

# **Young Adult Synod Report**

**Wednesday 18th June 2025**

1. Conversation in the Spirit was hosted in the following pastoral areas.
  - A. St Ronan's group of 15 plus – many are still meeting and have been actively involved in pastoral area and own parishes – 2 of this group are travelling to Rome as part of the Jubilee Celebration for young adults at the end of June.
  - B. St Colman's – they were the first group to meet – this was a very informative meeting where young adults reflected on and shared their own faith story – most are actively involved in their parish. One participant is travelling to Rome – (as above)
  - C. St Patrick's – 2 meetings were hosted – all but one was from the parish of Seapatricks – 2 of the participants were searching for a place of belonging for young adults to express their faith and to meet other like-minded young adults – 1 of this group is travelling to Rome.
  - D. St Bronagh – a small group of 6 to 10 gathered for 3 meetings – one of the groups is travelling to Rome and another to South Africa under the direction of the Holy Cross Sister to build school classrooms. He will be part of a larger group from Dioceses in Ireland/England travelling – August 2025.
  - E. St Brigid's have not met – they will be represented by a young person from Dromore Parish in Rome

## **2. Feedback from the Synodal Gatherings**

- That liturgies connect with young people – that the message of the homilies is delivered in a way that connects with young adults and others.
- Peer support helps nurture each other's faith
- Young people value other young people who have faith – someone they can look up to and be inspired.
- Many spoke about the importance of social media to reaching out to others or inspiring others with quotes etc.
- Others spoke about engaging with other organizations who work with young people, the GAA, local youth clubs etc – find ways to bring the Church to them. Rather than inviting the youth/young adults, families – go to them.

## **3. School Synodal process**

When the 17 themes emerged from the process with the support and help from Frs Brian and Colum and a student we visited 3 of our post primary schools and meet with approximately 60 young people. The themes that emerged from this process were as follows:

- Co- responsibility – the strong belief that all the laity, women and youth should have a role in shaping the future of the Church.
- Inclusion – as a above plus people of all cultures and communities (LGBTQ+) and others
- Formation – one young man said if the youth are to be the future they need training.
- Family was a dominant theme in one school – when asked to explain many simply said – family is everything – perhaps emphasizing the need for a ministry to our parents so that they are resourced through a lived faith to pass it on to the next generation.

***The above is just a synopsis of feedback from young people.***

**4. Young adults and young people from many of our parishes helped with the following events.**

- A. Palm Sunday- Carlo Acutis event in Dromantine** – 150 plus – they represented families with teenage children, parents, and young adults. One of our key speakers, a young adult, from our Diocese, who has recently been received into the Church shared his faith story with connections to the story of Carlo. This event was enriched by the participation of many from many of our parishes – helping with the music, prayers, sharing faith stories, providing help as first aiders, welcome teams, IT experts etc -
- B. Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April** – we had planned to Celebrate the Canonization of Carlo at the 5.30 pm Mass in Newry Cathedral – Young people had been invited, and I was confident that despite his Canonization been postponed they would still attend. We decided that we would change our focus to celebrating the life of Pope Francis.
- C. On Pentecost Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> June** – young adults gathered to attend and celebrate Pentecost at the 5.30 pm in Newry Cathedral.
- D. The Bishops Conference hosted a Young Adults event at Knock Shrine** with the theme ‘Dare to Hope’ on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. A group of 6 young adults were accompanied by Fr Colum and I. They as part of the event were interviewed and invited to respond to the following questions – what does Knock Shrine mean to you? Have you a

favorite piece of scripture and what has inspired you from the event today. The responses from our young people have been posted on Knock Shrine social media. on their faith, why they go to Knock and

*We hope that all who attended the above and other events have grown in their faith and love of Jesus – further fruits were that new people have attended. Some of them have signed up for summer programmes and feedback suggest that young people and families value liturgy that speaks to our young people.*

**5. Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage – their numbers included 3 of our young adults and one of our Parish leaders.**

**6. Going forward –**

- We have a group of 68 young people who will travel to Knock Shrine in June, July and August. Many of these young people are 18 years plus and others are 17 years plus.
- In September/October with your help I plan to gather many of them to facilitate further conversations in the spirit as a process to building up young adult faith communities in our Parishes with support from peers in their Pastoral areas and the Diocese.

I need the help of you our Parish priests – please actively look for 2 or more young adults who will represent your parish through their involvement in Parish Ministries or simply their attendance at Mass every Sunday. Please speak to them and ask permission that you forward their name and contact details to me.

**7. A date for all our diaries – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September** – we celebrate our new saints – Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati- give them a focus at your Sunday Mass – involve young people in one of your liturgies. The 5.30 pm Mass in Newry Cathedral will be planned by the young adults and encourage others to help or attend.

**8. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you our Parish Priests in your own parish.** – I am available over the Summer to meet you in your own parish. I will contact you to arrange a date, time and suitable venue.