

Recently, Ballarat Diocese Youth Coordinator Patrick Kennedy attended the annual ANDYMC conference in Lismore, NSW. ANDYMC (Australian Network of Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators), the national professional body for youth coordinators, is an independent network that exists with the blessing of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and regularly communicates with the Bishops Commission for Pastoral life. It was established over twenty years and the primary aim is to support the leadership and implementation of Youth Ministry across the country.



As a representative for the Ballarat Diocese, Patrick spent three days in Lismore collaborating with leaders from around twenty dioceses, comparing accomplishments, difficulties and sharing helpful resources. There was also a spiritual retreat led on the first day by Bishop Greg Homeming, Adoration with the local youth-group band 'Wildfire', working teams discussing Pope Francis' recent apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit*, and time for networking and socialising in the evenings. Needless to say, everyone came away from the week inspired by new possibilities in ways to spread the Gospel message to young people!

The document *Christus Vivit* will inform the Catholic Church in Australia's approach to Youth Ministry for some time to come. It contains guiding principles and concerns issuing from the World-Wide Synod on Young People held last year in Rome, which was attended by over three hundred young people. Anybody interested in this area of ministry can read it from the link below. A core insight is "meeting young people where they are" in their lives, and consequently the Ballarat Diocese will be looking at implementing programs that will respond to the Holy Father's call of bringing the Good News to those immersed in a 21st century context.

Patrick Kennedy - Youth & Young Adult Ministry Project Worker

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20190325_christus-vivit.html

