

Feast of Christ the King Year A

The feast of Christ the King is celebrated as National Youth Sunday. This is an opportunity to recognise young people as a gift in the Church, enable the youth ministry and parish community to celebrate young people and affirm the contribution of young people in the Church and those who work with them.

When I was in primary school, we sang the hymn, "Hail Redeemer, King Divine". There is one verse in it that always struck a chord with me:

*King most holy, King of truth,
Guide the lowly, guide the youth;
Christ, thou King of glory bright,
Be to us eternal light.*

*Angels, saints and nations sing:
"Praise be Jesus Christ our King;
Lord of Life, earth, sky and sea,
King of love on Calvary!"*



Young people are the Church of today and the hope for tomorrow. So how does the Church hear their voice? How do we ensure that our young people are involved in parish life? Do we welcome them as readers and Eucharistic Ministers as well as servers and choir members?

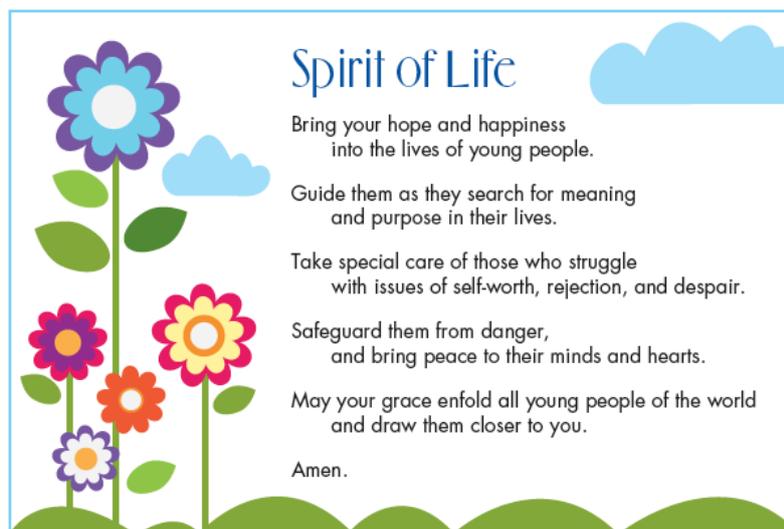


Do we engage with them in discussions about how they see themselves as members of the Church?
Do we support them in their faith journey?



Young people of today may come across as knowing it all, but this is not usually the case. They need positive role models in their lives. They need to know that it is ok to doubt, to be confused and to be uncertain of their place in the Church. We, the adults in the Church, need to affirm them when they are ready to commit to ministry; celebrate with them the joys of their giftedness; be a listening and supportive ear when they want to question their faith; keep them in prayer as they share their faith journey.

The prophet Jeremiah said to God: *“Look, I do not know how to speak: I am a child!”* But God’s response was clear: *“Do not say, ‘ I am a child ‘. Go now to those to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to protect you. I have appointed you as prophet.”*



The Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, is a welcoming community for people of all ages. We must do all that we can to ensure that our young people feel this welcome and love.