



This year's Youth Sunday is on 25th November, the Feast of Christ the King. This Youth Sunday we celebrate the truth that Jesus shows us we can have joy in Him. Joy because He has set us free to live the life we were created to live and joy even through the challenges of life.

Jesus of Nazareth gives us reason to rejoice, as St Paul writes, 'I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord'. Nothing on earth, no worldly object can separate or drown out the song of the redeemed. There are plenty of reasons in life to be negative and justly angry at our circumstances, but Jesus witnesses to the true Joy of life, even to the extreme of walking to the cross joyfully. This uncomfortable truth challenges us today, not to be just positive or repressing and ignoring the challenges we face but to embrace them, transforming our brokenness, our worries, our weakness and vulnerability into a deep joy in knowing we are loved by the God who created us for far more than we can imagine.

On Sunday 7th October, young people and adults from across the diocese participated in the Youth Sunday Preparation Afternoon at Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Gateshead. After exploring the theme 'JOY', partnership groups met to reflect on the different options offered and to plan their celebrations.

We have included here a summary of the ideas shared on the day. Some of these relate to Youth Friday which will be celebrated in both primary and secondary schools on 23rd November.

- Plans revolved around how to involve parishioners as well such as including The Examen during mass after communion.
- Thinking about doing something after mass and into the future such as one person praying for a young person and events or special prayers/events during advent.
- Asking a young person to lead The Examen during Mass.
- Prayer cards for everyone using the JOY logo and The Examen, for use now, during advent and in the future
- Plans to change and adapt services for each parish depending on the young people
- Print out a big version of the 'JOY' logo for each parish to decorate
- Young People reads out the '10 Ways to Choose to Live Your Life Joyfully'
- Young people lead reflections and music
- Print t-shirts with the Youth Sunday logo for young people and adults working together to create a sense of belonging

- Organise a social for young people on the Saturday night before Youth Sunday
- Young people to share their experiences with the Youth Ministry Team or the Church
- Keeping individual masses but the social represents a celebration of and for young people
- Organise 'Come dine with me' style dinner with the Parish Priest so young people can get to know him.
- Print Bookmarks with the '10 Ways to Choose to Live Your Life Joyfully' and share amongst the partnership
- Young person to read the letter from the Bishop
- Young people to lead the bidding prayers
- Young people to create a cross and wreath to go together, 3 different ones for each church in the partnership to represent JOY in their lives
- Young people share their testimony during Mass
- Partnership Mass on Youth Sunday