

APPENDIX B
(Pastoral Letter 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2016)

DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE
FUTURE PROVISION

The Diocesan Youth Service will aim to:

1. Encourage the young people of our diocese to enter into a personal relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Integrate our young people into the life of the local and universal Church.
3. Form our young people in the Christian virtues that will build character and inspire the leaders among them.
4. Help our young people to grow in discipleship and learn how to put their faith into action through serving Christ in others, in the Church and in the world around them.

To achieve these aims, the Diocesan Youth Service will ensure that the catechesis and religious education it offers our young people will provide them with a rich knowledge and understanding of their Catholic faith, the desire to live their faith, and the passion to promote their faith. The work of the Youth Service will be rooted in a solid catechesis based on 'YOUCAT' (the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church) and 'DOCAT' (a young people's compendium of the social teaching of the Catholic Church which helps young people to know and live their faith).

The Diocesan Youth Service will explore ways of working more closely with chaplains and chaplaincy teams in diocesan schools to help our young people encounter the person of Christ in new and creative ways. In particular, the Youth Service will look to equip itself to facilitate missions which will serve both the needs of schools, the local community of parishes and families. The emphasis of the Diocesan Youth Service will be on sustaining the growth in faith of our young people (i.e. preparation for and follow-up to a major event or celebration will be as of much significance as the event or celebration itself).

With the closure of Myddelton Grange, a new strategic direction for the Diocesan Youth Service will be developed to integrate the Service more fully into the lives of the schools, parishes and families at a local level. The capital receipt from the sale of Myddelton Grange will be reserved to resource the future work of the Youth Service.

The Diocesan Youth Service will aim to work closely with those already involved in youth work in the diocese, including:

- Chaplains and chaplaincy teams in our schools;
- The Diocesan Music Department/The Schools Singing Programme;
- Parish Youth Workers;
- Religious orders in our communities, e.g. the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in Bradford and the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal in Leeds, etc.

Chaplains and Chaplaincy Teams

Lay chaplains are employed and line-managed by schools and operate within the schools. However, school chaplaincy is integral also to the work of the Diocesan Youth Service and the support which lay chaplains can offer to a central diocesan team is greatly valued and appreciated.

The Vicariate for Education and the Diocesan Youth Service will seek to work closely with our schools to develop further the role of our school chaplaincies, so that together they may provide the best care and formation for our young people. The diocese will continue to provide support including a recruitment pack for the employment of lay chaplains in our schools.

Co-ordinator of School Chaplains

A diocesan priest has been appointed as a Co-ordinator of School Chaplains. The Co-ordinator will:

- Work with schools to ensure chaplaincy provision in our diocesan schools is modelled on the national guidelines promoted by the Department for Education and Formation of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales;
- Develop model policies for school chaplains and chaplaincy teams;
- Provide a new chaplain mentoring programme;
- Offer continuing professional development for chaplains and chaplaincy teams (in collaboration with the Vicariate for Education).

Missions

In collaboration with the Chaplaincy Co-ordinator and school chaplaincies, the Diocesan Youth Service will:

- Develop strategies and resources for missions to be provided for our young people that involve schools, parishes and families (tailoring the missions to the specific pastoral needs and the local context of our schools, parishes and families);
- Plan a substantial preparation period prior to the mission, bringing together all interested parties (secondary schools, local parishes, feeder primary schools, parish catechists, etc.);
- Develop central and local volunteer mission teams to lead missions for young people in our diocese;
- Provide guidance and information on providers of missions (Sion Community, NET Ministries, Youth 2000, etc.);
- Provide guidance for, and help plan, tailored follow-up to the missions.

During the preparation time for a mission, the Diocesan Youth Service will help to establish a local team of school, family and parish representatives. Following the mission, the Youth Service will support this team to help sustain and take forward the fruits of the mission among our young people within the local area where the mission has taken place. It is vital

for youth ministry to grow at a local level so that young people can experience a sense of belonging to the Church beyond the school community. Schools, parishes and families will have their own unique role to play in preparing for, involvement in, and follow-up to the missions for our young people.

It will clearly not be possible for some or even for the majority of individual parishes to develop local volunteer mission and evangelisation teams. This is why it is increasingly important for parishes to engage in the primary work of evangelisation and collaborate with each other at whatever level necessary; inter-parish, deanery or inter-deanery. In every aspect of parish life, and particularly so with regard to the future formation and catechesis of our young people, collaboration between parishes will not just be a desirable aim but an essential objective.

Outreach – Faith in Action

Working with our schools, parishes and deaneries, the Diocesan Youth Service will promote ways in which our young people can, through the knowledge and practice of Christian virtues, learn habits of the mind, will and heart which will help them to develop a character which seeks personal excellence, fulfils their potential, and inspires the leaders among them. The Youth Service will therefore offer opportunities for our young people to learn about, and participate in, activities and Catholic organisations which serve others (e.g. the Diocesan Music Department/ Schools Singing Programme, Youth SVP, etc.)

The Diocesan Youth Service will also:

1. Provide support for initial evangelisation and on-going formation of young people in the diocese by:
 - Developing resources and guidance to support missions for young people in schools and parishes;
 - Developing faith-led youth groups within parishes and deanery networks;
 - Working with clergy to identify suitable volunteers to support youth work in local areas;
 - Developing and sustain chaplaincy teams in schools.
2. Support the programme of events that young people of the diocese are invited to participate in by:
 - Supporting youth participation in major local, national and international pilgrimages (e.g. World Youth Day, Lourdes, Walsingham, etc.);
 - Supporting a programme of diocesan youth initiatives which occur on a regular footing (e.g. Revelation, Night Fever, etc.);
3. Develop diocesan policies for volunteer youth workers:
 - Ensuring all youth workers are appropriately trained (in collaboration with the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator);
 - Providing a mentoring programme to assist youth ministry.