



Diocesan e-News

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY NEWS!

National Youth Survey Report released!

Last year the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference initiated a survey of people aged 16 to 29 as part of the international preparations for the Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, which will be held in October this year. The Ballarat Diocese participated in the survey. A summary report from the survey was sent to Rome as the Australian response to the Synod preparatory questions. Now a more comprehensive report including data analysis has been released.

More than 15,000 young people responded “passionately and earnestly” with the survey results highlighting some of their key concerns: mental health issues; questions around identity – ethnic, spiritual and sexual; loneliness; relationships and friendships; the direction of society, politics and the Church; and living out their faith in a secular world.

Trudy Dantis, Director of the Pastoral Research Office, which conducted the survey, said the overwhelming response from young people created rich data that can help the Church understand where its ministry is bearing fruit and where additional efforts might best be directed.

“It’s clear that many young people highly value what the Church has done for them and is doing for them, while others were willing to share their disappointment in the Church, which is sometimes harder to capture and analyse,” Dr Dantis said. “This survey sought to really listen to what young people are saying.”

Malcolm Hart, Director of the ACBC’s Office for Youth, said the youth survey will help inform the Church’s ongoing ministry to young people through schools, parishes, youth groups, ethnic communities and other less formal settings.

“The Church wants to continue to engage with young people wherever they choose to gather and help be a focal point for their personal and spiritual growth.”

The full survey response and other reports are available on the Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult pages/Year of Youth www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Music Ministry for all

The Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry has launched its Music Ministry project with user-friendly listings of wonderful songs (words & music) for Mass and other gatherings – all are available through *One License*. Our first lists feature highly regarded musicians and favourites from the Australian Catholic Youth Festivals, Fr Rob Galea, Matt Maher and Steve Angrisano and we will be adding more artists and songs to the lists over coming months. The songs chosen display a wide range of styles and we hope that the lists will offer music options for all ages, settings and needs in an easily used way. For more details please go to the Youth and Young Adult Ministry pages at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au This is an initiative for the Year of Youth - *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy!*

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Joy+ Diocesan Youth Festival at Warrnambool West

On **Sunday 2 September** the Ballarat Diocese is holding a Festival called Joy+ for youth and young adults 15-30yo at Warrnambool West from 12.00 noon to 8.00pm. The Festival features Genevieve Bryant & band and special guests, with music, breakout sessions, faith and friends. This is a free event, including meals – registration is necessary and now open www.trybooking.com/WHVU. This is an initiative for the Year of Youth - *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy!*

More details check youth ministry web pages www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au