

#rcstortford

Youth Newsletter September 2022



Dear young person,

The new school term has begun! I hope you all enjoyed a good break over the summer and have survived the first week or so back in the classroom ☺

In this newsletter:

- **Interested in preparing for Confirmation 2022-2023 – Applications are open!**
- **#rcstortford youth nights – monthly evenings for you to experience prayer & build community**
- **Special Events this academic year – The Big Summit, Flame & WYD2023**

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation 2022-2023

For anyone currently in year 10 and above - applications for preparation sessions for Confirmation are now open and forms can be collected after any of our weekend Masses (St Joseph's - 6pm Sat, 9am, 11am and 6pm Sunday, Much Hadham - 11.30am Sunday or Sawbridgeworth - 9am Sunday)

Forms should be collected and signed for in person, in the sacristy, after Mass. Please don't come and collect a form for a friend - they should come and collect their own.

The closing date for applications is 26th September 2022. Completed forms can be delivered to 3 Windhill, CM23 2ND (Clearly labelled "Confirmation 2023"). Please direct any specific queries to bstortfordcatechist@rcow.org.uk or call the office on 01279 654 063

NB If you are a student at St Mary's who wishes to be confirmed this year, but you are not a parishioner at the parish of Bishop's Stortford, you should make arrangements to contact the parish where you live or where you worship, who will also have their own Confirmation programme planned for the coming year.

Monthly Youth Nights

Here at the Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford, we are keen to build into our parish life and throughout the year, more regular focussed events for your age group. Our hope for these evenings would be three-fold:



- SPIRITUAL: That we provide you with meaningful opportunities to grow in your relationship with God
- SOCIAL: That the events on offer would help build a greater sense of community, where you feel welcomed and valued as a young person in our parish
- RELAXED: That what is offered would be enjoyable and free of added pressures, allowing you to participate as much or as little as you choose to.

We will be trialling these youth events this year on a Friday evening, once a month, from 6.30pm-8.30pm at the Windhill Churches Centre, just behind St Joseph's Church.

The youth events are being aimed at anyone of secondary school age – so those in Year 7- Year 13 (11-18 years old)

The evenings will be a "drop in" style – meaning that you do not need to register or make a commitment for a whole term. Basically, you would be free to come to all of them, one of them or none at all!

Most of the events will be free, but there may be the odd one or two that require a payment of some sort or that would require sign-ups in advance, were we to do an outing or a very special event. However, this would be made very clear on the calendar of events.

So, why not give it a try and invite your friends? Snacks and drinks will be provided.

We'll begin with a diocesan event in October - the first large gathering since covid hit just over two years ago. Talking of events, there's lots on offer post-pandemic this academic year....

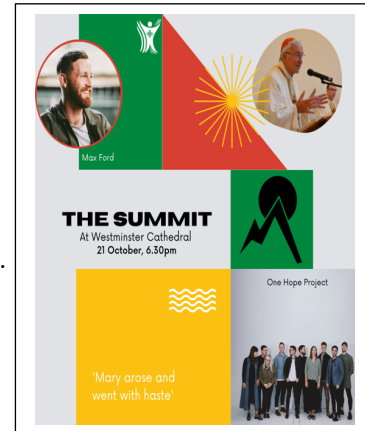
Events for young Catholics in the wider Church

When we go to Mass in our own parish, we can be forgiven for thinking that we know what being a young Catholic means. Of course, there are great things about being a Catholic here in Bishop's Stortford, but sometimes we can get very set in our ways and even take our parish for granted. Youth events - where we can get together with other young people who are trying to discover more about their faith - are great opportunities to allow our eyes to be opened to the wider church community; to know that what we do in our own parish is small part of a much bigger picture. This year, you might consider taking part in one (or all!) of the events on offer in our diocese, in our nation and in the world!

In our Diocese...

The Big Summit

When? Fri 21st Oct 2022, 6pm-8.30pm
Where? Westminster Cathedral, Victoria, London
What? Inspiring speakers (Max Ford), music (One Hope Project), Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, guided meditation and reconciliation. By Coach or Train as a group, leaving 4.15pm, arriving back 10pm
Cost? TBC (hopefully between £15 and £25 all inclusive).
Social media? Insta: **dowym**
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dowym>
 Website: <https://dowym.com/>



Please let Sophie know that you are coming by Monday 10th October 2022: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

Nationally...

Flame 2023



When?
Where?
What?

Sat 4th March 2022 – All Day

Wembley Arena, London

The biggest national gathering of Catholic teens and young adults in the UK. With a feast of music from Guvna B and Adenike amongst others, as well as sharing from Robert Bilott, and a number of faces from within our national Catholic community, Flame2023 promises to enthuse, encourage and inspire, as well as to provide mountain-top moments for you to take back to your own church and community!

How?
Cost?
Social Media?

By coach or Train as a group

£24 per ticket, plus transport.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CYMFed>

Insta: **flamecongress**

Website: <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

Book by 28th Oct 2022 for this early bird rate: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

Internationally...

World Youth Day. Lisbon

When? 1st - 6th August 2023
Where? Lisbon, Portugal
What? An international gathering of millions of young people from all over the World with Pope Francis, including days in the diocese (staying with other Catholic families) prior to a week-long youth festival, where you can spend time with like-minded individuals who are seeking God, having fun, expressing doubts, asking questions and celebrating being a young Catholic today! There is no other event quite like it! So if you would like to connect with other young Catholics and have a deeper encounter with...

How? You will join an organised group, alongside a few hundred other young people from across the Diocese of Westminster, and travel together to all the events that make up WYD2023.
Cost? The cost will be quite high (hundreds of pounds), but you will be supported to fund-raise, so we hope that the costs will not fall on you alone.

Please make contact to express interest in coming: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

Social Media? Youtube: <https://youtu.be/Efsm4s8g2mg>

Insta: **Lisboa2023_en**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/worldyouthday>



Monthly #restortford Youth Nights

DATE & EVENT	DESCRIPTION	EXTRA INFO
Fri 21st October 2022 The Big Summit @ Westminster Cathedral 6pm-8.30pm (leaving from St Joseph's at 4.15pm)	SPECIAL ONE-OFF EVENT! This is a gathering of young people from across our diocese ☺ There will be a time of input, by the excellent Maximillian Ford and music by One Hope Project, followed by a time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and guided meditation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on offer throughout the evening.	Payment and sign-up required, as we will be travelling as a group (cost TBC) https://www.facebook.com/dowym/videos/411533917791849 https://www.facebook.com/dowym/videos/3165890736961929
Fri 18 th November 2022 - Games Night @ WCC Hall 6.30pm-8.30pm	Dobble, Rummikub, Uno, Battleships, Connect 4, Scrabble....whichever you enjoy, bring it along!	Bring your own board game or card game to play
Fri 16 th December 2022 – Advent Meditation Night @ WCC Hall, finishing in St. Joseph's Church 6.30pm-8.30pm	As we await for the coming of the Lord at Christmas, this evening will have an Advent theme and offer an opportunity for quiet prayer, using Christian Meditation.	
Fri 20 th January 2023 – Film Night @ WCC Hall 6.30pm-8.30pm	As an alternative to all the usual movies out there, we'll be offering a movie that will touch on Christian themes and get you thinking... the movie title will be announced nearer the time.	
Fri 24 th February 2023 - Adoration Night @ WCC Hall, finishing in St. Joseph's Church 6.30pm-8.30pm	Come and experience the beauty of Adoration, as we expose Jesus in the blessed sacrament and spend time in his presence....a time of peace and stillness	
Sat 4th March – RISE UP! Flame Youth conference @ Wembley Arena all day (exact times TBC)	SPECIAL ONE-OFF EVENT! Come and join thousands of other teens and young adults for the day at the UK's biggest catholic youth event, hosted by CYMFED, the national Catholic Youth Ministry team.	Price: £20 plus contribution towards the coach (amount TBC) https://youtu.be/HKvdbJ1PIE https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/
Fri 24 th March 2023 – Stations of the Cross Night @ WCC Hall, finishing in St. Joseph's Church 6.30pm-8.30pm	During Lent, we have a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the journey Jesus made to the cross. Come and join us in experiencing this traditional prayer of the Church, with reflections specifically for young people...	
Fri 28 th April 2023 – Games Night @ WCC Hall 6.30pm-8.30pm	Dobble, Rummikub, Uno, Battleships, Connect 4, Scrabble....whichever you enjoy, bring it along!	Bring your own board game or card game to play
Fri 19 th May 2023 – Prayer for Exams Night @ WCC Hall, finishing in St. Joseph's Church 6.30pm-8.30pm	As well as being able to come and talk about how it's all going, we'll include a general knowledge quiz to try and put some fun into revision and also spend some time praying for this important time.	

Fri 23rd June 2023 – Sports Night - table tennis, fussball, outdoor games @ WCC Hall 6.30pm-8.30pm	It's the summer! – a time to enjoy a bit of relaxation with sport as our theme.	
Fri 14th July 2023 - Praise and worship Night @ WCC Hall, finishing in St. Joseph's Church 6.30pm-8.30pm	There's nothing like music to lift the spirits – come and pray with some of the St Joseph's musicians, by lifting our voices to God...	
1st – 6th August – WYD 2023 Lisbon In Lisbon, Portugal Exact details TBC	SPECIAL EVENT! An amazing opportunity to connect with other young Catholics. However committed you feel to your faith, this is an opportunity to discover more and witness the universality of the Catholic faith...draw closer to Jesus through a unique experience that will stay with you forever!	https://youtu.be/Efsm4s8g2mg WYD Lisbon Promo https://youtu.be/SWhwDbhQKyk What is WYD? https://www.lisboa2023.org/en WYD Lisbon 2023 official website
Fri 4th August 2023 – Summer Outing Activity/Venue TBC	We'll head off for an adventure to celebrate being on holiday! Where exactly? We will decide nearer the time (suggestions welcome!)	Advance sign-up and payment required (Cost TBC)
Fri 22nd September 2023– Bible Night – Lectio Divina @ WCC Hall 6.30pm-8.30pm	A chance to dive into God's word! Learn how to pray using the Bible and allow God to speak to you in this special way.	Bring your own Bible, if you have one
Fri 13th October 2023 – Art and Craft Night @ WCC Hall 6.30pm-8.30pm	Get creative! This evening will be messy, fun and produce something special. You do not need to consider yourself to be an artist to attend – they'll be something for everyone...	