

On Sunday 22 July, Beaufort Parish hosted a 'Youth Night' for their youth and young adult community. Local parishioner Sandra Watkins organised the evening as part of the Church's Year of Youth, *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy* initiative, in tandem with Bishop Paul Bird's day-long Visitation to the Parish.

The afternoon began with a short welcome and opening prayer in the Church, followed by a reading of the history of the parish by Maurice Barwick, which was especially beneficial for the younger parishioners. Rohan Gerrard then spoke of his experience at the 2017 Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney, encouraging others to endeavour to go to the next ACYF in December 2019. Bishop Paul Bird concluded the first set of presentations by explaining his journey to becoming a bishop, using his coat of arms as a basis for discussion.

Afterwards, a delicious evening meal was served in the Parish Centre for all. Bianca Gerrard from the YESS Cathedral group (Youth Every Second Sunday) then promoted the fun and faith formation opportunities of being in a youth group. This was followed by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Project Worker Patrick Kennedy, who highlighted the Ballarat Diocese's focus on Year of Youth activities and growing youth involvement in parish life.

A big thanks to Sandra for organising the session and to Bishop Paul for spending time with the young people of Beaufort.

*Patrick Kennedy, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Project Worker*



*Enjoying the evening meal*



*Bianca Gerrard addresses the group*