

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

In Autumn 2014 we launched the Children, Youth and Families Ministry vision. As a result of this we successfully launched a new first Holy Communion programme, with the help of a fantastic team of helpers. The programme supports and empowers parents to become primary catechists, as the church teaches, and our parents are flourishing in this role. We also set up a core team to vision, plan and develop new family centred initiatives for the whole parish. This newsletter highlights some these new initiatives. I particularly draw your attention to Mothers prayers which will be running twice a month at St Mary's; the parenting teenagers course which will be running in the summer term at St Joseph's; and the Guildford parish family picnic in June at St Peter's School.

Aseel – Children, Youth and Families Coordinator

FOR MOTHERS & GRANDMOTHERS

**Starts
Thursday
5th March**

Mothers Prayers
is for mothers
who wish to
pray together
for their
children and
grandchildren
and to find the
support they
need.

You are welcome to bring children with you. Mothers pray while children play.

1st & 3rd Thursday of the month
9.45am-10.45am (after the 9.15am Mass)
St Mary's Church Hall, Rydes Hill, GU2 8BP

CHILDREN
YOUTH
FAMILIES
Guildford



FOR PARENTS OF TEENAGERS

What is The Parenting Teenagers Course?

The Parenting Teenagers Course is for any parents, step-parents, or carers of children aged 11 – 18 years. A practical course that provides an opportunity to share together what it is to parent teenagers today.

Why do the course?

- ✓ Parenting teenagers is harder than ever for most parents today
 - ✓ No role we undertake in life is more important than parenting
- "We are the main influence on our teenagers' future. Discovering we are not alone in the challenges we face and picking up ideas from other parents can make a huge difference. Meeting our teenagers' deepest needs, setting healthy boundaries, helping to develop their emotional health and teaching them how to make good choices takes skill and dedication. Taking time to reflect on our end goal can help us to build our relationship with our teenagers now."*

Where and when is the course running?

The Parenting Teenagers Course is being run over 10 Fridays in the summer term, starting on **Friday 17th April**. The course will be run in St Joseph's Church Hall, 6pm for a 6.15pm start till 7.30pm.

To register and for more information e-mail
youth@guildfordcatholicchurches.co.uk

The course is free but you are welcome to donate towards the refreshments.

Is it time to invest in your family?

the
parenting
teenagers
course

for those parenting
11 to 18-year-olds

Starting Friday 17th April
St Joseph's Church Hall
GU1 4AZ
6pm – 7.30pm

FOR ALL FAMILIES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Join us for the Guildford Parish Family Picnic

Sunday 28th June, 12.30pm - 3.00pm

St Peter's School Field (opposite St Pius X Church)

Bring and share food. Refreshments provided

With bouncy castle, face painting and organised games

Includes a celebration for children who have just received their first Holy Communion



JOIN US AS A FAMILY OR YOUNG PERSON & 20,000 OTHERS AT BIG CHURCH DAY OUT 2015

Aseel (children, youth and families coordinator), her husband Andy and two daughters will be taking a group of young people from GYM to BCDO 2015.

- **Why not join us as a family at Big Church Day Out?** We will be camping on site (forming a little parish of Guildford camping village!) and we will provide breakfast for everyone. You can either camp with us or just join us during the days (the programme runs from 12.00-10pm).

- **There is something for everyone**, from many of the best Christian music artists in the world today, through to a classical orchestra and cream teas on the lawn of Wiston House. Some of the best contemporary Christian music the world has to offer... including Rend Collective, Israel Houghton, Matt Maher and the Watoto Children's Choir...

- **There are a large number of activities and events available for children**, most suitably for children aged 3+.

The Big Church Day Out is on Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th May 2015 at Wiston House, West Sussex.

Weekend camping rates: £21 for 5-16y olds, and £37 for 16+

One Day ticket: £18 for 16+ and £12 for 5-16y olds

Under 5s and carers of the disabled get in free, but with a £1 charge for camping per night.

Contact Aseel: youth@guildfordcatholicchurches.co.uk

Baby & toddler groups



St Marys - Fri 10am



St Pius X - Tues 10am



St Josephs - Mon 10am



GYM-jams: school years 3-5
 GYM-jams takes place **every Mondays (term time), 5.30-7pm in St Joseph's Church Hall.** The aim of GYM-jams is to provide a safe space for young people to make friends and grow their faith. The evenings consist of a home cooked meal, lots of fun activities, organised games, teaching, small group discussion and prayer.

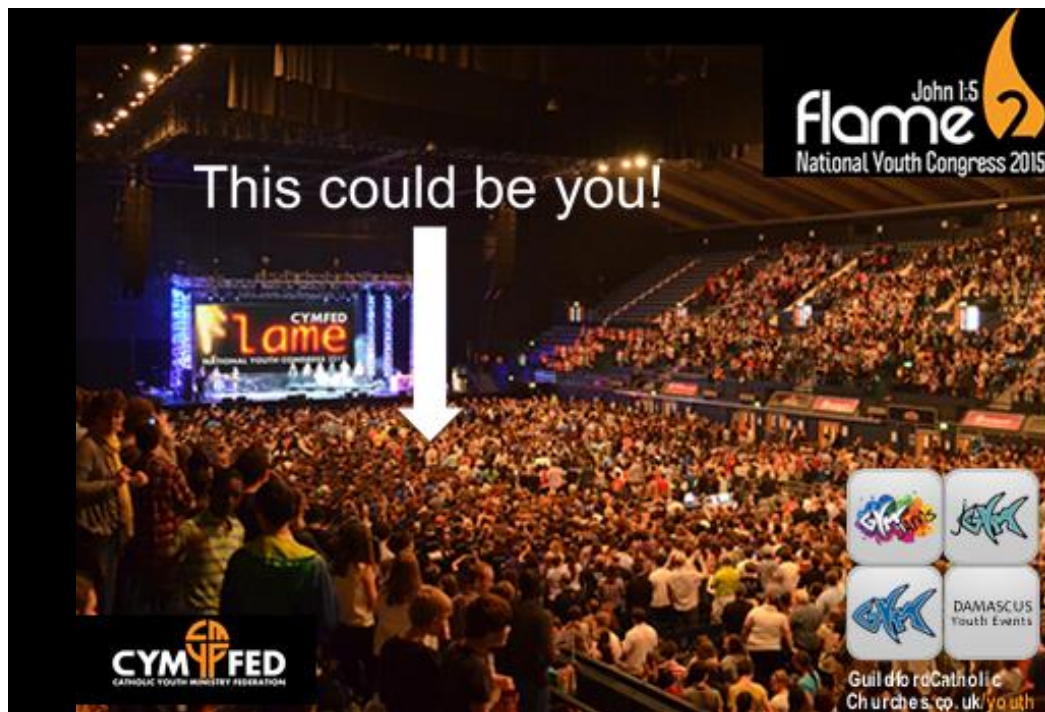


jGYM: school years 6-9
 jGYM takes place **every Friday (term time), 6-8pm, St Joseph's Church Hall.** The aim of jGYM is to meet, make friends and grow in faith and understanding of the Church. The evenings consist of a home cooked meal, lots of fun activities, organised games, teaching, small group discussion and a time of prayer.



GYM: school years 10-13
 GYM takes place **every Friday (term time), 8-10pm, St Joseph's Church Hall.** Every evening we provide a safe space for young people to ask questions and share with their peers their personal faith & life journey.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CHILDREN



Join us for the biggest Catholic youth event in the country

Wembley Arena

7th March 2015

If you are in year 10+ contact Aseel

youth@GuildfordCatholicChurches.co.uk

GuildfordCatholicChurches.co.uk/flame2

DAMASCUS
 summer camp
 Thursday 27th - Sunday 30th August
 Wintershall Estate, Bramley, Guildford, GU5 0LR
www.damascusyouthevent.com
For ages 14-18
 Cost: £70

DAMASCUS SUMMER CAMP: AGES 14-18



"Wintershall Estate, is beautiful. It's so peaceful and walking round the estate is a real treat. The cross on the hill lights up at night and there have been some really special prayerful moments that have happened there."



"The teaching and workshops have been so inspiring. The times of teaching are those moments that lead us to worship. They open our eyes to new things and prepare our hearts to sing and praise God."



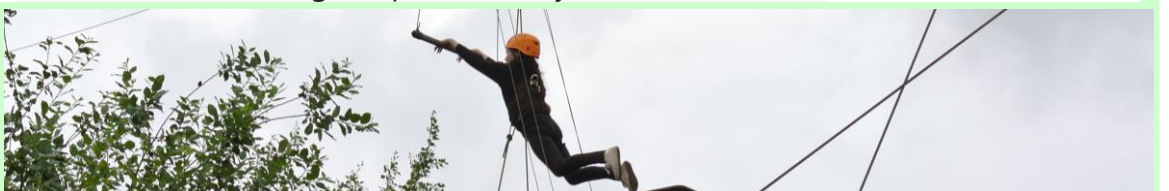
"The music worship led by our youth band is a real highlight of DAMASCUS. Those times when we reflect on the lyrics, we sing, jump, dance and lift our hands and praise God in that barn is something else."

jDAMASCUS
 weekend away
 Friday 10th - Sunday 12th July
 St Edwards, Guildford, GU4 7QN
www.damascusyouthevent.com
For ages 10-13
 Cost: £60, includes trip to activity centre and food

jDAMASCUS WEEKEND AWAY: AGES 10-13

jDAMASCUS is a weekend away to give young people from Guildford and beyond an opportunity to discover their faith in a fun, dynamic & creative way. To give them the opportunity to discover they are on a faith journey & are chosen by God, like Saul on the road to DAMASCUS.

Register now for jDAMASCUS 2015! It's taking place Friday 10th - Sunday 12th July, at St Edward the Confessor, Sutton Park. We are going to have brilliant workshops, group activities, pray plus a day trip to an activity centre that offers high ropes, archery and much more!



DAMASCUS is run by Aseel and as part of the Catholic Parish of Guildford youth ministry

Celebrating Holy Week Easter in the Parish of Guildford: St Pius X, St Mary's & St Joseph's

Join us for Holy Week and Easter across the Parish. **We especially invite you to the Way of the Cross on Friday 3rd April at 10am at St Pius X, St Mary's and St Joseph's.**

The way of the cross recalls with mindful affection the last stage of the journey that Jesus walked in his earthly life, until the Lord was taken to be crucified and then buried. Particularly suitable for families.

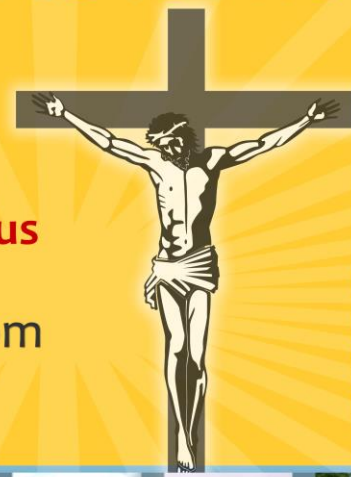
He gave us Himself
Maundy Thursday
2nd April 8pm

The Way of the Cross
For families
3rd April 10am

He died for us
Good Friday
3rd April 3pm

He rose for us
Easter Vigil
4th April 8pm

Join us for Holy Week & Easter



Easter Sunday
5th April
St Joseph's: 8am, 11am
St Pius X: 9.30am
St Mary's: 11am
St Edward's: 9am

Catholic Parish of Guildford
Diocese of Arundel & Brighton



www.GuildfordCatholicChurches.co.uk



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

The Call, the Journey and the Mission

ORDINARY SYNOD ON THE FAMILY

We are now in the period between the two formal Synod sessions in what Pope Francis has called 'a time of spiritual discernment'. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales are asking us to read and reflect using Scripture to consider family situations in the Bible and how they relate to our own lives. Take a look at the Parish website for a link the resource provided by the Bishops' conference –

www.guildfordcatholicchurches.co.uk.

Any responses to the Synod can be given via:
<http://surveymonkey.com/s/LaityEW2015>

It should be noted that the period in terms of offering comment and feedback is short and 10th April marks the deadline for the completion of any returns.

THE FAMILY AND GOD'S LOVE

'The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.'

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2205

'The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love...'

Familiaris Consortio #17

'Relationships within the family reflect God's relationship with us.'

Home is a Holy place, CBCEW

'Thanks to love within the family, the Church can and ought to take on a more homelike or family dimension, developing a more human and fraternal style of relationships.'

Familiaris Consortio #64

'The way that we experience love within our families profoundly affects our own understanding of love, and therefore our understanding of God.'

Home is a Holy place, CBCEW

'Families participate uniquely in the creative love of God. Family love, like God's love, is life-giving in countless ways. The love of our family nurtures our physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual well-being.'

Home is a Holy place, CBCEW

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY...

For the 130 families who are preparing for first Holy Communion



& the 37 young people preparing for Confirmation.



Would you like to become a facilitator?

The Family Caring Trust are running an initial training day for those who would wish to become facilitators and go on to offer parenting courses in their local area.

The day is fee free but £10.00 is required to purchase the basic pack needed. The day is kindly being hosted by **St Joseph's Catholic Church, GU1 4AZ.**

Wednesday 11th March 2015: 9.30am - 4.00pm

Pre-registration is essential at Katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

FAMILY LIFE – YOUR THOUGHTS

"I'll Google it!" and "In that book I was reading it said..." are common phrases in our home (most often as my first response to our latest parenting challenge). Then a few months ago I was complaining about the long succession of sleepless nights I'd been experiencing and my friend said to me, "I'll pray about Sarah's sleep". I was a bit taken aback, I was expecting some parenting advice or her consolation and instead I was given a bit of a wake-up call: she reminded me that while I've been moaning, Googling and reading books, I've been leaving God out of this really important part of my life. In this (6th Sunday of Ordinary Time)'s second reading we hear Paul telling the people of Corinth, "Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." Perhaps one way I can glorify God more in my family life, is to go to him first and visit the internet later? - Or maybe it won't be necessary at all!?

Kelly Collins, (Wife of Tom, Mother of Sarah and goes to St Mary's)

Would you like to help with children, youth and family events?

youth@GuildfordCatholicChurches.co.uk | www.GuildfordCatholicChurches.co.uk/FAMILIES

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