

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

The Children, Youth and Families team have had a very busy few months so far this year. We wanted to share with you some of the exciting things we have been doing and highlight some events coming up for you and your family in the parish.

As ever we need your help. Please read through and find out all the different things you can get involved in. And please do continue to pray for the children, youth and families' ministry.

Aseel – Children, Youth and Families Coordinator

**Sponsor a Youth Worker** – We are looking to appoint a part-time youth worker to provide a lunch-time Catholic formational programme at our local secondary school, St Peters, as well as to help with the running of our weekly youth programmes. This will increase the number of young people engaging with and benefitting from the youth ministry in Guildford. If you would like to support this, financially or otherwise, please contact: [youth@guildfordcatholicchurches.co.uk](mailto:youth@guildfordcatholicchurches.co.uk) or 01483 562 704

### FOR THE ENTIRE PARISH FAMILY



*Save the Date*  
**12 JUNE 2016**  
*Celebrating*  
**The Catholic Parish of Guildford**  
11am Mass with Bishop Richard followed by Parish Picnic  
St Edward the Confessor, Sutton Park, GU4 7QN  
Get involved: [www.CPG.church](http://www.CPG.church)

An afternoon of fun, food & festivities celebrating our parish family. Bring your own picnic. With BBQ, bar & afternoon tea, play area for young children, bouncy castle, face painting, craft area & live music.

# BABY & TODDLER GROUPS



St Mary's - Fri 10am



St Pius X - Tues 10am



St Joseph's - Mon 10am



Come and visit our baby & toddler groups in the Church halls across the Parish. We have lots of toys as well as singing, crafts, snacks and a very warm welcome.

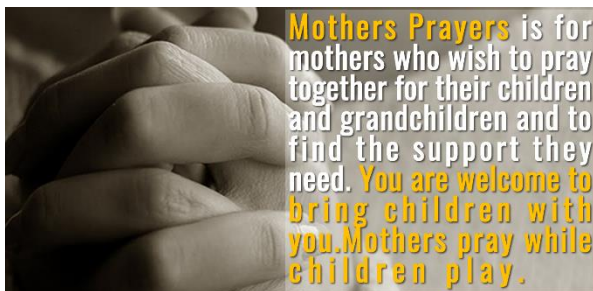
June is the designated month for all Christian churches to pray for toddler groups. The theme of the Month of Prayer this year is 'Living Life to the Full' and we hope to run some activities within the groups to accompany this theme, as well as offering a pasta lunch for children following the sessions at St Joseph's and St Pius X.

Please do join us in praying for all those involved in our play groups. If you would like to be involved, the groups are always looking for extra help and support!

## FOR MOTHERS & GRANDMOTHERS

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of the Month. 9.45am  
St Mary's Church Hall, GU2 8BP

We use this time together to pray for our children and discuss ways in which we can bring God into our family lives. We are now beginning to explore the Pope's letter, *The Joy of Love*, and see how it might impact our family lives.



I love coming to this prayer group: I can fellowship freely with other mothers who willingly pray for each other and their children. We pray, praise, worship and bring our children to God. Yingfei

The Mothers prayer group is a lovely spiritual time, where I can pray with and for my child, as well as sharing experiences & supporting other mums. Jo

**'It is essential that children actually see that, for their parents, prayer is something truly important.'** – *Joy of Love* #288

# CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children hear and respond to the Gospel story in their own time and space.

## For children who are...

- Aged 5-8 (unaccompanied)
- Under 5 (accompanied)



Children's Liturgy at St Mary's is in need of YOUR help. We are looking for

- Parents to lead the group, once every half term. Training will be provided.
- Parents who can help assist leaders and welcome children for this special liturgy

If you would like to be involved in any way and feel you can commit to this important ministry for the families of St Mary's, we would love to hear from you.

Can you help? Visit [www.CPG.church/childrensliturgy](http://www.CPG.church/childrensliturgy)

## YEAR OF MERCY AT HOME



Ying Fei & Freya's (6) Door of Mercy

Family life is busy – but we try to love each other. How do we show our 'merciful love'? Which door at home might be our 'door of mercy' where anyone who comes in can feel loved and accepted, or forgiven?



You might like to draw and decorate a sign of welcome to hang by your front or back door, your 'door of mercy' so when anyone comes

in, they feel accepted and welcome. You could use some of these words: 'May this home be a place of happiness, of cheerful giving and of hope. May this home be a place of love, kindness and forgiveness. May everyone who comes here find joy and peace.'

*'Light for the Path'*, Marriage and Family Life, CBCEW

# PARENTING COURSES

The Family Caring Trust Parenting Programmes offer a relaxed space and time where parents can meet and reflect on their experiences of day to day life bringing up children. The courses use case studies, skill-practice ideas, simple exercises and an accompanying handbook, to explore a variety of different parenting topics. It has been a real joy to see parents finish the course feeling refreshed and happier about whatever parenting challenges come their way!

## 0-7s Parenting Programme



**Wednesday mornings**  
**9.30 – 11am**

**St Joseph's Church  
Café Area**

**6 week course**  
Starting 11<sup>th</sup> May

Come along to the café and take some time to reflect on the most important job around!

Crèche available

To sign up: [www.CPG.church/parenting](http://www.CPG.church/parenting)

## Parenting Teenagers Programme



**Friday evenings**  
**6 – 8 pm**

**St Joseph's Church  
Café Area**

**6 week course**  
Starting 20<sup>th</sup> May

Bring your 10- 13 year old to jGYM while you enjoy the course in the room next door!

To sign up: [www.CPG.church/parenting](http://www.CPG.church/parenting)

My husband and I attended the parenting course and found it so valuable we noticed changes after the first week. This course has helped me to deal with issues that may arise, in a calm and consistent way. I would highly recommend it!

Lynette - participant from the 7-11s parenting course, Spring 2015

**'The home must continue to be the place where we learn to appreciate the meaning and beauty of the faith, to pray and to serve our neighbour' – Joy of Love #306**

# WEEKLY FOR YOUR CHILDREN



**Faith, Fun, Food & Friendship**  
**School Years 3-6**  
**Mondays 5.30-7pm**  
**@ St Joseph's Hall**  
[www.CPG.church/YOUTH](http://www.CPG.church/YOUTH)



CHILDREN  
YOUTH  
FAMILIES  
Guildford



**GOD  
GRUB  
GAMES**

**SCHOOL YEARS 6 TO 9 · FRIDAYS 6PM TO 8PM**  
**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL**



[www.CPG.church/YOUTH](http://www.CPG.church/YOUTH)

CHILDREN  
YOUTH  
FAMILIES  
Guildford



SPACE TO BE YOU

**SCHOOL YEARS 10-13**  
**FRIDAYS 8PM-10PM**  
**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL**  
[www.CPG.church/YOUTH](http://www.CPG.church/YOUTH)

In the Spring term, we ran the Youth Alpha course at GYM-jams (ages 7-10) and jGYM (ages 11-13). It was a wonderful experience for all. The faith conversations were rich and we all (re)learnt the basics of our faith. We are looking forward to building on this, so this term we are following a course that takes us through the whole bible, giving a foundation for understanding it. At GYM (14-18) this term our sessions were guided by the young people themselves. We looked at a range of things from sharing things they have found funny online, to how to live our faith. This term we'll be figuring out together how to find real freedom in Christ.



Your GYM-jams group is perhaps one of the very few that I've found that intend to help kids grow in faith, while preparing them for the formal youth ministry programs that are offered for junior high and high school age.

Sr. Margarite, Director of RE, Spokane parish, Washington, USA



*Fr Alan explaining the story of the tower of Babel to GYM-jams*

**WE NEED YOUR HELP** At GYM-jams and jGYM we prepare, cook and share a meal, every week. Even Fr Alex helps us serve food at GYM-jams! We are in desperate need of regular help with shopping, cooking, serving and clearing up, to feed 40 at both GYM-jams and jGYM.

Can you help? [youth@guildfordcatholicchurches.co.uk](mailto:youth@guildfordcatholicchurches.co.uk)  
You don't have to have experience with youth work, just a heart for feeding people!

# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION UPDATE



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In February I went to a reconciliation festival at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. There were different stations with activities linked to explore our sins and scripture. My favourite station was where you had to put a blindfold on and answer questions like, what is it like to walk in the dark? We did this because when you sin you walk in the dark without Jesus.

This sacrament is important to my family and me because it means that we would become closer to God, because when your sins have been forgiven it makes you feel better as a person and you will try not to sin as much in the future!!  
by Huqo (aged 10)

”

“

It has been a privilege to be involved in the First Holy Communion programme this year. It is so lovely to see parents leading their children through the course material as primary catechists. The children thrive on the opportunity to have this time with their parents and the parents really enjoy sharing and discussing their faith in this way. Please pray for the 135 children who will be receiving their first Holy Communion on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Kelly - St Mary's Small Group Facilitator

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**'Faith is God's gift, received in baptism, and not our own work, yet parents are the means that God uses for it to grow and develop' – Joy of Love #281**

# CONFIRMATION UPDATE



Confirmation is a big step in anyone's faith journey with God and the sessions have been an excellent way to prepare for it. By listening to my small group's thoughts and feelings about their own faith, I learnt a lot about my relationship with God. The sessions made it clear that our journey in faith isn't about accepting the answers but about asking the questions. For me, this changed the way I think about my faith.

by Danny (aged 14)



Confirmation preparation is about encouraging candidates to explore their faith in new ways. Being with other like-minded young people, in a safe environment, provides a valuable opportunity to ask questions. The sessions challenged the group to go against what may be accepted by youth culture today and encouraged them to build a relationship with God truly for themselves. I am so proud of the courage and commitment the Guildford youth have shown.

Olivia - Confirmation small group facilitator



# EVENTS FOR YOUR CHILDREN



**DAMASCUS**  
SUMMER CAMP

GUILDFORD YOUTH MINISTRY  
presents

**1ST - 4TH SEPTEMBER**  
FOR AGES 14 TO 18  
FAITH . PRAYER . LIVE MUSIC . COMMUNITY  
WORKSHOPS . FUN . LASTING MEMORIES

DOORS OPEN: 9AM | COSTS: JUST £70  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR  
SUTTON PARK, GU4 7QN

[WWW.CPG.CHURCH/DAMASCUS](http://WWW.CPG.CHURCH/DAMASCUS)

DAMASCUS summer camp is a four-day retreat for ages 14-18 & jDAMASCUS is a weekend retreat for ages 10-14 run by the Catholic Parish of Guildford youth ministry team. Join us for faith, talks, live music, camping, creative workshops, fun, community, Mass, prayer, a life changing experience, friendships that last and much, much more. This year we are pleased to announce that jDAMASCUS & DAMASCUS 2016 will be taking place at the beautiful St Edward the Confessor Church. We are excited about being able to host our 11<sup>th</sup> summer camp within our own parish. New venue means new memories! We are also looking forward to our yearly trip to Big Church Day Out in May.



**jDAMASCUS**  
weekend away

GUILDFORD YOUTH MINISTRY  
presents

**15TH - 17TH JULY**  
FOR AGES 10 TO 14  
FAITH . PRAYER . LIVE MUSIC . FRIENDSHIP  
WORKSHOPS . FUN . GAMES . CAMPING

DOORS OPEN: 5PM | COST: JUST £60  
ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR  
SUTTON PARK, GU4 7QN

[WWW.CPG.CHURCH/JDAMASCUS](http://WWW.CPG.CHURCH/JDAMASCUS)



**Big Church**  
MADE IN THE UK  
DAY OUT

JOIN 25,000 PEOPLE FOR 2 DAYS OF WORLD CLASS MUSIC, FUN  
RELAXATION AND CELEBRATION.  
JUST £60, INCLUDES TICKET, TRANSPORT & MEALS

SIGN UP: [WWW.GCP.ORG.UK/YOUTH](http://WWW.GCP.ORG.UK/YOUTH)

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

28TH & 29TH MAY. WISTON HOUSE. WEST SUSSEX

ages 14+

WANT TO HELP WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENTS? JOIN THE TEAM  
[youth@GuildfordCatholicChurches.co.uk](mailto:youth@GuildfordCatholicChurches.co.uk) | [www.CPG.church/CYF](http://www.CPG.church/CYF)