



# Diocesan e-News

## YEAR OF YOUTH 2018 Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy

A Year of Youth for Australia has been declared for 2018 by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The **Year of Youth** commences at the start of the new liturgical year on the weekend of December 3, 2017 (the first Sunday of Advent) and concludes at the end of Ordinary Time in 2018 (November 25, Christ the King). The theme of the Year of Youth is *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*. Resources in support of the Year of Youth will be made available over the coming months and during 2018. Events will be convened by both the Ballarat Diocese and Catholic Education.

Resources will include one prayer for each week of the year for inclusion in local prayers of the faithful, reflections for Parish Pastoral Councils, many other resources for parishes, banners and flags for sale, a Facebook group and monthly webinars. A painting that will be a central image for reflection has also been commissioned. There will be planning documents available online including: *Planning Handbook: No Young People in my Parish*.

There are four goals for the Year of Youth including [acknowledging the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of young people](#), and [young people acting upon the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church](#). All the goals are on the Ballarat diocese website, Year of Youth 2018 page.

Parishes and others are asked to incorporate the Year of Youth in their planning, considering how they might celebrate locally or in conjunction with neighbours.

Year of Youth information is available on the Ballarat Diocese website, including the downloadable Year of Youth prayer, [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) Youth and Young Adult pages or email [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) Parishes and schools will be advised about resources as soon as they are available.

*Amanda Smith, Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry*



# The Year of Youth 2018 Prayer

## 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 civilisation 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.