



The Journey Forth  
with 'Anointed And Sent'  
1st Edition

Vision for Youth Ministry in the  
Archdiocese of Perth

Developed by the  
Perth Catholic Youth Network

## A message from the Perth Bishops

Dear friends,

Young people are an important part of the Church community. The document 'Anointed and Sent' from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and now our local document 'The Journey Forth' emphasize that young people have an active role to play in the Church and that their contribution is welcome.

I thank the Catholic Youth Network for their efforts in beginning 'The Journey Forth' and look forward to seeing where the journey leads us as we continue to build the faith community especially for the young people of our local Church.

The Archbishop and I welcome the development of 'The Journey Forth' and we are confident that this resource will assist Parishes, Schools and Communities as they reflect on the needs of their young people.

The development of all aspects of the Christian faith should be supported in the Parishes, Schools and Communities. Just as the light of Christ is the light of the world, we are inspired to bring the light of Christ into the lives of others.

Yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Bishop Donald Sproxton

### Introduction to 'The Journey Forth - Vision for Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese of Perth'

This vision document is a supplement to 'Anointed and Sent' - An Australian Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry. Please read the full document of 'Anointed and Sent' before reading the Youth Vision for the Archdiocese of Perth.

'The Journey Forth' begun to be drafted by the Perth Catholic Youth Network in 2006 and will constantly be revised to be a dynamic document to suit the times and needs of the Church in the Archdiocese of Perth. This resource is to guide all youth groups, parish councils, schools, agencies or anyone connecting with Catholic Youth.

Keep at the forefront of your Youth Ministry planning, the **3 National Goals of Youth Ministry:**

- 1. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person**
- 2. To draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community**
- 3. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today**

To journey towards these goals we recommend that the development of youth ministry is built by varying the 8 focus areas in your ministry over a number of years.

**The eight focus areas are: Prayer and Worship, Evangelisation, Catechesis, Pastoral Care, Community Life, Justice and Service, Leadership Development, Advocacy**

This document is a guide to begin discussions around these areas & which focuses can be taken on board by your parish/community. However, always remain open to the Holy Spirit and revelation of God's will for Youth ministry.

*"Let God's Spirit guide you in your choice."* Mary MacKillop (1898)

*An appendix is being developed to include the various Catholic agencies which currently support the 8 focus areas and can assist groups or schools in engaging with these areas.*

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

### **Vision:**

*Young people have a deep relationship with God through Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives; they are active and authentic in their prayer, celebration of communal liturgies and participation in the sacramental life of the Church.*

### **Goals:**

#### **We strive to build an Archdiocese that:**

- Promotes the appreciation and understanding of the sacraments, traditional prayers and devotions of the Church
- Promotes authentic participation in liturgy
- Provides opportunities for creative Catholic prayer
- Fosters a spirit of life-giving celebration of the Mass and Sacraments for young people
- Uses appropriate music, dance, drama, symbols to express the vitality of young people within a liturgical setting

### **Strategies and Initiatives for building Prayer and Worship in Parishes & Communities:**

- Deepen the understanding and importance of the Sacraments in the lifestyle of young people.
- Utilise and develop youth resources from the Centre for Liturgy for various prayer experiences.
- Provide quiet and still time for reflection during prayer sessions to enable young people to hear the voice of God speaking to them.
- Utilise various prayer experiences to deepen their understanding and the importance all forms of prayers and devotions of the Church.
- Develop Scripture based prayer experiences.
- Educate youth music ministries on appropriate resources for use in the Mass & other prayer experiences.
- CYM to develop online prayer resources & promote these through a regular newsletter.

### **Example Guiding Questions:**

- How are the Sacraments a focus of our prayer life?  
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- What forms of prayer are regularly used in the community?  
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- Is prayer time well prepared?  
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- How is the prayer a personal experience for the young people?  
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- How is your community developed and supported through prayer?  
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- How are the young people encouraged to lead prayer?  
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- What prayers are we teaching our young people to pray in their daily lives?  
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- How do we draw people into a deeper faith?  
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## EVANGELISATION

### **Vision:**

*Young people recognise the presence of God in their lives, and are encouraged to live as witnesses for Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, ready to share the gospel with people in the world around them in thought, word and action.*

### **Goals:**

#### **We strive to build an Archdiocese that:**

- Proclaims the Good News in a way that is inviting and engaging to youth
- Reaches out to youth in their particular life situation, builds relationships, provides care & offers genuine response to needs
- Calls youth to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus
- Involves youth in ecumenism and inter-faith dialogue
- Invites young people to be evangelisers of others

#### **Strategies and Initiatives for building Evangelisation in Parishes & Communities:**

- Encouraging young people to share their testimonies about their faith journey
- Use up-to-date technology to reach out to youth
- Hold social gatherings or Church events that are open and inviting to all
- Promote Church events and celebrations through letterbox drops of Parish flyers in the local area.
- Use engaging Contemporary Catholic Music at youth events.
- Encouraging friends & other young people to participate in Church based community service.
- Hold Creative and engaging public forums, seminars and programs about the Catholic faith.
- Engage the secular media in local Church and school events.

#### **Example Guiding Questions:**

- How does our parish/group evangelise?

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- Does our parish have RCIA/RCIYA or a method to bring people into the Catholic Church?

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- How does our parish/group use sacramental celebrations for evangelisation?

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- How do we form evangelisers?

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- How do the young people witness to their faith?

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## CATECHESIS

### **Vision:**

*Young people have a deep understanding of the Scriptures, teaching and sacred tradition of the Catholic Church and live it in their daily life.*

### **Goals:**

#### **We strive to build an Archdiocese that:**

- Enriches and expands young people’s understanding of the Scriptures, the Church’s teachings and traditions
- Promotes a commitment to the magisterial teaching of the Catholic Church
- Communicates connections with faith and everyday life
- Recognises that faith development is a life-long process and encourages youth to consider further faith studies
- Invites clear discernment of Catholic vocation

### **Strategies and Initiatives for building Catechesis in Parishes & Communities:**

- Appropriate Catechesis in all youth group meetings and activities that is accountable to, and supported by Clergy and/or CYM.
- Develop and provide Catholic resources to youth ministries for a range of ages and needs.
- Centralise information of resources, agency activities, and other youth related ministries through CYM.
- Regularly review and update Catechesis resources
- Identifying and training adult/parent mentors for youth groups.

### **Example Guiding Questions:**

- How do we draw young people into a deeper faith life?

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- Who is teaching Catechesis to the young people and who is guiding and mentoring the content of their talks?

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- What type of Catholic youth resources are being utilised?

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- Are the Catechesis teaching sessions relevant to the age and needs of the young people?

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- How are the young people responding to our Catechesis strategies?

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## PASTORAL CARE

### **Vision:**

*Young people experience the Catholic Community supporting them in life experiences and decision making, which leads to Christ centered living and Christ centered healing.*

### **Goals:**

#### **We strive to build an Archdiocese that:**

- Fosters the link between spirituality and life experiences
- Helps young people develop Catholic-based life skills
- Guides youth in important life decisions
- Establishes support networks for those who are disadvantaged, distressed or devalued
- Collaborates with the wider community and agencies that have a mandate to directly minister to those at risk
- Supports leaders in providing pastoral care
- Fosters communication to facilitate pastoral care.

### **Strategies and Initiatives for building Pastoral Care in Parishes & Communities:**

- Pastoral Care training for leaders
- Promote the network of agencies established who provide pastoral care for young people
- Create an awareness and understanding of mental health issues
- Develop a support program for young people in Divorce or Marriage separation home situations
- Provide vocational education and support for young people

### **Example Guiding Questions:**

- What do we identify to be the current teen/young adult issues?

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- How do we address and support teen/young adult issues?

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- How do we provide crisis support?

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- How do we provide Marriage Support for young couples?

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- How do we provide support for young people living the single life vocation?

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## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Vision:**

*Young people create and sustain meaningful relationships and nurture their Catholic faith in a way that contributes to the Catholic and broader community life.*

**Goals:**

**We strive to build an Archdiocese that:**

- Engages young people in parish life, activities and ministries
- Nurtures meaningful trust-based relationships between youth and adults or peers
- Provides an environment where young people can learn social skills that are grounded in Catholic values
- Guides young people in understanding their community role
- Provides opportunities for multicultural community building
- Fosters a welcoming community
- Values the importance, energy and contributions youth make to the Catholic and broader community

**Strategies and Initiatives for building Community Life in Parishes & Communities:**

- Youth activities to involve getting-to-know-you activities
- Establish small support groups for young people within the community. For example Small groups, Cell Groups, Home Groups.
- Celebrate important occasions together
- Engage with the broader community and network with other Churches and agencies.
- Priests and Parish councils engage and encourage involvement of young people in the community
- Wear name badges at Mass, gatherings or other community events.

**Example Guiding Questions:**

- How does our parish/group value community life?

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- What does community life look like?

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- How do we welcome/farewell people?

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- How do we get people to recognise that they are part of a community?

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- How does our community observe significant moments in people’s lives?

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- How do we involve families in youth activities and promote family life?

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## JUSTICE AND SERVICE

### **Vision:**

*Young people have an understanding of the commitment required to follow Jesus' call; they are equipped and inspired to act to address causes of human suffering and promote the dignity of the human person.*

### **Goals**

#### **We strive to build an Archdiocese that:**

- Engages youth to discover the Christian call to justice and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- Involves youth in efforts to promote the dignity of the human person and address causes of injustice and or inequity
- Promotes confidence in youth to recognise they can make a difference
- Nurtures a life-long commitment to justice and service revering, loving and fostering life from conception to natural death

#### **Strategies and Initiatives for building Justice and Service in Parishes & Communities:**

- Establishing projects that target local and international justice and service opportunities
- Educate Youth on Catholic social teaching and the dignity of the human person
- Ecological projects that care for the environment
- Engage in a prison or detention centre visitation program
- Nursing home visits
- Hosting events that highlight issues and support young people in the Christian lifestyle
- Helping the underprivileged
- Utilising high school community service hours through parish life and agencies

#### **Example Guiding Questions:**

- What community service activities do we engage in?

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- How does our group help alleviate suffering?

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- How do the young people recognise the need to act on injustice and apply the Gospel message?

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- How does our group contribute to the building of the Kingdom of God?

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## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### Vision:

*Young people are empowered, trained and encouraged to apply their diverse gifts, talents, and abilities to be effective servant leaders within the Catholic and broader community.*

### Goals

#### **We strive to build an Archdiocese that:**

- Utilises leadership abilities of young people in varying ministry roles
- Develops and nurtures leaders with relational and ministry skills, solid theological understanding & organisational ability
- Empowers young people to be leaders within peer, parish, and community by affirming talents and providing support in their roles

#### **Strategies and Initiatives for building Leadership Development in Parishes & Communities:**

- Develop youth leadership training which includes theological, scriptural, and sacramental knowledge, interpersonal skills, public speaking and other general leadership skills
- Regular Zone meetings of Parish youth leaders to facilitate resource sharing and pastoral support
- Establish adult mentors and clergy support for youth leaders
- Develop a clear role description and work-life boundaries for the youth leader to prevent burnout

#### **Example Guiding Questions:**

- How do we train our youth leaders?

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- What adult support is given to youth leaders in our community?

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- How to we engage and retain youth leaders?

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- Is there a succession plan in place for upcoming leaders?

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## ADVOCACY

### **Vision:**

*Young people have an active voice and are integral to the life, mission and work of the Catholic Church and broader community through the priorities and practices of the Catholic faith.*

### **Goals:**

#### **We strive to build an Archdiocese that:**

- Values young people and their role in the Catholic and broader community
- Empowers young people to be responsible and accountable
- Stands with and speaks on behalf of young people
- Partners with groups sharing this vision for young people

### **Strategies and Initiatives for building Advocacy in Parishes & Communities:**

- Supporting young people in Parish life by having youth representation on councils and other parish bodies.
- Initiatives through Church groups and movements: Letter writing, rallies, responding to Government submissions, representation for workers and students, prison visits and awareness campaigns.
- Regular representation of a youth voice to clergy.
- Providing funding & continued support for a balance of youth organisations/agencies.

### **Strategies and Initiatives for building Advocacy in the Archdiocese:**

- Use CYM as liaison body to assist young people in their communication within the Church.
- Preserve a direct and effective line of communication between CYM and the Bishops.
- Regular representation of a youth voice in the media. For example 'The Record' newspaper.

### **Example Guiding Questions:**

- How are the youth in our community represented in decision making processes?

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- How are the youth reporting back on their successes?

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- What is the process for a young person to share their ideas or concerns?

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- How are our youth activities supported financially?

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**Over the next 3 years what Goals could be set for your Parish/Community?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Over the next 10 years what Goals could be set for your Parish/Community?**

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Over the next 20 years what Goals could be set for your Parish/Community?**

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Catechesis

Evangelisation

Community

Pastoral Care

Leadership Development

Justice and Social

Prayer and Worship

Advocacy

Catechesis

Evangelisation

Contact the Catholic Youth Network  
C/- Archdiocese of Perth

Catholic Pastoral Centre  
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of this document from [cym.com.au](http://cym.com.au)