

# The Word of Youth

3GY Publication

April 2014

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## Speak out!

**“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” - Luke 9:23**



The real aim of Lent is, above all else, to prepare men for the celebration of the death and Resurrection of Christ...the better the preparation the more effective the celebration will be.

**S**ome of us, I include myself here, are too young to remember the lyrical art form of Simon and Garfunkel, and some will perhaps not have heard any of their music. They were men from a Jewish background who's religious beliefs permeated much of their music.

I recently travelled to Dundee to celebrate Mass at our cathedral with four young people in my car.

They had the opportunity, unfortunately for them, to sample some of my CD collection in the car, and I was very surprised at how many of the bands I thought were 'in' that have apparently been long gone. Simon and Garfunkle was a band that they knew nothing about. After listening to 'the Sound of Silence' they decided that the band is 'OK,' and I too had a new respect for the song.

The words struck me as being deeply moving and tantamount to a challenge on apathy towards the troubles of our world.

*"Fools said I,  
you do not know  
Silence like a cancer grows.  
Hear my words  
that I might teach you,  
Take my arms  
that I might reach you.  
But my words  
like silent raindrops fell,  
And echoed  
in the wells of silence."*

**“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)**

Jesus' words smashed the silence of indifference and broke into a place deep within his listeners. In that place where most of us would rather not go Jesus planted an unsettling, electrifying charge.

Speak up! No one else can right injustice, there is no voice for the poor, there are no peacemakers, unless you allow yourself to be unsettled. Turn that discomfort into realisation and speak up.

Jesus didn't preach to millions of people, he wasn't on BBC news or launching multi-million pound campaigns. He healed the first person, forgave the next and spoke to the last.

It was when his disciples saw that unfaltering love empowers the human being to humanity that they followed his example and spread the Good News, and a fantastic charge of positive energy, throughout the world.

'Speak out,' has been the

### Diocesan Youth Mass in Perth

A warm welcome to Bishop Stephen Robson who will lead the celebration of our Diocesan Youth Mass this evening (Saturday 29th March). We are delighted that he has gathered our young people here in Perth so soon after his appointment as Bishop of Dunkeld.

Welcome to young people from schools and parishes across the diocese - and in particular the youth groups from St Columba's in Cupar and the Holy Family in Dunblane with whom we shared the joy of World Youth Day last summer.



theme for 3GY this term. This Lent the youth group have been working on four awareness raising projects in which they have been exploring various justice and peace issues throughout the world, and thinking about ways to raise awareness and encourage others to take notice of the need to get involved.

One group, working on the 'Place at our Table' project, have been working on place-mats for our tables to encourage families to occasionally set a place at meal times where they can place a small donation for Mary's Meals or a local food bank. The 'Justice Rosary' group have been looking at creating a rosary that will be colour coded to

represent the victims of different natural disasters. A number of young people have been putting their knowledge of shopping to the test by developing a 'buy one give one free' coupon to challenge the influence of consumerism. Another group has been working at creating a 'Peace Calendar' with images of various people who have achieved extraordinary success in the pursuit of peace - these calendars will be up for sale soon!

It's not all been work work work though, we've managed to fit in a few exciting trips around the country and much more which I'm sure you'll enjoy reading about in this issue of WoYo.

Frankie McGuire





Patrycja leads the way on the ropes at Go Ape

Glasgow Cathedral and Museum of Religion



3GY on the banks of the Forth en route to Laser Quest



Go Ape at Aberfoyle - 3GY all prove to be high flyers



Dancing on Ice - in Glasgow's George Square

Frankie conducts 3GY around his home city



# Service Projects that Engage Young People with the Church

**ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC YOUTH PROJECT**

We invite you to  
**Buy One GIVE One Free**



Next time you buy a new item of clothing think how you can benefit someone who is more needy than you.

Staff and pupils from St John's Academy will be going to Romania again this summer supporting the Lawside Romania Project.

Please search the back of your wardrobe to discover the items of clothing you no longer need. The pupils will take your donations to Romania.

Members of the Perth Catholic Youth Project will be at the Church door after Mass to collect your donations of clothing.

Thank you

**Almsgiving FOR LENT**

During the Spring Term members of 3GY have been involved in a number of Service Projects where they research and respond to the needs of others.

One such project was called Christian Coupons. It began with looking at the familiar Buy One Get One Free offers in supermarkets.

CARITAS volunteer Sammy Kelly led a group of 3GY members to explore how such a scheme might work to the benefit of people who were in greater need than ourselves.

"Often these offers just promote greed," Sammy told our reporter. "We don't really need two of everything and also it has been shown in the press recently that these offers only benefit the supermarkets' profits."

"Our idea is to Buy One GIVE One Free instead."

The group plans to encourage parishioners and friends to think about this when next

**BOGOF**  
Buy One ~~Get~~ One Free

Too good to be true?  
**YOU KNOW IT IS!!!**

Why not make this an even better deal for the needy?

**BOGIVE**  
Buy One ~~Get~~ One Free

buying an item of clothing.

"Each time you buy something new you should have a good look in your wardrobe to see if there is a item of clothing you no longer really use."

Some staff and pupils from St John's will be returning to Romania in the summer and will be able to take clothes to the orphanage supported by the Lawside Project."

There will be members of 3GY available at the back of the Church to collect your donations - please be generous and think of others.

## Ready to answer the call from those in need



The project led by Andrew Crines responds to Natural Disasters around the world



Working with Youth Leader Marie Laurie this team supports Mary's Meals

## CARITAS scheme into its third year



Just some of the many CARITAS volunteers who have taken up the challenge of giving service in their local parishes.

Meeting with mem-

bers of the parish to arrange for visits to the sick and housebound, the enthusiasm of our S6 pupils was soon to prove infectious in all the right

ways in the homes they visited.

Visit Coordinator, Carol Gillespie described the young peoples' commitment as "an inspiration".

## New Pope Francis Awards Start in Perth

St John's and Our Lady's Primaries have been chosen to pilot the Pope Francis Award for P6.

This will help those in P6 to grow stronger in their faith and there will

be a parish dimension to the award for those who are Catholics.

Earlier this year a special celebration for Catholic Education Sunday saw the Pope Francis Award launched

here in St John's, with a similar event the following week in Our Lady's

Please pray for our young people and support them in their work on this new venture and wish them success.





# The Good, the bad and One Direction

by Natalia Ciotucha

Probably the biggest boy band of today is One Direction. They get their fans screaming and their fans' boyfriends hating their guts. But what is it that makes them so popular; so both loved and hated. Well first of all I'm not a fan of them and certainly not one of their super fans who might be called a 'Directioner'.

I have actually never met a guy who actually liked One Direction but that's because they're actually there for girls, about the ages of 9 to 24. And since these girls love them it's hard not to make them the sell-outs than they already are. Come on seriously they are just soulless faces on stickers and bumper badges.

But they are sell outs because we made them that, but with their merchandise running loose in our stores can you blame us because with all this stuff we just draw more atten-

tion to them. So stand back when you open your closet cause a little Harry doll might land on your face.

Yet there is always someone out there who actually inspires us with their music instead of their shiny silver faces.

I asked around and some of my friend's inspirational musicians included Tom Odell who is a British songwriter and pianist who said that "his lyrics were inspired.

Michal Bajor is a Polish singer who, as my friend said, "creates lyrics that are musical poetry, I love to listen to him truly



Imagine Dragons - scary but beautiful



Inspirational singer  
Tom Odell

wonderful."

Another one would be Avicii since his songs are just simply so enjoyable.

Yet for me an inspiring, enjoyable or truly wonderful artist, band or just a single song are mixed. My favourite band is called Imagine Dragons and my favourite songs may be seem scary but I think that the music is beautiful.

Young people  
are looking for  
more than just  
soulless faces  
and bumper  
stickers



Michal Bajor -  
his lyrics are musical poetry



Singer songwriter  
Laurie Cameron

It can be all too easy to overlook Perth's own talented musicians.

Singer songwriter Laurie has in recent times supported acts including Roddy Woomble (Idlewild), Zoey van Goey and Frightened Rabbit, and is a regular performer at Dougie MacLean's Amber Festival. - See more at: <http://www.lauriecameron.co.uk>



# Wednesday evening



## Youth Journalism at work

News gathering, reporting, photography, magazine design, website updates and Twitter all have a place on Wednesday evenings at 3GY. The power of the printed word has always attracted writers who enjoy communicating their ideas to others.

In the digital era type is even more powerful where everyone can be an author or a photo journalist. Watch out for our Compostela Blog!

Tapping into the benefits of new technologies helps our young people unleash their creativities. Phones, tablets and laptops can do so much more than play games - although one of our features next month explores the attractions and addictions of these engaging apps! Using Facebook and Cloud technologies, and the best industrial software, stories are written, edited and published.

Journalist Natalia Ciotucha enjoys the production process from pen to print and looks forward to speeding the process up next term. "Sometimes it takes too long to see our work in print. It's not good when the news become old news. Internet publishing can be instant but so can its mistakes!"

Next term the group is planning a visit to D.C. Thomson's in Dundee to see how they make a newspaper everyday of the week.

Earlier issues of WoYo are now available from [www.3gy.org.uk](http://www.3gy.org.uk) - look back to see how our youth project has progressed



Let us have your feedback @3GYPerth



# ings @3GYPerth



Meals



## Breaking bread together

Sharing a meal together was one of the ways the early Christians met each other. At 3GY each week, following their Gift Group sessions, there is a meal and a chance for the whole group to come together. The cooking is usually done by the leaders but, over the past few months, CARITAS volunteers have operated the 3GY kitchen.

"It's a great way to get to know the members," one CARITAS worker told our reporter. "I never realised that there is so much for youth to get involved with in the parish. I wish I had a chance like this when I was younger."

Winning hearts and minds are traditional teaching tools but youth worker Justyna Jablonska saw the opportunity to teach a lesson through tummies! In two successive weeks the youth group were taught the conditions faced by the majority of children in the world. In the first week a bowl of porridge represented basic nutrition enjoyed by families who live on the edge of survival and, the following week - rice. Youth Group members braved these weeks of famine, praying for a return to pizza and chips - and the many other delights for which Frankie's Kitchen has become famous.



Games



Sports



Crafts





*Thank you for your support for the Perth Catholic Youth Project*

## Spanish flavour to pilgrimage fundraiser



**Over £600 was raised**

## RACE NIGHT - 24th May

At 7.30pm, on Saturday 24th May in St John's Church Hall - come along and enjoy a traditional night at the races and give your support to the Perth Catholic Youth Project Pilgrims as they make their final preparations for Compostela.

Entry £5 (adults) to include a glass of wine/soft drink and finger buffet.

Before the night you can help us to set up the event either by Sponsoring A Race (with a prize/ business

voucher) or by Naming a Horse (£10).

So, for each of our six races there will a prize for the owner of the winning horse.

Before the start of each race you will have the chance to bid for the position of jockey on one of the eight horses in a race.

So there will be a prize for the winning jockey.

Finally, you have the chance to place a modest wager to predict the outcome of the race - with payouts to the

winners too.

What could be simpler!

If you have a business that would like to become involved, or if your family and friends would like to join together to form a winning team of sponsors, please contact us - before we contact you!

Speak to Frankie or Justyna at the church door after Mass - or call Perth 635074 and leave a message for us to get back to you - or email [webmaster@3GY.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@3GY.org.uk) today!







# Santiago de Compostela Pilgrimage 2014



In July 2014 seventeen Members of the Perth-Catholic Youth Project, and five of their leaders and Fr Tom, are setting off to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

They will follow the path of the Camino, the traditional route followed by pilgrims since mediaeval times.

It is said that St James brought the Gospel to Spain but returned to Judea after an apparition of Our Lady on the banks of the River Ebro. He was martyred in Jerusalem in 44AD. His body mysteriously

found its way back to Spain and pilgrimages to the shrine at his tomb began.

Although the popularity of the Camino trailed off as a result of the Black Death and the effects of the Reformation, the past five decades have seen a steady growth in the number of pilgrims.

## Revival

Today more than a hundred thousand travellers make the journey each year, many travelling for religious reasons, others because it is considered as one of the great cultural routes of Europe.

Setting off from Edinburgh to Santander by plane, the group will transfer to coach for a five hour journey to Sarria in Galicia.

The young Perth pilgrims will walk the final

100km part of the route passes over rough terrain, and pilgrims need to be physically fit. Our pilgrims plan to undertake some training before they set off.

## Certificate

Along the way, the pilgrims will earn their 'Compostela', a Latin document issued by the cathedral of Santiago. It is granted to those who travel the way for religious reasons, and is stamped at various points along the route. The people must travel at least the last 100 kilometers (about 62 miles).

Once they reach Santiago de Compostela, they will be able to relax in the mediaeval city with its narrow streets and beautiful open squares that are made for strolling along, particularly in the Old Quar-



Only 22 km to go Santiago slowly here we come

ter. It is there that they be joined by the main pilgrimage from Perth who plan to enjoy the three days of festivities marking the Feastday of St James (24th July).

Far from Spain's usual

scorching temperatures, the pilgrims may need to prepare for a mere 18°C and for frequent rain but it isn't expected to dampen their mood on the adventure ahead.

# Bags Packed and Ready to Go

In the summer Sophie McCrory is looking forward to going to Spain's Compostela with the Youth Group.

"It will be my first time in Spain and I am learning Spanish for when I go there. I am also looking forward to tasting

some traditional Spanish food."

"This is a special trip, it is a walking pilgrimage and we're walking about 60 miles towards the shrine of St James the Apostle."

"It's going to be tough to walk that much but

I'm under training.

"I am going to pack lots of sun cream in my suitcase, strong shoes, and try not to stay up til midnight every night talking but it's going to be very difficult because there's going to be so much to talk about."



Scenic area along the Camino





3GY at St Margaret's Church, Stirling



# Creative retreat at Stirling

From the battle-ments of Stirling Castle members of 3GY were given a rain-soaked history of Scotland - taking them through the Wars of Independence - with the well-known Historian - Frankie McGuire.

Being exposed to the

strategic features in the landscape, and their links to key moments in the nation's history, in the face of driving rain, might help to explain why the group was so eager to head downhill to the beautiful St Mary's Catholic Church for their annual retreat.

Led by Frankie and Justyna, and joined by Fr Tom and other leaders from the Perth Catholic Youth Project, the young people became engrossed in a series of practical activities involving Scripture and the expressive arts.

Finger painting was a

popular pastime - with a variety of talent on display.

Fr Kenneth Owens was on hand to welcome the Perth youngsters and to show them around his impressive church. St Mary's was the spectacular setting for the final Mass at

Scotland's World Youth Day last August.

The day culminated with groups making a reverent re-enactment of the Nativity - building their own set - to the music track 'Do You Hear What I Hear' by Christian Rock Band - Third Day.

## Grand designs take shape as 3GY undertakes a great parish project



Members of 3GY have been contributing to a needlework project inspired by parishioner Sophie Younger in response to an appeal for ideas to engage our young people more in parish life.

"The completed project will provide an ex-

cellent resource for the Children's Liturgy Group," Sophie told our WoYo reporter.

"The idea is to create a large embroidered mat, full of shields or

pouches filled with materials for each of the Church's seasons - indeed each Sunday of the year."

Working with CARITAS volunteers, Sammy Kelly and Jennifer McLaughlan, Sophie has brought her team of professionals to convert the young peoples' ideas into a labour of love.

"Sammy and Jennifer have brought their ideas to the planning stages, identifying images to illustrate the scriptures as well as interpreting the many symbols to be found

around the church."

The task of converting the ideas to designs is then carried into the youth group's regular Wednesday Gift Sessions where the Arts and Crafts Group, led by Our Lady of Lourdes' parishioners Marie Laurie and Cheryl Kelly, began the process of making the mat.

"It is a very exciting idea, and one that will take a few months to complete. The CARITAS volunteers will help pass these ideas onto a new generation," said Sophie Younger.



# Top Award for Perth Youth Volunteer



Community Link Worker,  
Dorota Marciniak with  
Natalia Konopka at the  
Awards Ceremony

Perth College student, Natalia Konopka, was the winner of the Community Involvement (16-25 year olds) award at the Spirit of Youth in Perth Concert Hall on Friday evening (29th November).

In a ceremony recognising the efforts of some of Perth and Kinross' most determined and committed young volunteers, 20 year old Natalia collected the award for her work with young people as well as with the wider Polish community the city.

A former pupil at St John's Academy, Natalia was invited in to become a leader with the Perth Catholic Youth Project which supports all three local Catholic parishes, successfully helping to integrate Polish and local young people.

It was community link worker Dorota Marciniak who nominated Natalia for the award.

Says Dorota, "Natalia has generously given her time and effort to serving others. She has had to overcome a lot of personal hardship but continues to demonstrate a strong spirit. On arrival in Scotland from Rawicz, Poland in 2009, Natalia spoke very little English but went on to gain success in Technological Studies at school, continuing her studies at Dundee College and is now studying for her HND in Visual Communications at Perth College."

"Through her voluntary work in the youth project Natalia has worked hard to learn the language of her adopted country.

Her talents are put to good use within the Polish community where appointments with banks, doctors, dentist and solicitors needed her interpretation skills."

## Putting the Right Foot Forward

**Lauren Summers is a member of the Rights Respecting Group at St John's Academy and she reports here on their progress to becoming a Rights Respecting School.**

"We already believed that we had a good school ethos based on the gospel values of love and respect," said Lauren, "but we wanted to expand our knowledge on how to respect one another as well as learning more about the rights that affect us."

### Leading the way

The award is based on the principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation.

The school was examined for Level One accreditation recently, making it one of the first all through schools within the UK to have the award.

"We have been working towards this award for nearly two years now with a steering group made up of secondary and primary pupils and teachers, parents from the parent council, MITY staff, catering staff, library staff and our parish link worker, Mr McGuire."

"The steering group meets once a term to discuss our next steps as a committee."

### The Right Rules

Within the school they have been making great progress with the introduction of different activities such as 'Article of the Week' where they explore an article depth.

Tutor group charters that were personally agreed to include rights they believed were most relevant to them.

Other activities that have taken place in the school are our One Day One Dodge event where our school houses played against each other in dodgeball tournaments using a set of rules developed using the rights of the child.



Rights Respecting Group at the Spirit of Youth Awards

### Funds for UNICEF

Recently staff and pupils took part in Day for Change which this had the theme of Education For All.

On another occasion the primary decided to swap roles where the teachers and pupils dressed as one another for the day. As a school they raised £849 and all the proceeds went to UNICEF.

The steering group were given recognition for its work in a wider scale in November last year at the Spirit of Youth Awards held in Perth Concert Hall where it won Best Secondary School Group in Perth and Kinross.

## ECO Friendly

CARITAS volunteer, Jemma Smith, reports:

"The aim of the Eco group at St John's Academy is to ensure that within our school community we strive to make everyone environmentally friendly and responsible citizens who look after our planet."

"This year we aim to achieve the Green Flag - which will demonstrate to all visitors of our school that we are environmentally friendly."

"I feel that the Eco group is important as it teaches group members to be environmentally friendly and through assemblies and meetings we can share our knowledge of how to look after our planet and this leads to pupils making responsible choices regarding preserving the planet."

"It was good to see the work of the Eco Group being recognised at the Spirit of Youth Awards Ceremony," said Jemma.



## Rugby Team Trying Hard

Robert Young reports - "the St John's Academy boys rugby team was nominated for the spirit of the youth award for being a sports comprehensive team and winning most of their rugby matches last year."

"It was a real sign of the team spirit that they all turned out at the Concert Hall to collect their Finalists' Certificate. Next year the aim to win outright!



# Mother's Day

The halfway point of Lent is the Thursday of the third week of Lent, so this Sunday has traditionally been viewed for special celebration, on which the traditional seriousness of Lent is briefly relaxed.

The fourth Sunday of Lent is celebrated as the half way mark on the journey through the season.

Laetare (Latin) means "Rejoice." "Rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow," (Isaiah 66:10) is the guide for the day, and on Laetare Sunday, the purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent are set aside, and rose ones may be used instead.

It is also celebrated as "Mothering Sunday." In the 16th century, people returned to their "mother" church or cathedral on this day. In later times, domestic servants were given the day off to visit their mother church. Have a Happy Mother's Day - and don't forget its true origins.



## Watch out for the next Holiday Club

Our first Holiday Club held on 19th of February ended up as a great success. Eighteen children from P3-6 enjoying activities such as playing games, singing songs, doing lots of crafts and much more! All of this in the theme 'God Loves You'.

Through different activities and games such as 'A Chair for a Crown' which is played similarly to the popular 'Musical Chairs' but with a different spin, because there are no winners or losers, the kids had a chance to see that in the eyes of God they are all special, and unique.

He made them and they are his precious children. In the end of the club, children had an opportunity to sing songs, and present different things they have been making during the

club, to their parents.

I would like to encourage you to sign your children for our next Holiday Club that will run for two days, 21-22 April. This time we have prepared lots of activities related to Easter. The children will have the opportunity to dye eggs, learn some new songs, play a lot of games such as egg rolling and to enjoy different Arts and Crafts

projects. During all that fun they will learn more about God and the life of Jesus.

Holiday Clubs are a great way for children to grow their faith and make new friends while spending a day full of fun and games. Come and see for yourself, your child can't miss it.

Helpers welcome. Contact Justyna for more details.



## Come along next term - our theme is 'Christ is Calling'

TERM	THEME	Outing	Outing	Worship	Notes
<b>SUMMER 2014</b>	<b>'Hearing the call'</b>	Largs and Millport	M&Ds	Youth Mass	Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella
<b>April - June</b>	Vocation	Sunday 11th May	Sunday 15th June	Venue tbc	
<b>10 weeks</b>	Prayer for discernment	Mini-Bus	Mini-bus	Sunday 22nd June	
				'Hearing our call'	July 2014