



**So you're keen to start youth ministry?**

**Here's some information to get you started....**

### **Get a team together...**

It's really hard to maintain ministry with young people when there is just one or two people taking the lead. Have people of different ages/experience on your team. Make sure you have the support of all stakeholders: parish priest, parish pastoral council and finance committee, parents/families, young people. Register with ACYM to receive weekly updates about what is happening at regional and diocesan level. If you are on Facebook join the ACYM Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AKCYM/](http://www.facebook.com/AKCYM/). Each region has a regional youth advisory representative. At the time you register with us we will also give you contact details for the representative in your region. Many regions have regular leader meetings/formation.

### **Auckland Diocesan Theme for 2017**

The Auckland Diocesan theme for 2017 is *Young People you are the church of today*. ACYM are developing seven resources. These resources encourage young people to find their place in the world today with faith as a lens. Each resource contains ideas for prayer, ice-breakers, activities with debrief points, something about Mary, ideas for living out Fit for Mission and more. The first four resources (on mission (2), discipleship and community) are available on our website:

<http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/youth-young-adult-ministry/young-people-you-are-the-church/>.

The remaining resources will be on communication, leadership and vocation will be posted to our website in April, May and June.

We have chosen this theme as we begin our journey towards the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocation which Pope Francis has called for October 2018. Your leaders may be able to use the material in these resources once your group is established. ACYM are available to assist leaders to prepare or to take them through some of the activities in the resources should this be of assistance. We will usually offer a session where leaders from several parishes/groups join in the one session so as to make the best use of our time and to give leaders the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other leaders. If you would like leaders from your parish/group to join this type of session please contact Teresa at ACYM.

### **Links to key documents about 2018 Synod of Bishops in Rome:**

Holy Father's letter:

<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2017/01/13/170113b.html>

Preparatory Document:

<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2017/01/13/170113a.html>

### **Core Youth Ministry Documents**

The two core documents that are the basis for ministry to young people in the Catholic context in Aotearoa New Zealand are

- Tu Kahikatea *Standing Tall* (a framework for Catholic Ministry with Young People in Aotearoa New Zealand) and
- Hikoi Tahi *Journeying Together* (standards for Catholic Youth and Young Adult Ministry in Aotearoa New Zealand).

You can download electronic and printed copies of these documents from our website at:

<http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/youth-young-adult-ministry/resources/core-acym-documents/>.

You will also find the Standards for Volunteers on the same page. A range of other resources and programmes are available for download from the ACYM website.

## Safe Church

Hikoi Tahi *Journeying Together* includes detailed information about how to keep both young people and leaders safe in ministry. We recommend that all leaders are Police vet checked. Forms can be downloaded from the NZ Police website at: <http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/businesses-and-organisations/vetting/forms>.

Please be aware that leaders must have ID (passport or driver's license) in order to be able to be checked on the Police system. Completed forms can be returned to Teresa McNamara or Joey Bonnevie in the ACYM Office (or direct to Leanne Kilgour, the Diocesan HR Manager). Police checks are currently taking about six weeks to process.

## 2017 Annual Planner

ACYM provide an annual planner that has key dates for youth and young adult ministry. The dates for the first six months are all finalised. A copy of the planner is available in both Excel and PDF versions on our website: <http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/youth-young-adult-ministry/events/>. Many groups find it helpful to take the Excel version as the base for their own planning for the year and then insert their own dates into a version of this document.

### Key dates for 2017 are:

- **Diocesan Youth Masses**

Each month there is a Diocesan Youth Mass on the last Sunday of the month at 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Each region will host just one of these masses. We encourage priests to concelebrate the Mass to show support for your young people. The allocation for 2017 is:

12 February	The Logos Project and Year 13 Leaders
26 February	South
26 March	North Shore
30 April	City
28 May	East
26 June	Māori Miha (tbc)
16 July	World Youth Day Auckland
27 August	Central
24 September	Vinnies
29 October	Emmaus
26 November	West
10 December	Ethnic Communities

- **World Youth Day Auckland:** This is the main Diocesan event each year. It is usually held the second weekend in July (to coincide with secondary school holidays). This year there will be two or three regional events on the Saturday (likely to be South, Central/West/City and North Shore) and there will be a full-Diocesan gathering in the city on the Sunday. This event is free. We welcome all young people and groups to the event. Those who wish to help lead the event should make contact with the ACYM Office by mid-May.
- **Emmaus leadership programme:** A leadership development programme that runs from May to October each year. This is ideal for new leaders as they gain practical leadership skills which they can apply in their own group and they have the support of a mentor from ACYM. That mentor meets with them each month and supports their ministry in your parish. Leaders who attend this programme are usually aged 15 to 25 but sometimes we have leaders older or younger depending on the needs of individual parishes/groups.
- **Diocesan Vocations Event** (aimed at young people) looking at vocations in a broader sense – priest, religious, married, lay – helping young people discern their place in today's world – on the afternoon of Sunday 20 August. This event will be free.
- **Caritas Challenge:** Can be run anytime during April. We anticipate events in South, West and City. As details unfold either Rochelle or Shana from the ACYM team will be in contact with leaders from

those regions. If you would like more information about running a Caritas Challenge event in your parish/group/region please contact Rochelle in the ACYM Office.

- **National Youth Ministry Conference.** This will be held in Christchurch. The Conference registration will include the conference, simple accommodation (university style) and some meals. The initial information is available online at: <http://ncymc.cyt.org.nz/>.

### Major Diocesan Events for 2017 are:

- **Fit for Mission** is the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.
  - **Shane Claiborne | 7.30pm to 9.00pm on Tuesday 21 March at Christ the King Parish**  
Shane is a speaker from the United States coming to New Zealand primarily for the Dunedin Diocese but is speaking in Auckland on his way through. His bio states: "Shane Claiborne is a best-selling author, renowned activist, sought-after speaker, and self-proclaimed "recovering sinner." Shane writes and speaks around the world about peace-making, social justice, and Jesus, and is the author of numerous books including *The Irresistible Revolution*, *Jesus for President*, and his newest book *Executing Grace*. He is the visionary leader of *The Simple Way* in Philadelphia, and co-director of *Red Letter Christians*. His work has been featured in *Fox News*, *Esquire*, *SPIN*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR*, and *CNN*." You will find out more about Shane and his ministry on his website: <https://www.redletterchristians.org/>. Shane's topic will be *The Irresistible Revolution: The Irresistible Revolution*  
This is sort of your Shane Claiborne 101. Stories from his book and personal journey – like growing up in the Bible belt, calling up Mother Teresa on the phone and working with her in Calcutta, getting arrested in Love Park for feeding the homeless, traveling to Iraq during the bombing. Using biographical stories to animate biblical truths. Bringing that home and calling us all to join God's revolution where we are.  
**Please promote this event to all those in your parish/group. Our Facebook event can be found online at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/555783404632700/>.**
  - **David Wells | August 2017**  
One of the major events for this year will be David Wells speaking in Auckland from 8 to 12 August. Brief information about David Wells is shown below:
    - Tuesday 8 August Christ the King Church Owairaka 7.30-9.30
    - Thursday 10 August St Francis Xavier Church, Whangarei 7.30 – 9.30
    - Saturday 12 August, St Columba Centre, Vermont St, Ponsonby, 10am-3.30 pm*David Wells* was a teacher before becoming a research assistant for the Bishops' Conference in England and Wales. His latest position is as Project Manager for School Evangelization. His passion is exploring how we live out our baptismal promises by participating in Mission. He guest lectures in three English universities and is author of two books, "The Reluctant Disciple" and "The Grateful Disciple."
- **Davis Haas**  
A music session will be offered on Sunday 15 October.

### Weekly Update

ACYM have a weekly update that is emailed out on a Tuesday. To subscribe to that update please contact Rochelle in the ACYM Office ([rochelled@cda.org.nz](mailto:rochelled@cda.org.nz)). Contact details for the full-time ACYM staff are:

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[www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/youth](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/youth) | [www.facebook.com/AKCYM/](https://www.facebook.com/AKCYM/) | [www.instagram.com/acym2/](https://www.instagram.com/acym2/)

## Latest research from the United States

US research by *The Fuller Institute* shows that approximately 50% of students walk away from the church after they graduate High School (our tertiary study). Google: **Sticky faith**. Put simply ... sticky faith is faith that lasts over time, through transitions and through times of change/crisis. The times that young people are most likely to walk away (or simply stop engaging) from their faith are times of transition and times of personal crisis. We need to get much better at staying connected to young people at these times. Most young people will make the decision whether or not to own their faith aged between 10 and 14. In the Auckland Diocese we have traditionally started youth ministry at age 13. We need to start younger! Recent groups are starting with young people from age 8 upwards.

There is no **one element** of youth ministry programming that is a cure-all. But all of these are important:

- Young people who experience more intergenerational worship tend to have a higher faith maturity.
- Young people need to feel supported by adults in their congregations. Each young person would ideally have five people outside of immediate family who takes an interest in them (5:1 ratio).
- Many churches that are doing church well use 5:1 to break down the adults table v children's table by using service/justice as a way of starting intergenerational relationships.
- The opportunity for deep conversation is closely linked to mission and service. We need to help young people make justice and service be part of their daily life rather than a mountain-top experience. We need to provide opportunities to talk and enter into discussion/dialogue about the BIG challenges of life.
- Service, short-term mission trips, small groups, student leadership and retreats are important in building faith that lasts.
- Making young people feel welcome, that they belong and are valued is easy: show an interest in them!!
- Young people need to be encouraged to have a daily prayer rhythm (preferably based on the scriptures of the day). This needs to be something that will sustain/nourish them during times of transition/crisis.

Often at ACYM we are asked "*what programmes should we run?*" Ministry with young people is much more about journeying with them, building relationship/community and helping them grow in their relationship with God and understanding of the faith. Ask yourself the question... what programmes did Jesus run? If there were four things that we would encourage a parish/group to consider when establishing a new group they are:

- **Intergenerational Relationships:** Despite the age segregation that exists in our churches and broader culture, each young person is greatly benefited when surrounded by a team of five adults. This is the new 5:1 ratio. Find ways for young people to be involved in all that is happening in your parish. Make sure THEY feel like they belong. Help and encourage other generations engage with young people.
- **Whole Gospel:** Many young people see faith like a jacket: something they can put on or take off based on their behaviour. Let's help young people develop a more robust understanding of the gospel, one that integrates faith into *all* aspects of life.
- **Partnership with Families:** Research demonstrates that parents are the number one influencers when it comes to spirituality in young people—yes, even teenagers. Leaders need to develop new ways to partner with parents, empowering them to nurture faith in their families. We need to support and encourage parents to share their faith with their children. We recommend regular parent meetings (at least once a semester), combined family days which offer ministry to whole families and information sheets that can be given to parents that speak about topics you are unpacking with their young people.
- **A Safe Place for Doubt:** Doubt is not toxic to faith; silence is. Young people want conversations in response to their hardest questions, not just answers. We need to offer tools and training for these discussions that deepen the faith of everyone involved. We need to journey with young people, helping them find the right answers. We need to be mentors, rather than seeing ourselves as teachers.