

TAIZÉ 2015

Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission



Parent Information Leaflet

Purpose

This leaflet is published to inform parents about the Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission (ADYC).

Who are we?

ADYC was set up in 2005 by the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Armagh. The aim of the organisation is to provide activities, events and programmes for young people, both at diocesan and parish level. The objective of ADYC is to inspire young people to grow in confidence, self-esteem and faith.

Staff

The organisation employs 2 staff:

1. Mr. Dermot Kelly – Diocesan Youth Director
2. Mr. Pierce Fox – Administrative Officer

Volunteers

ADYC could not function without the assistance of a large team of dedicated volunteers. Volunteers are recruited in line with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies & Procedures. Full training is given to ensure that volunteers have the necessary skills and knowledge to coordinate and lead events for young people.

Activities, Events and Programmes for Young People

ADYC is best known for the Pope John Paul II Award and pilgrimages to World Youth Day and Lourdes. Below is a list of our core activities.

1. Pope John Paul II Award
2. Papal Cross Award
3. Summer Youth Pilgrimages to:
 - Lourdes
 - Taizé
 - Camino de Santiago
 - World Youth Day
4. Accredited Youth Work Training
5. Accredited Leadership Training for under 18s
6. Youth Liturgies
7. Crossroads Youth Festival
8. Parish Youth Missions – ALIVE
9. Assume Summer Camp
10. School Retreats
11. Parish Support
12. School Support
13. Social networking



Residentials/Camps/Pilgrimages

ADYC have taken many young people on youth trips over the last few years. Below is a brief look at some of the trips over the past 3 years. Young people have ranged in age from 12-35.

Year	No. of trips	No. of young people
2011	2	200
2012	2	80
2013	4	90

2014 Pilgrimages/ Trips/ Residential

Event	No. of young people
Croagh Patrick Challenge	30
Taizé Pilgrimage	25
Lourdes Pilgrimage	40
Camino Pilgrimage	20
Assume Summer Camp	20

Taizé 2015

This is our third year to embark on a pilgrimage to Taizé. Please read Taizé brochure to learn a bit more about the pilgrimage. We aim to take young people aged 16-20 years old on pilgrimage. They will be accompanied by a team of leaders, with 1 leader per 8 pilgrims.

Senior Leaders

Dermot Kelly – is our Diocesan Youth Director and it will be his 7th time leading an international pilgrimage. Dermot's wealth of experience on pilgrimage is priceless and has given him a wealth of experience in dealing with all situations.

Fr. Thomas McHugh – This will be Fr. Thomas' 3rd time leading a pilgrimage. We are blessed to have Fr. Thomas as a young enthusiastic priest who will enhance all youth ministry activities.

Gemma McKenna – Gemma is returning for her 2nd year to lead young pilgrims to Taize. Gemma is a very experienced youth worker and teacher.

Leaders will ensure a safe, caring and fun environment for pilgrims. A contract and guidelines will be agreed with pilgrims at the first meeting of leaders and pilgrims. Pilgrims and leaders must adhere to these agreed contracts. Pilgrims will have a group leader to whom they can bring any concerns. All leaders are vetted and have undergone safeguarding training.

The leadership team will have emergency contact phones should parents need to contact leaders in the case of an emergency. An information evening for parents will take place before the pilgrimage.



Contact Number

ADYC Office - 028/048 3752 3084

Dermot's mobile - 0044 7525774024

E-mail

Dermot - dermot@adyc.ie

Pierce - armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk

Social Networking

Facebook - [adycbeinspired](#)

Twitter- [@ArmaghYouth](#)

Parental Comments

"As a parent I found ADYC and its leaders were very thorough in ensuring that the questions of the kids and the parents entrusting their children to their care, were answered. I found they kept me well informed and involved in the preparation for the pilgrimage every step of the way."

"My daughter is always excited to hear any new plans that ADYC have. Caitriona is excited to be returning to Taizé with ADYC again this summer! Thank you to all leaders for making it a great and safe experience for my daughter and all the kids."

Young Person's Comments

Taizé was a unique experience, I honestly couldn't imagine anywhere else like it ... the friendships I made were awesome and bonding with everyone really touched my heart, the craic was class and it was really good just to get away from everyone and everything just to be by yourself to think :)

An experience where you can develop in faith but also have fun along the way! ADYC and the Taizé pilgrimage have made me proud to be catholic

