

APM Youth Report 2022

Youth Ministry

Since the last AGM We have continued to meet with our young people, not quite as often as we had hoped as many had exams to prepare for and to sit, we shared food, played some games and discussed faith. Our last event was a very successful BBQ with games on the lawn at Our Lady's with about 20 young people joining us.

As we came to the end of the academic year it was a sad time for our youth group as Several of our young people were preparing to set off for university in September. We were of course very proud to see how well they had done and wished them well on the next stage of their educational journey.

Since September we've had 2 helpful/ supportive meetings with Fr. Matteo

We set our priority to setting up regular monthly meetings from October onwards, and trying to recruit new helpers and more young people to come along. A new challenge was set for us as we were asked to move from a Friday evening to a Tuesday evening, recognising our parish Sea Scouts meet on Friday evenings.

We have 6 regular young people, 2 from our original group and 4 new girls (year 7). We have met about 3 times... shared some food, played games and introduced faith. We made advent calendars, took part at both our lady's and St John's Christmas bazaars when the money raised was sent to Children in Need and had a karaoke evening when we introduced a new song to our 4 new comers (10,000 reasons)

Our next 2 events, are a Shrove Tuesday pancake party at St Johns, Mill End and then a Saturday morning in March at Our Lady's. We are waiting to see if a different location or different day and time may bring some more young people. We have also asked those who are attending now to bring a friend with them.

For our final event this academic year we are hoping to have party in the park/ family fun day on the 4th June to bring the church community together to celebrate and hopefully encourage other young people to join and recruit helpers.

We will be meeting shortly to make our plans for the coming academic year, possibly planning a 1/2 day retreat among other things.

CONFIRMATION

We have started the new Confirmation programme 2023 this past January with 28 candidates. The programme is based on Dynamic Catholic's programme known as Decision Point which is an online open source. This year I am leading the program together with three more catechists: Caitlin Scott, Yasmine Lakin and Fainche McDonagh, plus Teresa Disney helping us out with the administration. We meet with the candidates every Monday evening from

6.30pm to 8pm. The sessions are running smoothly and the young people seem to enjoy them, although it is not always easy to have teenagers actively engaging. The Confirmation day will be on 13th of May at St John's Church, Mill End and Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Rickmansworth. We will also have an enrolment Mass at both Churches on the weekend of 26th February. Finally, we are also organizing a Retreat Day to be held in the Parish Hall of Our Lady's on the 29th April.

Hopefully, by the end of the programme some of the candidates will be willing to engage in the life of the parish. The question of how to help them to continue in the Church is always open and a matter of getting extra help, ideas and skills from parishioners; for instance, in the case of wanting to organize any kind of post-confirmation activity or programme, we would be in need of a team and a leadership willing to undertake this holy task.