the gas to be released as well as some of the mixture as well.

I should know that the mixture came out due to the fact that when the girls did this again the bottle fell and had made me part of the splash zone.

It was quite annoying that the food colouring had hit my shirt but it was nice to see a bit of fun, art and science happening at the youth group.



Thrills and spills - all good fun



Susy Lipiec reports

"On Wednesday nights at 3GY I enjoy the Arts and Crafts Group, we do lots of fun stuff and it's always a good laugh!

When we make stuff we always listen to music and it makes it even better.

I always work alongside my friends Vicky, Sophie,

Suzie and Weronika and we help each other with ideas.

Last week we were making face masks. Afterwards we painted them and our hands were all different colours!

The Arts and Crafts group always have amazing new ideas of what we can do every week- thanks

to our leaders - Marie and Cheryl.

I like to come to Youth Group to meet up with my friends. It's the best in the summer because when you get to walk/or drive it's still light outside.

I really enjoy Youth-Group and I hope the Music Group will start again soon!"

New Lanark Trip Inspires



A visit to New Lanark allowed members of 3GY to enjoy a walk to the Falls of Clyde as well as their visit to the cotton mills and inspirational town developed by Robert Owen in the

18th century.

Owen was a social reformer and he took care to provide his workers with good living and working conditions.

As well as that he opened a school so that the

mill workers' children could be better educated.

The World Heritage Site is well worth a visit - especially the ride-on ghost train that takes you back in time.

Cup Success



Following a winning performance in an inter-church football tournament young Catholics in Perth have put together a football team that has now played two full '11s' games against the Church of the Nazarene. The first game ended 3-2 to the Church of the Nazarene, however in a rematch on 21st September our team showed their worth in a respectable 6-3 win. The deciding game will follow before the end of October. Matches end with hospitality in one of the churches. - report by Frankie McGuire

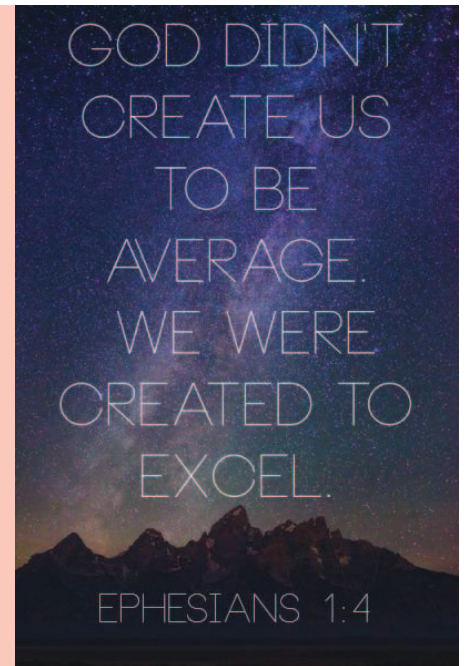


3GY QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**“God didn’t create us to be average
we were created to excel.”**

St Paul

When I saw this image I thought that it meant that we are not to just blend into the crowd but we have to be individuals and show people what we are capable of in this world. - Ruairidh Blain



2013-2014 THEME: Christ is Calling

TERM	SUB-THEME	Outings		Worship	Notes
AUTUMN 2013 August- October 9 weeks	<i>Come, follow me'</i> <i>Discipleship</i> Imaginative prayer	Trip to St Andrews and Falkland Palace Sunday 16th September Mini-bus	Perth Cinema and 'swimies' Sunday 6th October Mini-bus	Youth Mass Our Lady's, Perth Sunday 6th October at 12 noon	
WINTER 2013 Advent and Christmas October-December 8 weeks	<i>'Follow the signs'</i> Sacraments and Advent	Timecapsule Sunday 3rd November Mini-Bus	Glasgow – Christmas festival/skating Sunday 15th December Train (Tbc)	Youth Mass St John's, Perth Saturday 14th December at 6.30pm	Guest Speaker on the Sacraments Second half of term Advent Focus on 'Signs' with retreat in Stirling TBC
SPRING 2014 Lent and Easter January - April 12 weeks	<i>'You are Christ's voice'</i> Lenten Justice and Peace projects	Edinburgh Laser Quest Sunday 19th January Mini-bus	Go Ape Aberfoyle Sunday 16th February Mini-bus	Youth Mass St Mary Magdalene's, Perth Sunday 30th March at 10am	"Born for This" Rehearsals dates and times tbc.
SUMMER 2014 April - June 10 weeks	'Hearing the call' Vocation Prayer for discernment	Largs and Millport Sunday 11th May Mini-Bus	M&Ds Sunday 15th June Mini-bus	Youth Mass St John's, Perth Sunday 22nd June 'Hearing our call'	Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella July 2014 (Tbc)