



On November 25, Joy+, a diocesan-run Catholic youth festival, took place at St Patrick's Cathedral and Hall Ballarat. The event was very well-received, with much faith and energy on display throughout the day!

Bishop Paul Bird opened with a lively Q&A style discussion with the young people present. This was followed by some uplifting and original music performed by Genevieve Bryant and her band. Special guests Sam Clear and Sr Elizabeth Young then engaged participants in workshops focusing on enhancing prayer life and spirituality. During this time Genevieve and her band ran a workshop in St Patrick's Cathedral, preparing a number of talented young local musicians to join Genevieve and her band members in the music for the 5pm Feast of Christ the King Mass. This culminated in a beautifully rich liturgy celebrated by Fr Justin Driscoll and the Cathedral parish community.

Dinner was then served back at St Patrick's Hall as everyone spent time socialising and catching up, before Sr Elizabeth Young led a reflective session centred on stillness and intentional prayer. The quiet atmosphere was deeply moving. Genevieve and her band then masterfully amplified the mood with songs of worship and thanksgiving to finish the night, evoking joy and praise and yes, even some dancing!

A big thank you to all who came to participate, to the presenters, the musicians and the support crew. The next Youth and Young Adult Ministry event will be *Joy Spreading* on Friday 7 December, a gathering featuring Fr Justin Driscoll at the St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Office from 6:30pm. He will be talking about his recent travels as well as the importance of the season of Advent, followed by Q&A and socialising. All 18-30 young adults are invited.

More information can be found at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-and-agencies/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=265>

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