



ST PATRICK'S YOUTH APPRENTICED IN FAITH



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As part of the recent Synodal listening processes, both diocesan and nationally, the theme of youth and questions around how the Church might engage with them more effectively emerged strongly. The Archdiocese of Armagh, like many other diocese, faces the challenge of identifying people who are particularly gifted with regard to youth ministry.

Pope Francis in *Christus Vivit* affirms the importance of young people in the life of the Church and pays particular attention to the many gifts they bring to Church communities. In particular he pays draws attention to the youthfulness and vibrancy that their presence brings to Church life.

With this in mind the Archdiocese is proposing a thirty month "Apprenticeship in Faith" programme in parishes. The programme would run from September/October 2022 until January 2025 and would target young people aged 18- 25 and others who are interested in Youth Ministry and Parish involvement.

In return for training and financial support towards diocesan pilgrimages the young leaders, peer mentors and others are asked to commit to 4 hours service in their Parish each week and assist diocesan youth coordinators with diocesan youth ministry initiatives.

The Archdiocese of Armagh will provide ongoing training support for those engaged in the apprenticeship and it is important to note that individual parishes must support those who have engaged. Parishes must also assure that participants are offered appropriate opportunities to gain experience whilst fulfilling the hourly requirements in parish.



APPRENTICESHIP ELEMENTS

It is intended that the Apprenticeship would include the following elements:

- Completion of "Foundations in Youth", "Scripture through the Landscape of the Holy Land" and other online programmes developed by the Archdiocese of Armagh and hosted on the Aspal online learning programme.
- Participate and assist with planning and delivery of parish ministry moments in their parish and when available across the Archdiocese of Armagh (4hrs per week.)
- Engage with reflection and formation days offered to participants.
- Plan for and assist with Summer Camps and parish retreats.
- Subject to approval, based on the individuals commitment to the programme they would attend World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon.
- Subject to further approval and again based on the individuals commitment to the programme they would travel to the Holy Land for a Pilgrimage focused on the "Landscape of the Holy Land"

Upon successful completion a number of places will be offered to suitable candidates on either the Diploma in Youth Ministry programme in St. Patrick's College or on the Diocesan Theology Programme.

In order for this programme to work the parish must identify and select suitable people to minister within their community. Parishes are also asked to support the person/persons in their formation and in their future participation in parish life.

To find out more contact a member of the Archdiocese of Armagh's youth team at armaghyouth@aracoeli.com



POPE FRANCIS ON YOUTH

Youth is more than simply a period of time; it is a state of mind. That is why an institution as ancient as the Church can experience renewal and a return to youth at different points in her age-old history. Indeed, at the most dramatic moments of her history, she feels called to return with all her heart to her first love. Recalling this truth, the Second Vatican Council noted that, “enriched by a long and living history, and advancing towards human perfection in time and the ultimate destinies of history and of life, the Church is the real youth of the world”. In her, it is always possible to encounter Christ “the companion and friend of youth”.

Christus Vivit, Paragraph 34