



YOUTH FORMATION NEWS – OCTOBER 2018

Hi everyone, welcome to our first 'youth news'! The purpose of this newsletter is to inform parents/guardians and the wider parish about our youth and young adult formation programs. Often in parishes we hear about 'youth' but are rarely informed beyond the advertising of youth events, youth Masses and youth fundraising. I hope to change that over the next few months by deepening everyone's understanding and commitment to ministering to our young people.

Over the last few months I have been redesigning our program to respond to 4 distinct groups within youth & young adults, noting that each group develops in their own unique way. We now have four programs covering ages 9 through 30:



Our **Primary Youth** program kicks off this month and we already have a number of kids enrolled. It's not too late so if you are reading this and you have kids in Grades 4-6, this invitation is for you! Come along. We will be meeting each Friday of term 4 from 3:15pm to 5:30pm. Drop-off and pick-up and will be at the OLR Meeting Room. If parents are comfortable, children who go to OLR Primary can make their way to the meeting room after school; I will be there from 3:00pm. For the first two Friday's we will also have NET Ministries with us, so I urge parents to take this opportunity for your children. Afternoon tea will be provided, and we will have a wind down activity toward the end of the day.

Our **Junior Youth** and **Senior Youth** programs will continue to meet together every Friday night from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. This term we are exploring the Alpha Youth Series. We always start our evening with pizza and some music while everyone catches up about their week. NET Ministries will also be with us for the first two Friday's and will be helping us out with some great group discussion. I have noticed that there are a lot of high school youth in the parish who aren't yet attending Friday nights, so I would like to extend an invitation to each one of you to please come along. The Alpha series is a great way to start youth, so consider it a great opportunity. We also need to tip the balance a little. We have a great number of young gentlemen attending each Friday night (around 95%), so it would be great to see some of our young ladies come along to balance that out a little. 😊

Our **Young Adult** program is a new approach to youth ministry in the parish. While they are certainly welcome to come along on a Friday night, often young adults (18-30) have different spiritual needs, so it is important that we consider this too. Many young adults are engaged in university study, full time and part time roles, apprenticeships/traineeships, and often have relationships and young families of their own. Balancing their time and their spiritual life is a challenge, but it is also extremely important. If you are aged 18-30 please drop me an email so we can get together and plan some activities around your busy schedules. I look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you to everyone for taking the time to read this edition, and I look forward to sharing more information with you soon.

Benjamin Leschke

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OUR WEEKEND MASSES	
Saturday	Church
5:00pm	Our Lady of the Rosary
Sunday	Church
8:00am	St. Catherine's
9:45am	Our Lady of the Rosary
5:30pm	Our Lady of the Rosary
OUR PARISH LITURGIES	
Adoration in the Chapel 1 st Friday from 7pm – 7am	
Children's Liturgy (school term) 9:45am Sunday Mass 8:00am Sunday Mass (1 st /3 rd Sunday)	

YOUTH PROFILE	
	<p>My name is Timothy Arendse and I regularly attend the 9:45am Mass at OLR, Kenmore. I am in grade 3 and I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. I am home-schooled and one day I would like to be an engineer. If I could change one thing about my faith it would be to know God better.</p> <p>If I could ask God one question it would be... "What was there before the world was created?" The most important thing to me about Mass is receiving Holy Communion.</p> <p>My favourite tv show / book is <i>Star Wars Rebels</i> and <i>Lego Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures</i>. I also love playing the bongo drums because it is nice and LOUD!</p>



What is Alpha? Alpha is a parish tool for evangelisation based on hospitality, sharing and open conversation. The same Alpha content is run all over the world, by Christians of all traditions, and provides a common expression of proclamation, service and witness. Millions of people have tried Alpha all around the world in 112 languages.



'For many years now and in various parts of the world, Alpha has shown itself powerful in bringing faith alive in all kinds of people. Its focus is on Jesus, its method is simple, and its appeal is wide-ranging. It is also well adapted for use in Catholic communities looking to provide the kind of ignition we need if we are to become a more missionary Church.'
Archbishop Mark Coleridge

TOPICS TO BE EXPLORED DURING ALPHA

Part 1 (Friday evenings from 12 th October)	Full Day (Saturday 17 th November)	Part 2 (Friday evenings from 23 rd November)
<p><u>Week 1</u> – Life: Is This it?</p> <p><u>Week 2</u> – Jesus: Who is He?</p> <p><u>Week 3</u> – Cross: Why Did Jesus Die?</p> <p><u>Week 4</u> – Faith: How Can We Have Faith?</p> <p><u>Week 5</u> – Prayer: Why and How Do I Pray?</p> <p><u>Week 6</u> – Bible: Why and How Do I Read the Bible?</p>	<p>New Life: How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?</p> <p>Evil: How Can I Resist Evil?</p> <p>Fill: How Can I Be Filled with the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Spirit: Who is the Holy Spirit and What Does He Do?</p>	<p><u>Week 7</u> – Healing: Does God Heal Today?</p> <p><u>Week 8</u> – Telling Others: How and Why Do I Tell Others?</p> <p><u>Week 9</u> – Church: What About the Church?</p>

It is important that you register for OLR Youth: We want to make sure we have accurate numbers for our program and ensure we stay in touch with each of you. We also need to comply with safeguarding principles. Please ensure all youth are registered in the formation program. For anyone under the age of 18, please have at least 1 parent/guardian sign your registration form before you submit it. Registration forms are available at the front of our churches so please take one for each child/teenager/young adult. If you would like to print your own copy, please follow this link – <http://kenmore.brisbanecatholic.org.au/documents/YouthFormationProgramReg.pdf>

Return completed forms to the Parish Office, place in collection plates or email them to kenmore@bne.catholic.net.au

HAVING A PRAYER SPACE AT HOME

It is wonderful to come to Mass on the weekend (or during the week) and immerse yourself in the surroundings. Having others, music, images, and especially liturgical space which helps us deepen our connection with the Holy Spirit and can often help ground us from the busyness of our daily lives. But how can we achieve this for the other six days of the week, and when our busy lives seem to take over? The answer is simple! Set up a prayer space in your home or room and commit five minutes to it each day. Five minutes may seem insignificant, however over time it will help you deepen your connection to Christ, and your spirituality will certainly benefit from it. Your relationship with others will also improve.

Having a Crucifix

The crucifix is not just an ornament for Catholics, it is a reminder of the sacrifice our Saviour paid for each and every one of us. We were redeemed at a price, and that price was the cross. What was always seen as an instrument of torture, became an instrument of our salvation, through one act of kindness by Jesus Christ.

A Bible, Missal or Something Spiritual

Having one, two or all three of these items will certainly make a great prayer space. Often when we come to prayer, we don't know where to begin. Start by reflecting on a scripture passage, or the readings of the day. Looking over the lives of the saints or praying the Rosary is also a great way to reflect.

A Small Candle is another important element for a prayer space. Something as simple as a tealight candle (battery operated tealight candle for small children). The light reflects the constant love Christ has for us; always shining in the darkness. No matter how dull a candle light might seem, it still pierces the darkness.



Finally, have nothing else; remove all non-religious stuff from the space, and give the space entirely to God.

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
 Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.
 O God, bless and unite all your people in
 Australia
 and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary
 Council.
 Give us the grace to see your face in one
 another and to recognise Jesus, our companion
 on the road.
 Give us the courage to tell our stories and to
 speak boldly of your truth.



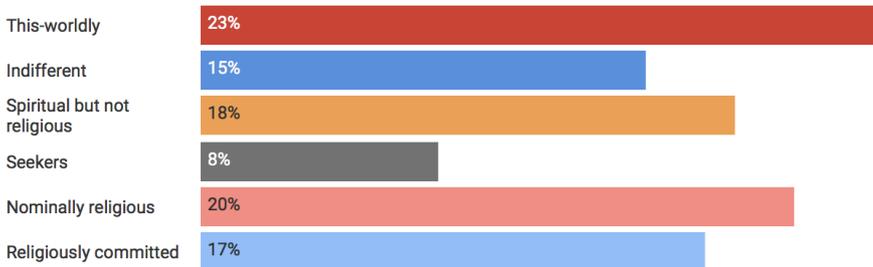
Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
 and a discerning heart to hear what you are
 saying.
 Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that
 we may live the joy of the Gospel.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 bread for the journey from age to age.
Amen

New research shows Australian teens have complex views on religion and spirituality

According to a survey from the Australian National University, at least half of teens say they are “religious nones” - those who do not identify with a religion or religious group. Digging deeper, researchers found a more complicated picture of faith and spirituality among young Australians. Most Gen Z teens have little to do with organised religion in their personal lives, while a significant proportion are interested in different ways of being spiritual. The Australian Gen Z study provides a powerful insight into how teenagers are making sense of the world around them.

Spirituality types of Australian teens

% of population aged 13-18



Margin of error 2.4%. May not add to 100% due to rounding.

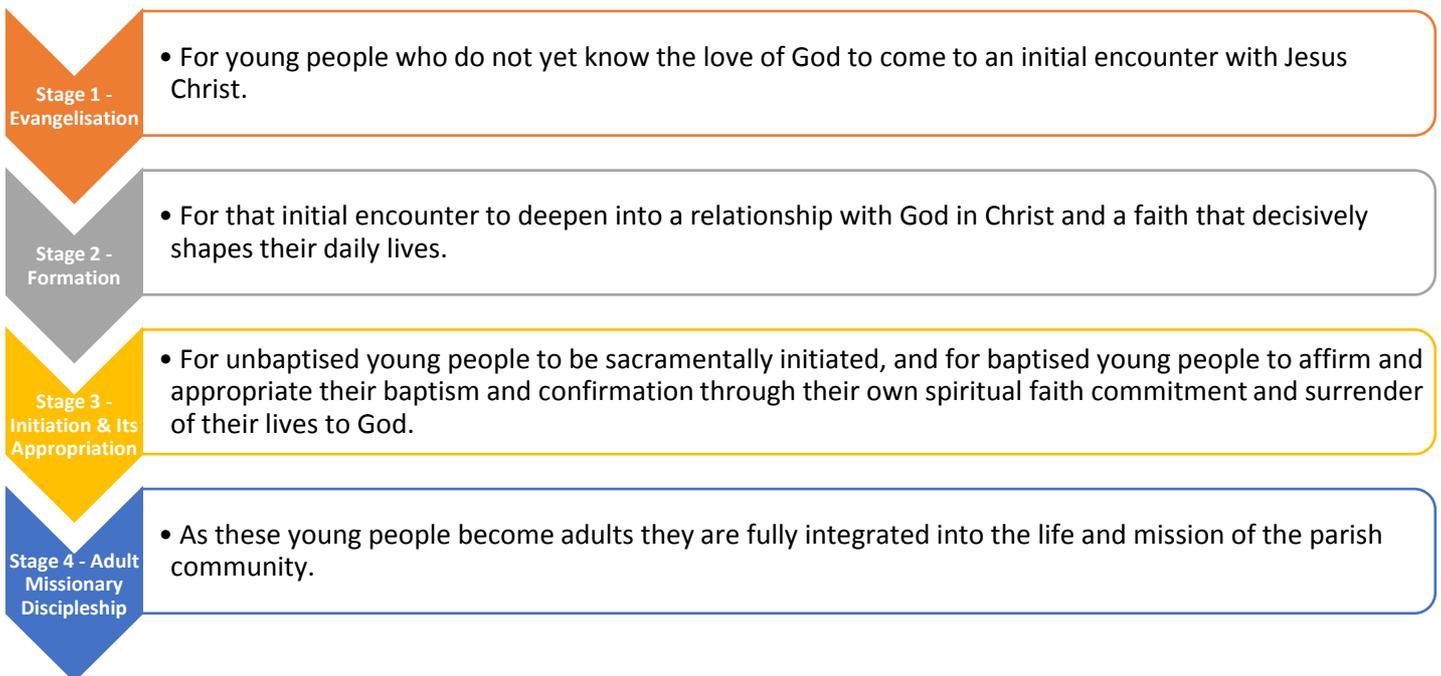
Source: AGZ Survey 2017

According to the [2016 Census](#), about one third of Australian teens have no religion. But ask a teenager themselves about religion, rather than the parent or guardian filling in the census form, and the picture is slightly different. The Australian Gen Z study comprised of 11 focus groups with students in Years 9 and 10 (ages 15-16), a national telephone survey of 1,200 people aged 13-18, and 30 in-depth, follow-up interviews.

Next weekend (13th/14th October) I will give the parish a bit of a run down on the details of these categories at each weekend Mass.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY?

Parish Youth ministry is not self-serving, nor is it something that is set apart from parish life. Parish Youth Ministry is essential in forming adult missionary disciples who are actively engaged in the local parish. Effective ministry will ensure young people encounter Jesus Christ in the life of the Church and helps establish a personal relationship that transforms lives. For this to occur, all members of the parish must pray and support young people. Participation in Parish Youth Ministry will ensure individuals move through each of the following stages of faith development. Once stage 4 is achieved, a strong faith relationship has been formed.



The most significant part of the above process is the ‘initial encounter with Jesus Christ’ which is often mistaken as our Sacramental Initiation, however many people are sacramentalised and never have an initial encounter with Jesus. Our initial encounter is a response to the kerygma. Kerygma means the initial gospel proclamation designed to introduce a person to Christ and to appeal for conversion. This initial encounter is always transformative and creates a desire in the person to respond to Jesus.

Responding to Him is not the same for everyone, however it does require a real change in a person’s habits, and indeed a change in their life. It involves a deep sense of belonging, and commencement in the searching for God. In his 1990 encyclical, [Redemptoris Missio](#), Bl. John Paul II underscored how essential kerygma is in the life and mission of the Church...



“Evangelization will always contain—as the foundation, center, and at the same time the summit of its dynamism—a clear proclamation that, in Jesus Christ . . . salvation is offered to all people, as a gift of God’s grace and mercy.”

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY YOUTH CALENDAR – OCTOBER 2018

Date	Event	Group	Brief Description (Don't forget to bring your YOUTH JOURNAL)	
Friday 12 th October	Our Journey Begins!	Primary Youth Grade 4-6	3:15pm – 5:30pm - OLR Meeting Room Our first Primary Youth day! Our kids will spend some time getting to know each other as we introduce our program. We have NET Ministries with us too, so there will be a lot of fun to have!	
	Alpha Youth Series #1 Life: Is this it?	Junior Youth Grade 7-9 & Senior Youth Grade 10-12	6:00pm – 9:00pm - OLR Meeting Room Most people at some point in their life ask the question, “Is this it?”. For thousands of years, humans have asked that question and sought something larger and greater than themselves. Regardless of how much wealth or experience we amass, humans have always had a need to connect with something bigger than themselves. <i>“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life.’” John 14:6</i>	
Sunday 14 th October	WEEKEND MASS 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Everyone!	Saturday (Anticipation) 5:00pm Our Lady of the Rosary Sunday 8:00am St. Catherine’s 9:45am Our Lady of the Rosary 5:30pm Our Lady of the Rosary	This weekend Benjamin will be speaking at each Mass about the importance of ‘Parish Youth Ministry’ and how essential it is that parents/guardians are supported with ministries that suit youth and young adults. It is also important that parents/guardians encourage young people to participate in church life. <i>Journal Reflection – Write one thing you would like to see in our parish youth ministry.</i>
Friday 19 th October	Quenching our Thirst!	Primary Youth Grade 4-6	3:15pm – 5:30pm - OLR Meeting Room Our second Primary Youth day! Our kids will continue to explore our new program and focus on the importance of water; both in the world around us and as church. NET Ministries will be with us one last time too, so it will be another great opportunity!	
	Alpha Youth Series #2 Jesus: Who is He?	Junior Youth Grade 7-9 & Senior Youth Grade 10-12	6:00pm – 9:00pm - OLR Meeting Room We all know who Jesus is, right? In 2018, nearly everyone has heard of Jesus, but many don’t know ‘who’ He is and what He offers us. This week our youth will get together and explore the person of Jesus and discuss how He can transform our lives. NET will be with us too. <i>“Because you have seen me, you have believed; Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” - John 20:29</i>	
Sunday 21 st October	WEEKEND MASS 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Everyone! 9:45am – Family Band & Morning Tea and 5:30pm – Mass & Family BBQ	Saturday (Anticipation) 5:00pm Our Lady of the Rosary Sunday 8:00am St. Catherine’s 9:45am Our Lady of the Rosary 5:30pm Our Lady of the Rosary	In today’s Gospel we learn about <i>Servant Leadership</i> . Bring your Youth Journal to Mass and write down something in the Gospel or from the homily that resonates with you. It might even be one of our songs this week. There will be something! <i>Journal Reflection – Write one thing from today’s Mass that resonated with you.</i>
Monday 22 nd October	Safeguarding Training	6:00pm – 7:30pm Kenmore Parish	Safeguarding Training runs for 1.5hr – 2hr and is <u>only applicable</u> to those registered volunteers who are providing/engaging services and activities for children & vulnerable adults, in a leadership/council/finance position, or parish, faith community & Archdiocese employed.	
Friday 26 th October	Shining a Light in the Darkness!	Primary Youth Grade 4-6	3:15pm – 5:30pm - OLR Meeting Room At our third Primary Youth day, our kids will explore light and how no matter how small it is, it will always shatter the darkness around us.	
	Alpha Youth Series #3 Cross: Why did Jesus Die?	Junior Youth Grade 7-9 & Senior Youth Grade 10-12	6:00pm – 9:00pm - OLR Meeting Room This session is all about the question, why did Jesus die? Although sin has real consequences, Jesus’ death and resurrection are the solution to the problem of sin. The cross shows us that God loves us, death has been defeated, the power of sin has been broken and we can have a relationship with our heavenly Father. <i>“The Son of God... loved me and gave himself for me.” – Galatians 2:20</i>	
Sunday 28 th October	WEEKEND MASS 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Everyone!	Saturday (Anticipation) 5:00pm Our Lady of the Rosary Sunday 8:00am St. Catherine’s 9:45am Our Lady of the Rosary 5:30pm Our Lady of the Rosary	In today’s Gospel Bartimaeus dared to call out to Jesus. Many around him scolded him for calling out, but he yelled louder. <i>Journal Reflection - If you were to call out to Jesus, what would you ask?</i>

All youth have/will be given a Youth Journal. They are encouraged to bring their Youth Journal to each event and to write or draw something that reflects their own experience and in response to their faith.