



## Comprehensive Youth Ministry

The term “Comprehensive Youth Ministry” means planning for and supporting a holistic ministry aimed at youth and young adults. The comprehensive approach recognises where parishes are at and helps them to look ahead, to celebrate what they are doing now and to develop new possibilities for the future.

The eight focus points are: Leadership Development, Catechesis, Personal Growth and Care (Pastoral Care), Prayer and Worship, Active Support (Advocacy), Justice and Service, Community Life and Outreach (Evangelisation). Often some of these components are being offered by other parts of the Parish so it’s good to link in to what is already being offered.

These eight focus points are an effective planning aid, when planning events and activities for the youth of your Parish. One thing to note is that often you may find that certain activities could come under more than one focus point for example, participation in the Mass could come under leadership development, catechesis and prayer and spiritual growth. This adds to that holistic ministering to young people.

### Leadership development

Leadership development is Parishes encouraging and enabling young people to take on leadership roles within the parish, also providing and sourcing opportunities for leadership formation for the young people and leaders.

### Catechesis

Teaching – passing on the faith. This is what ties together our ministry. Catechesis can be formal teaching or it can be informal “what does the Catholic Church have to say about what we are talking about right now?”

### Personal Growth and Care (Pastoral Care)

Pastoral care is promoting and supporting positive youth development. Affirming young people for their gifts and supporting them in their difficulties. Often the main concern for teens is who they are and whether they fit into a group. It’s important to celebrate and accept each person as an individual.

### Prayer and Worship

One of the most important elements as this brings our members closer to Jesus through prayer and worship. It is very important that our youth feel welcome in the Church and the community.

### Outreach (Evangelisation)

Outreach is involving and including young people from beyond the faith community and recognising the diversity of experiences and gifts that all young people have. It’s also really important to encourage members to reach out and bring friends and people who used to come to Church to youth group.

### Community Life

Community life is youth and young adults forming links with the wider community, through activities and events; peer socialising and being involved in and responding to issues within and beyond the faith community. Our youth shouldn’t only be thought of as the future of the church – they are in the Church now – what are we doing to keep them? Community life includes youth hanging out with other young people and making Catholic friends.

### Justice and Service

Increasing awareness that we are not the only ones in the world – there are people less fortunate than us and we need to be a part of their lives. If we want the world to change – if the world is to practice justice and mercy – encourage the youth as they have the energy, the dreams and the time to change the world!

### Active Support (Advocacy)

Often as leaders we need to be the voice for our youth and young adults. Often they don’t feel like they have a voice in a parish community because they often don’t contribute financially to the parish. It is also important to give them the support and skills to be advocates themselves. Some parishioners may be uncomfortable around teens – what are they going to do, what are they going to say, why do they dress that way etc? As a leader you can help bridge that gap.



A more detailed version of this document with examples is available on the resources for meetings with young people page at [www.akyouth.org.nz](http://www.akyouth.org.nz) -.