



Good Morning my name is .....

Today is the feast of Christ the King which also marks World Youth Sunday. World Youth Sunday gives the opportunity to celebrate the church in its fullness and its diversity. To recognise how we can support one another and what young people can do for our universal community.

We often hear that young people are the future of the church but they are instead very much a key part of the church of today. We are seeing more young adults returning to the church and more young people being open to exploring the teachings of the church and exploring faith more fully.

In response to the need for youth ministry to play a more vital role in the everyday workings of the church as a whole as well as parish life, the Kenelm Youth Trust have developed and refined training, events, opportunities and resources for youth ministry across the Archdiocese.

The Kenelm Youth Trust is your Youth Service. It works to encounter, evangelise and accompany young people and young adults across the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

The young mission team at Alton Castle and Soli Retreat Centre have, during the last academic year alone, worked with 13,000 young people. The Kenelm Youth Trust has created resources, events and opportunities, across the diocese, for young people in the church to further explore their faith and take active roles within their parishes. This includes award schemes such as the Pope John Paul II award and the Faith in Action Award. The team also facilitates training opportunities for parish volunteers and young people to enable them to plan, develop and deliver engaging, safe faith based activities and opportunities. There has also been a focus on the importance of Mental Health First Aid training and resources and the Kenelm Youth Trust are able to offer nationally recognised training to schools and parishes on Mental Health First Aid.

To further the support and development of youth ministry with parishes the Trust now have youth ministry workers, who cover the 11 deaneries of the Archdiocese. They assist parishes in setting up and developing provision for young people and would love to hear from you if you would like to volunteer to journey with young people in this parish. We would also like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank volunteers in parishes who lead and develop youth ministry programmes.

The Kenelm Youth Trust also oversees the ongoing formation and support of Lay Chaplains working across diocesan schools, providing them with resources, opportunities and training. School Chaplaincy is a key link in enabling young people to explore faith and become intentional disciples.

The beauty of the Catholic Church comes from tradition handed down from generation to generation so it is our duty to entrust that the young people of today can share in that beauty with an understanding of the true message and mission of the church.

It is the Kenelm Youth Trust for whom the second collection is for today. You can use the tap and pay machine or the QR code in the porch or there are details on the newsletter. The baskets are also coming round and every penny collected today counts.

**Testimony:**

***Please add some testimony here to make your speech more personal. Talk briefly about your experience of youth ministry in the diocese, why youth ministry is important to you and other young people like you, and how your faith has changed as a result of it. Do you volunteer for social action projects? Go on pilgrimage or have you been to Kenelm events? You might want to add a little about what this meant to you and the friends you made there etc.***

***Please use ONE of the case studies if you prefer not to add your own testimony.***

The money raised today via donations will enable the trust to continue their work developing events for young people at all stages of their faith journey, mission trips, pilgrimages, digital media, parish based training and support, mental health resources, young adult resources and events, residential retreats, school outreach and much more. It is through these donations that our work can reach as many young people and young adults as possible.

We thank you in advance for your support and if you would like to know more about the work of the Kenelm Youth Trust in its ministry to young people please take a copy of our annual report, follow our social media and visit our website.

If you are unable to donate today, We ask everyone to please pray for our work and the faith of young people across the Archdiocese. There is a bookmark with a special prayer for young people written by Bishop Timothy Menezes we will be handing out.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved in the work of KYT I will be at the back of Mass. Thank you father for letting me speak



## Case Study One:

Joanne went to Lourdes as a year 10 student, supported by the Kenelm Youth Trust. She was on the fence as to whether she believed in God or not. Joanne wasn't a Catholic but going to Lourdes made her think about Faith

Joanne went back to Lourdes in year 12 and worked in the hospital there with the assisted pilgrims and helped to push wheel chairs to the mass at the grotto. She listened to the homily on the theme of 'Do whatever he tells you..' and in the beauty of the grotto, she felt these words speaking to her and she made the decision that she wanted to become Catholic. She loved the unity and community of the church in Lourdes, everyone helping each other.

Joanne had planned to study performing arts, but since Lourdes she took a step back from this and decided to join the Kenelm Youth Trust Mission Team at Alton Castle. After an adventurous year leading retreats and working with young people Joanne went back to Lourdes with KYT.

Whilst taking assisted pilgrims to the Baths in Lourdes, Joanne was asked to pray with a sick lady. This was a profound moment for her, seeing the faith of this frail and poorly lady as she kissed the statue and it stayed with her for a long time.

Joanne made the decision through prayer to study Theology at university and now lives as a young person of faith sharing her story with other young people in the hope they too will discover the difference knowing Jesus and Mary can make to your life. That following His path for your life leads to true happiness and fulfilment.

## Case Study Two:

Ben grew up in a Catholic family and attended Mass regularly as a child. He joined the junior parish youth group in year 7 which he felt helped in the transition to secondary school as it was a fun place to still be with his primary school friends.

The parish youth group took part in Fearless and It's a Knockout with the Kenelm Youth Trust which he and his friends loved.

In year 9, he joined the senior youth group in his parish and when he turned 16, Ben took part in the VITAL leadership course with the Kenelm Youth Trust and became a junior leader helping with the younger youth group. Ben was invited to do the Pope John Paul II Award and received the Gold Award for service and commitment to his parish.

The parish agreed to support Ben in raising money to attend World Youth Day, answering the call of the then Pope Francis to join young people from every corner of the world for a week-long celebration of faith that included catechesis, prayer, cultural events, and a final vigil and Mass with the Pope. This was a life-changing encounter for Ben who made the decision at World Youth Day to explore his life of faith at a much deeper level. Ben grew in his commitment to daily prayer and regular Mass and made the decision after studying Theology at University to join the Kenelm Youth Trust Mission Team at Alton Castle and dedicated a year of his life to serving young people who come on retreat with their school and parish.