

Perth Guidelines for the Year of Youth Launch

3rd DECEMBER 2017

YEAR OF YOUTH 2018

OPEN NEW HORIZONS FOR

Spreading Joy

YOUNG PEOPLE, FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

WWW.CYM.COM.AU

Prepared by Catholic Youth Ministry Perth

How to launch the Year of Youth?

Every Catholic community is encouraged to have a local launch for the Year of Youth on 3rd December 2017. Below are some ideas of how to engage young people and acknowledge their importance in the Church – A celebration of the ‘Young Church’.

Year of Youth Launch Mass

**WHEN: 1st Sunday of Advent – 3 December 2017
(Or a suitable date in Advent)**

At World Youth Day 2016, Pope Francis called young people and the Church to ‘open new horizons for spreading joy’.

“My friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, he is the Lord of the eternal “more”.

Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease.

Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths.

To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable of spreading joy, born of God’s love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy.

To take the path of the “craziness” of our God, who teaches us to encounter him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and our neighbours who feel abandoned.

To take the path of our God, who encourages us to be politicians, thinkers, social activist.”

- Pope Francis, World Youth Day Vigil with Young People, 30 July 2016

**Christ is calling you to be a part of the revival he is bringing to Australia.
We believe that you have a part to play in unifying Christ Church once again.**

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues.” (1 Cor 12:27 - 29)

STEP 1: SEND OUT AN INVITATION FOR THE LAUNCH MASS

For two weeks prior to the launch Mass (weekend of 18/19 Nov) send out an invitation for all young people (aged 12-30yo) to attend Sunday masses (or a nominated Mass) on Sunday 3rd Dec in their local parish for the 'Launch of the Year of Youth'

Encourage grandparents & parents to invite their children, grandchildren or godchildren to Mass on the 3rd December.

Send invitations to local high schools and university chaplaincies inviting young people aged 12 – 30 to attend the launch.

All young people are welcome & will receive a blessing and a prayer card on the day to celebrate the commencement of the Year of Youth.

Sample Bulletin Notice:

YEAR OF YOUTH LAUNCH MASS 3rd December 2017

We invite all young people aged 12 – 30yo to attend our Parish Year of Youth launch Mass on Sunday 3rd December at* *TIME or All Sunday Masses*. Young people will receive a blessing for this Year of Youth. Parents and grandparents, we invite you to bring your children and grandchildren to the launch Mass. There will also be a sausage sizzle after Mass for the community to celebrate the launch. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 'Year of Youth' commences on 3rd Dec with the theme ***"Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy. Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment."*** For more info on the 'Year of Youth': cym.com.au

STEP 2: DURING THE LAUNCH MASS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

On the day: At all masses on 3rd Dec – or at a nominated Parish mass on 3rd Dec, acknowledge the launch of the Year of Youth.

**Sample prayer of the faithful to be included **

Lord, we pray for all young people as the Australian Church commences the Year of Youth. May this year encourage more young people to grow stronger in their faith and grow as missionary disciples in our world today. Inspire our entire faith community, as we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy in the lives and communities of the People of God.



National Video for the Year of Youth:

You may choose to screen the National Year of Youth video on the 3rd Dec or during your launch mass

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TloGCRa7HI> (3 mins)

BLESSING & PRAYER CARD

After the 'Prayer after communion' young people from the age of 12 -30 will be called up to the front or they can stand in their place for a blessing to welcome them and acknowledge the importance of their presence to the church.

Parish Priest:

"Welcome young people. You are an important part of our faith community and we appreciate the gifts and talents God has gifted you with. During this Year of Youth the Holy Father Pope Francis will be hosting a Synod on young people with the focus of 'Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment'.

As we pray a blessing and the prayer for the Year of Youth, may this year inspire you to grow in your faith and to be supported by our local faith community to experience the joy that God has to offer you.

Bow your heads for the blessing:

"Lord, bless these young people on the commencement of the Year of Youth.

Together may we 'Open New Horizons for spreading joy', the joy of the Gospel and the joy of our faith. As we commence the season of Advent may the joy of Christ be a witness in their lives.

Invite the community to pray the **Prayer for the Year of Youth** together:

“Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland

*Inspire our entire faith community,
As we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy
in the lives and communities of the People of God.*

Come Holy Spirit of Youth

*Fill the hearts of young people with the hope and love of Jesus Christ.
Enliven our community with the creativity, energy and joy of youth.
Guide us together, as we strive to offer God’s mercy
to those who feel abandoned or outcast.*

Come Holy Spirit of Faith

*Empower our community to be courageous.
Unite your people as witnesses of love.
Walk with us, as we blaze new trails of discipleship,
Accompanying young people as we renew the Church together.*

Come Holy Spirit of Vocation

*Stir within young people an awareness of God’s call.
Reveal to us the graces of young people.
Guide us all, in finding our place and raising our voices
To build a civilization of love.
Amen*

*Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, friend of the young, pray for us.*

IMPORTANT:

If you have appointed a ‘Year of Youth Ambassador’ or a ‘Year of Youth Action Team’ this would be an appropriate time to introduce them to the community.

Encourage the young people to stay for fellowship after the Mass and to get to know how they can be involved in the local Year of Youth activities.

A ‘Year of Youth’ Prayer card can be given after the blessing.
Please contact CYM Perth admin@cym.com.au or 9422 7912 to request your order of prayer cards.



STEP 3: AFTER THE LAUNCH MASS

COMMUNITY & KEEPING IN CONTACT

We encourage you to host a time of fellowship after Mass – e.g. a sausage sizzle. You can include some icebreaker games, conversation starters with young people or getting to know you activities suitable to the age group.

An appointed 'Year of Youth ambassador' or another trusted adult should gather the contact details of the young people and keep in contact with them throughout the Year of Youth to promote the local youth activities.

Schools



Schools are encouraged to work with local parishes in planning and engaging students for the launch mass. For example:

- providing music,
- bringing forward the gifts,
- leading prayers of the faithful
- or proclaiming readings at Mass.

(Note: young people should be trained and rehearsed for liturgical roles if it is not their regular ministry at the Parish)

Parents

Encourage both parents and young people to return to Masses throughout Advent and Christmas to help build a community of young people.



Possibly offer free tea/coffee after mass throughout Advent to encourage this community building. The aim is to build relationship and make young people feel welcome.

Additional Suggestions:



1. Invite parishioners to be part of your **Year of Youth Action Team**. Include members of the local schools, parents and safe guarding officer so you can work together.
2. Welcome back the young people from your parish and schools who have attended the **Australian Catholic Youth Festival**. Invite them to share their testimony with your community at a Sunday Liturgy, and through your parish's social media.
3. Facilitate a **Year of Youth dreaming meeting**. Invite your community to share their ideas for how the Year of Youth might open new horizons for joy, discerning how to participate locally and with the Archdiocese.
4. Host a **Parish Christmas Party** and launch your plans for the Year of Youth.
5. Learn the **Australian Catholic Youth Festival theme song** available at www.acyf.org.au. Feature it in your liturgy through the Year of Youth.
6. Invite young people to lead music for your **Christmas liturgies** and incorporate them in other liturgical roles. (Note: young people should be trained and rehearsed for liturgical roles if it is not their regular ministry at the Parish)
7. As you welcome families and young people to your Christmas celebrations, acknowledge the Year of Youth and be ready to invite these people to your be part of your parish's Year of Youth journey in 2018.
8. Incorporating the Year of Youth prayer prior to the final blessing or at an appropriate time during the liturgy. <http://youth.catholic.org.au/year-of-youth/prayer>

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2018:

19-21 JANUARY

Masterclass Youth
Leaders Training

FEBRUARY

Bishops Catechesis
commences for
Young Adults

25 JUNE

Catholic Youth Summit
for highschool leaders
(at UNDA)

6-8 JULY

Veritas Youth Festival
(Highschool
& Young Adults)

21-23 SEPTEMBER

Australian Catholic Youth Ministry
Convention (Parramatta – Sydney)

...and more!

GET CONNECTED

To get connected with local 'Year of Youth Action Teams' in your area contact: yearofyouth@perthcatholic.org.au