



ENCOUNTER RESOURCES

ADVENT 2

YOUTH



How do we encounter Jesus through the theme of Youth?

Information

- The theme of National Youth Sunday (Sunday 22th November — the Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe) is **Together**. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every part of life. The way we live, work, study, play and pray has all changed. The most significant change has been that we have not been able to do many of those things together. This year's theme recognises what it means to be 'together'; with ourselves, with others and with God.
- National Youth Sunday is a national event this year, with a national, live act of worship to start the day, live streams, quizzes and talks from all over the country and content specific to both Primary and Secondary students for you to dip in and out of, or join us for the whole day. Have a look at the programme on the next page and plan how your young people can join us for as much of the day as possible.
- Remember to register your group to get involved in the day by visiting www.nationalyouthsunday.com/nyfd



Register

your class or group at nationalyouthsunday.com/nyfd to let us know that you'll be tuning in! Plus you'll receive special shout outs throughout the day.



national
youth
fun day



Welcome & Shout Outs - 09:45am

Your chance to get logged on and ready for the day ahead - listen out for a shoutout and prepare for our morning prayer.

TOGETHER WITH GOD



- 10:00am **Act Of Worship**
Join Cardinal Archbishop Vincent Nichols as we start our day with a nationwide moment of prayer and worship
- 10:20am **Live from The South**
We head south to start our day and meet Phoebe and Holly who'll be taking us through some amazing input from schools and parishes and helping us explore our theme of 'Together'
- 11:15am **Quizzing in the North** PERFECT FOR PRIMARY
We head to the opposite end of the country for our first competition of the day - how much do you know about the Church in England and Wales?!



TOGETHER WITH EACH OTHER

- 11:00am **CAFOD Input** PERFECT FOR PRIMARY
We hear from CAFOD about how they are responding to the global situation and how we can be 'together' in solidarity with people across the world and right here in the UK.
- 11:20am **Midlands Saint's Quiz** PERFECT FOR SECONDARY
We're in the middle of the country for a special saint's quiz - how much do you know about these amazing people in the church and how can they inspire us to serve each other together?!
- 11:30am **CAFOD Input** PERFECT FOR SECONDARY
We back with CAFOD to learn more about their work and how we can stand 'Together' with those in need.
- 11:50pm **NYFD Packed Lunch**
It's back to the studio for your messages, surprise live guests and a chance to join us for lunch!
- 12:30pm **Live from the north**
We head back to the north of the country to find out how they are exploring our theme of 'Together'

TOGETHER WITH OURSELVES

- 1:00pm **Westminster Competition**
We're back down south for our final competition of the day - Join Holly and Phoebe for the last chance to win some amazing prizes!
- 1:10pm **Live from The midlands**
We're back in the midlands to explore what's been going on in the communities there and to share some inspiring stories of how we can find strength and hope by coming 'Together'
- 1:40pm **The 'Car-Lowdown'**
Find out about Blessed Carlo Acutis, an inspiration for a digital church and explore how we can personally respond to National Youth Sunday this year.



Final Liturgy - 2:10pm

We're back together for one last time to finish the first National Youth Funday in prayer.



Friday 20th November
[YouTube.com/CYMFed](https://www.youtube.com/CYMFed)



Faith in Action

Another fantastic way of encouraging your young people to Encounter Jesus, serve others and make use of the vitality and energy of their youth is through the 'Faith in Action' programme. This has moved online this year and all information on enrolling and on what the programme entails can be found [here](#).

Delivering the award will mean facilitating 4 reflection points, logging and assessment of volunteer hours and the collation and submission of a final project for each participant.

Training and resources are available to you from NDCYS and if you'd like more information before signing up then please email FIA@ndcys.com.

The 4 reflection points are as follows:

1. We love because we are loved.

Explore: what it means to love and be loved.

Understand: how God shows us love and teaches us to love one another through acts of service.

Reflect: upon how our experience of love affects the way we live our lives and love one another.

2. Loving our Neighbour is Loving Jesus

Explore: Jesus' example of active love and what "neighbour" means

Understand: how following Jesus' example means taking responsibility for the wellbeing of others

Reflect: upon what it really means to love a neighbour and how your actions affect them

3. Our Active Love Builds the Kingdom of God

Explore: what is meant by God's Kingdom

Understand: how Jesus' teaching: "the Kingdom of God is close at hand" affects the world we live in

Reflect: upon our individual role in being witness to, and building, God's Kingdom.

4. Servant Leadership

Explore: the joys and sorrows of living a life of service

Understand: that Jesus challenges us to change

Reflect: upon how service transforms not only us, but those whom we serve in the wider community


[About the Award](#)
[Award Levels](#)
[Testimonials](#)
[FAQs](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[Members' Area](#)


Blessed Carlo Acutis

Carlo Acutis, who was born on 3rd May 1991 and died aged 15 on the 12th October 2006, was Beatified by Pope Francis on 10th October 2020. He looks likely to be the first millennial who will become a saint and is someone who we can look to, not only for inspiration ourselves, but particularly for our young people.

Carlo was a boy who liked to play on his playstation, enjoyed Pokemon and enjoyed spending time with his friends. As a young child, he loved to pray the rosary. After he made his First Communion, he went to Mass as often as he could, and he made Holy Hours before or after Mass. He went to confession weekly. As he grew older he began to go to Mass daily, often bringing his parents along. He made the Eucharist the centre of his life, and he directed towards the most needy the love that God poured out through him. He asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages — to the places of the saints, and to the sites of Eucharistic miracles.

Among his friends was Sister Giovanna Negrotto, a missionary religious sister, who is now 86 years old and one of the people who shared her memories of Acutis at the event in Assisi. She said that Acutis took great interest in her missionary work in India, asking to see photos of “my great leper friends.” She said the last question that Acutis had asked her was: “What do you think? Is God more pleased with a service like this to the least of the world, generous and tireless, or prayer?” Referencing Acutis’ parents, Negrotto said: “I will never forget that morning when you told me that Carlo had gone up to heaven and about how he offered his life for the pope and for the Church. And then I realized that Carlo had already given the answer to his question. Service, yes, prayer, yes, but no one has a greater love than someone who gives his life for his friends.”

Carlo had a great dedication to the Eucharist, famously saying “we face the sun we become tan ... but when we place ourselves in front of the Eucharistic Jesus we become saints”. When he was 14 he decided to use his skills and talents in coding and working with computers to set up his own website documenting the Eucharistic Miracles of the World, a website which can be accessed at www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/Liste/list.html.

He welcomed and loved Jesus as a friend, while still living deeply immersed in the world of today, mastering computer programming, film editing, website creation, and even editing comics by the age of 15. Despite being immersed in media so fraught with temptation, the Gospel thrived at his touch and to such an extent that he will probably become the Patron of the Internet.

Blessed Carlo Acutis was diagnosed with Leukemia as a teenager and offered his life and sufferings for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Church, saying “I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church.”

He died aged 15 years old and is an example to use on the power of youth and what young people can achieve when filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit, as Blessed Carlo Acutis was.

How could you explore the story of Blessed Carlo Acutis with your young people and help them to Encounter Christ through his example?

Could he be used as an example to show that we are all called to be saints? Carlo played computer games, liked pokémon and wore Nike trainers; there are lots of things about him which our young people will be able to empathise with.

Carlo used his talents and interests to help people to Encounter God by highlighting the importance of spending time in front of the Eucharist and by highlighting the Eucharistic miracles through his website.

What skills and talents do your young people have? How could they use those to become closer to God? How could they use those to bring others to God?

Here are some videos for you to use to explore the story of Blessed Carlo Acutis further:

Blessed Carlo Acutis

What skills and talents do your young people have? How could they use those to become closer to God? How could they use those to bring others to God?

Here are some videos for you to use to explore the story of Blessed Carlo Acutis further:

- Carlo Acutis [animation](#)
- New patron of the [Internet](#)
- The life of Blessed Carlo Acutis in 7 [minutes](#)
- Carlo Acutis with a reflection from Cardinal Vincent [Nichols](#)

See — *for use in displays and Collective Worship*

- A number of resources are available on the National Youth Sunday [website](#), including:
 - Form or class reflection resources
 - Individual resources to send home to students or use in prayer stations
- Videos
 - A message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols calling us to be 'digital [disciples](#)'
 - Robert Madu — Stay in your lane — a talk from Flame about our own [calling](#)
 - The Mission of My Life — a reading of St John Henry Newman's reflection on our own individual [mission](#)
 - What is faith? — a blind teenager shares her testimony of [faith](#)
- Art or Displays
 - Young Saints — there are many young saints. Research and create posters about young saints you find inspiring. How do they help us to know Jesus? An excellent example at the moment would be Blessed Carlo Acutis, who was Beatified on 10th October 2020
 - We are Saints — show photographs of the amazing ways people in the class/form are living out the faith.

Hear — *try to show how this helps us see the connection between young people and encountering Jesus.*

- Scripture
 - Long Sections
 - Feeding of the Five Thousand: it is a young boy who offers the loaves and fish (John 6:1-14)
 - Call of Samuel: he was around 10 (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

- Mary says yes to the Angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38)
- Medium Sections
 - David defeats Goliath (1 Samuel 17:41-50)
 - Jesus is found in the temple (Luke 2:41-49)
- Short Sections
 - St Paul's advice to St Timothy, a young Bishop (1 Timothy 4:12)
 - Jeremiah is chosen as a prophet (Jeremiah 1:4-8)
- Worship Music and Hymns — *more can be found on www.worshiptogether.com (modern worship music) or www.ocp.org (hymn more commonly found in hymn books).*
 - *Here I am Lord* by John Michael Talbot
 - *Jesus be the Centre* by Michael Frye
 - *Cast your cares* by Guvna B
 - *Nothing but the blood* by Guvna B
 - *Take my life and let it be* by Frances Ridley Havergal
- Secular Music
 - *Blinded by your grace part 2* by Stormzy
 - *Unwritten* by Natasha Bedingfield
 - *Castle on the Hill* by Ed Sheeran

Think

- The Church's teaching about young people. In 2018 Bishops and young people from around the world met with Pope Francis to discuss what it is like being a young Catholic. He responded to this meeting (called a Synod) with a letter to all young people *Christus Vivit* which means Christ is alive. (this type of letter is called an Apostolic Exhortation). Here are some quotations to think about.
 - Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! (CV1)
 - He gave his life when he was, in today's terms, a young adult. (CV23)
 - The Church is young when she is herself, when she receives ever anew the strength born of God's word, the Eucharist, and the daily presence of Christ and the power of his Spirit in our lives. The Church is young when she shows herself capable of constantly returning to her source. (CV35)
 - "Everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies". Don't let that happen to you! (CV106)
 - You can become what God your Creator knows you are, if only you realize that you are called to something greater. Ask the help of the Holy Spirit and confidently aim for the great goal of holiness. In this way, you will not be a photocopy. You will be fully yourself. (CV107)

- The very first truth I would tell each of you is this: “God loves you”. It makes no difference whether you have already heard it or not. I want to remind you of it. God loves you. Never doubt this, whatever may happen to you in life. At every moment, you are infinitely loved. (CV112)
- No matter how much you live the experience of these years of your youth, you will never know their deepest and fullest meaning unless you encounter each day your best friend, the friend who is Jesus. (CV150)
- Prayer Ideas
 - Asking Prayers
 - For young people who do not have the freedom we do
 - For us to understand how God is calling us
 - For young people who are ill, lonely, mistreated or suffering
 - Thanking Prayers
 - For God choosing us to make to be his friends and make a difference
 - For the education and freedom that we have in the UK
 - For those who help, support or inspire us
 - Sorry Prayers
 - For when we have failed to use our gifts and talents
 - For when we have treated others badly
 - For when we have sort to fit in rather than being the person God created us to be
 - Prayers of Praise
 - Recognising how loving God is and what he has done for us
 - Explore the Psalms for inspiration. Some examples are: Ps 100:1-5, Ps 145:3, Ps 103: 1-22, Ps 8: 1-9.
- Reflection — St John Henry Newman’s ‘I have my mission’ — think about what God is calling you to. What are you good at? What are you passionate about? What do you enjoying doing? How can you do that to show your love for God and help others discover his love?
- There are young people around the world who don’t live as privileged lives as us. What can we do about it?

Do

- If you haven’t already commissioned your Chaplaincy Team this could be a great time to do this, [here](#) is a commissioning you could adapt:
- The Faith in Action Award is a great way to acknowledge the work done by pupils in schools. More info [here](#).
- Write an affirmation note for someone in your class/school telling them something good about them/something you like about them/something you think they are good at
- Create a welcome poster/display in your classroom, with welcoming quotations from the Bible, welcoming visitors into your classroom

- Parish Ambassadors — these are pupils who help strengthen the link between the school and the parish. Could they write a regular update for the parish newsletter?
- Youth SVP is the section of the St Vincent de Paul Society for older young people (secondary school and sixth form age) which enables them to carry out faith in action and support their local communities.
- Mini Vinnies is the children's section of the St Vincent de Paul Society that helps primary school children live out their faith in the school and the community.
- National Youth FUNday is celebrated on the Friday before National Youth Sunday and is a day celebrating our Youth Service and how we can live out our faith. Sign your school up to the activities [here](#).

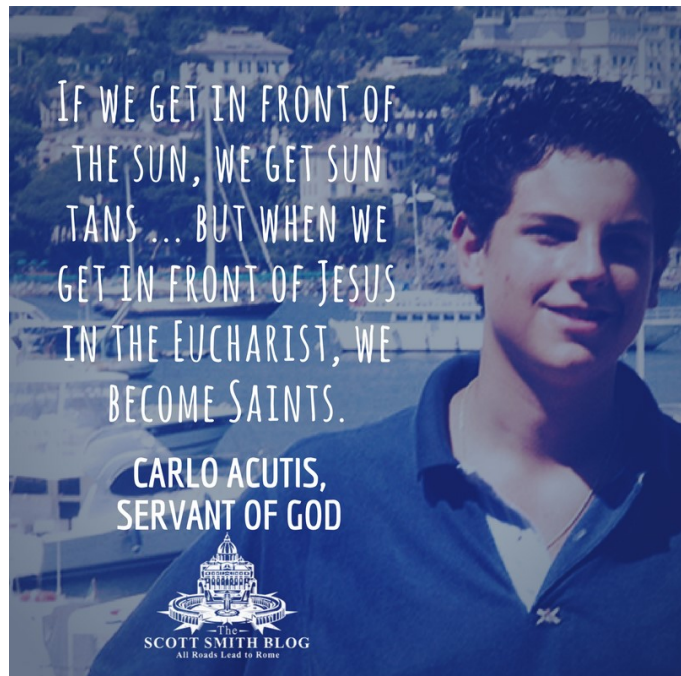
R.E.

- GCSE:
 - The Church as the Body of Christ, young people are integrable part of the Church throughout the centuries, and essential to their mission today
 - *Evangelii Gaudium* — Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelisation, Youth Ministry is seen as an important role in the Church's mission of Evangelising — paragraphs 105-109.
- Come and See — Topic 7 dealing with the Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit empowers us to fulfil the mission of the Church can be recalled; or in the summer when it comes time to study this we can point back to this.

Remember!

It can be easy to get carried away with doing things but it is important to remember that our focus on Youth is not just about praising what we do or who we are but giving every member of our school community to realise that they have been chosen by God to receive the love and friendship of Jesus Christ; and to share in his mission. So at the forefront of what we do should be the question: How will this help us/others encounter Jesus in the theme of youth?

Picture Bank





DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU

— BECAUSE YOU ARE —

YOUNG

• BUT SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE BELIEVERS •

« IN SPEECH, IN CONDUCT, »

« IN LOVE, IN FAITH, »

and IN **PURITY.**

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

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