

20 November
19

ALL

FIRE

UP



life teen

Life Teen Europe Summer Camp 2019

From the 4th to 11th August 2019, a group of teens from Dunkeld Diocese attended the Life Teen Summer Camp in Helvoirt, the Netherlands for the third year in a row. Led by Charis McCrosson from the Dunkeld Youth Service, the five teens joined many others from across Europe at the Emmaus Retreat Centre for an intense week of activities with long and action-packed days.

Activities ranged from quiet reflection, mass and adoration to wild team games and a messy day which saw participants caked in mud.

Sessions throughout the week looked at answering the following questions:

*“If the Relentless Father is so...
GOOD,
why is there so much EVIL? ...
PERFECT,
why am I so MESSED UP? ...
LOVING,
why do I SUFFER? ...
PRESENT,
why is He SILENT? ...
POWERFUL,
why does He seem WEAK?”*

These sessions were followed by time in small groups which gave the teens an opportunity to discuss their thoughts and feelings about the topic and to explore some of their personal experiences in a smaller and more intimate setting.

On the Tuesday evening the camp held a confession session, which explored the theme of being “Perfectly Broken” and allowed teens to be still and reflect, and to have time with a priest in confession or just to go for a chat about their circumstances. This was a really beautiful moment which really touched a lot of the teens.

There were also prayer ministry teams available for teens to go to.

On the Thursday evening an all-night adoration was held in the chapel with teens each allocated to a one-hour slot through the night.

This was followed by a rosary walk the following day, and a service project to give back to the community by helping with some chores around the retreat centre.



As well as the many in-depth faith elements, there were also lots of fun activities, such as a teambuilding obstacle course, an off-site activity day at the beach, an afternoon of messy games and a talent show and dance party on the final evening.

The following are some testimonies of the Dunkeld teens who attended the camp:

“Life Teen is an extraordinary experience. I made many new friendships and strengthened those I made previously. I’ve found there is a noticeable difference between the people I met at Life Teen, and the friends I already have.

There's a stronger bond and an unspoken understanding of faith and community. Every day we have sessions where we talk about God, and there are questions that dig deeper into big issues. I really felt that these questions helped me to grow in and understand my faith in a way that makes sense to me. The songs played at camp also had a big impact for me. They really touched my heart and made me think and tune in to what is going on in my life.

I enjoyed having time in small groups, because it lets you share your thoughts and feelings with a small number of people. I felt that my small group was really supportive, and everyone listened or helped with advice. It's also another chance to reflect and pray.

Confession and adoration opened my eyes. The beauty in our faith that so many of us are able to come together to unite is mind-blowing. I could feel the holy spirit's presence and it was very calming.

We had mass every day, and I will miss the joyful celebration and liveliness, the songs and the dancing priest! I saw everyone united in prayer and love for our faith. I now understand what being "present" actually feels like because I always felt present in mass.

Life Teen also knows how to bring the fun. One day we had an activity day out at the beach where we did team building activities, another day we had messy games and got caked in mud! It was really fun, everyone got really involved and it was good to have some friendly

competition. Life Teen was and still is very emotional but there is so much to get out of it, and

I've made amazing friends that can never be replaced. My faith, trust and heart have grown. I have peace, love and comfort with who I am and those around me. I am transformed."

— Alisha McCrosson, 15

This was my second year as a leader at the camp, and I really enjoyed seeing how much the teens opened up and responded to the different elements through the week. It was truly inspiring to watch them all grow as the week progressed, and I feel I also benefitted immensely from the experience. The questions which were asked at the sessions were very 'big' questions and seemed very hard to unpack. As a small group leader in charge of a group of 9 girls aged 15 and 16, initially I was a little apprehensive about leading discussions on these topics. However, I was really impressed with their depth of knowledge and understanding and felt that they taught me as much as I was able to teach them. By the end of the week we had all really bonded and I feel really proud of each and every one of them. The experience of camp was incredible, and I look forward to bringing it back home and seeing how it can be used to benefit the young people in our diocese."

— Charis McCrosson, Group Leader

national youth pilgrimage

On 31st August the Scottish Catholic Youth Service hosted a National Youth Pilgrimage to St Andrews to mark the 701st Anniversary of St Andrew.

The day began with a gathering in St James' RC Parish and a welcome from Archbishop Leo Cushley and members of the SCYS team. The gathering was then split into 2 groups, with those aged between 15 and 30 embarking on a 'pilgrim walk' around the town to several stations, where they learned some of the history of the town and prayed for different intentions. Those aged between 11 and 15 took part in some fun and educational activities, including exploration of St James' Church and a sing-song around a campfire on one of the beautiful beaches. The activities included completing a 'way card' with religious symbols which could be found all around the town.



National Youth Pilgrimage

The day concluded with veneration of the relics of St Andrew in the grounds of the Cathedral ruins, followed by Holy Mass celebrated by the Archbishop in St James'. Overall, the day was very spirit-filled and enjoyable. From the Diocese of Dunkeld, 22 young people attended, contributing to a total of almost 150 from around the country.



6th year conference

Sixth Year Religious Education Conference 2019



This year, the Sixth Year RE Conference took place on 20th September 2019 in St John's RC High School in Dundee. The PT of RE, Mr John Paul Cecil, welcomed S6 students and staff from St Paul's Academy, St John's Academy and Kilgraston School and also school chaplains, Vicar Episcopal for Education Tom Canon Shields and His Lordship the Right Reverend Stephen Robson, Bishop of Dunkeld.

The theme, Caritas - Living Service was intend to invite young people to reflect on ways to share God's love in their community. There were speakers from Missio, SPUC Scotland, SCIAF, St Vincent de Paul, Dundee Pregnancy and Parenthood Support, HCPT, Mary's Meals and the Diocese of Dunkeld Lourdes Service who shared their work.

The conference ended with a Prayer Service by Fr. Michael Carrie.



Photos by Aleksandra Molon

caritas award

Caritas award – what's it about?

The Pope Benedict XVI CARITAS AWARD encourages and promotes the ongoing faith journey of young people. It recognises that some are already active and committed within their homes, schools, parishes and dioceses and it invites others to respond to God's call of love. It supports and celebrates the faith witness which young people give within their communities.

Introduced in 2011, as part of a legacy of the UK visit of Pope Benedict XVI in September 2010, this award asks young people to use their faith learning as a starting point for further faith reflection, leading to actions which show their faith witness. Participants in the Caritas Award will be supported in deciding how they can develop and use their gifts in a way that witnesses to God's love ("Caritas") in their communities.

Any pupil in their final year of school can

be enrolled to participate in the CARITAS AWARD. Parishes may nominate young people for the award, where no Catholic school is available to do so. The award is designed to be inclusive of all young people and is open to all pupils who can meet the success criteria for the award. Pupils can choose how they would like to record and share their learning, reflection and witness from a number of formats. Pupils studying at all levels will be able to achieve the requirements for the award.

<https://sces.org.uk/caritas-award/>

what's
happening?

IF YOU ARE AT HIGH SCHOOL AND YOU WANT TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE TO OUR COMMUNITY,
LIVING YOUR FAITH IN A PRACTICAL WAY,
JOIN US!

save the earth make a difference

**ARE YOU
OF HIGH SCHOOL
AGE, 12-18?**

CAN YOU HELP:

SAVE
OUR HOME, THE EARTH?

SERVE
OUR NEIGHBOUR?

SPEAK UP
FOR THE POOR?


DUNKELD YOUTH SERVICE

**JUST
LIVE
IT**

REGISTER NOW

GO TO EVENTS AT WWW.ST-FILLANS-CRIEFF.ORG.UK
FIND PROJECT: **JUST LIVE IT** THEN CLICK 'REGISTER NOW'

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FR TOM ON (01764) 653269

be eco-friendly

The Just Live It programme, currently being piloted in St Fillan's Parish, Crieff, gives young people the opportunity to do their part for their local community, working towards improving the environment, caring for the poor and taking part in social justice.

For more information please
contact Fr Tom on (01764) 653269

**7th december
10 am**
-
**8th december
1.30 pm**

**ANNUAL ADVENT
RETREAT**

**ARE
YOU
READY?**

Price: £10

Age range: 14-19 years

Diocesan Centre,
24-28 Lawside Road,
Dundee DD3 6XY

Register via email:
youth-office@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

**Registration must be in by Sunday
1st December.*

ARE YOU READY?

**The Dunkeld Youth Service
will be hosting the annual
Advent retreat at Lawside
Diocesan Centre on
7th December
- 8th December 2019**

Register via email:
youth-office@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

**Registration must be in by Sunday
1st December*

**More information will
be made available in due
course**

SAVE THE DATE!



DunkeldYouthService
www.dunkeldyouth.org.uk
[@RCDunkeld_Youth](https://www.instagram.com/RCDunkeld_Youth)