

National Youth Sunday

22nd November 2015

Resource Guide



FOR PRIESTS, YOUTH LEADERS, AND CATECHISTS

Thank you for your work with young people and for taking the time to read this resource guide in preparation for National Youth Sunday (NYS) 2015. The resources in this pack, and online, have been created to support both your celebration of National Youth Sunday and the forthcoming Year of Mercy.

In his address to young people on Palm Sunday this year, Pope Francis focused on the Beatitude, 'Blessed are the pure in heart – for they shall see God' (Matthew 5:7). The theme for National Youth Sunday combines this Beatitude with the celebration of Christ the King as we are invited to make Jesus our '**King of Hearts**'.

It is no coincidence that the feast of Christ the King is dedicated to welcoming, involving, and empowering young Catholics throughout England and Wales. At a time in their lives when so many things demand to be 'king' of their hearts, we make the most of this feast day in our efforts to introduce them to Jesus Christ, our King.

The aim of this year's theme is to provoke thought, conversation and prayer around the question, 'who, or what, rules my heart?' in the hope it will lead people to invite Jesus to become king of their hearts.

Since each of us comes to this encounter by different paths, the 'playing cards' (available from rpbooks) introduce a suit of topics that touch our hearts.

They can be grouped into three approaches through which parishes can help young people to encounter Christ.

Heart of Welcome – A thousand words have been heard before even one is spoken. Young people are attracted to an encounter with Christ by the witness of the faithful. How can your parish express a heart of welcome, compassion and love that will attract the youth in your local area?

Heart to Heart – By creatively sharing the Good News we demonstrate how Jesus restores us, our relationship with God, with other people and with creation. How can this be explored on the feast of Christ the King?

Heart of Mercy – Often it is in giving that our hearts are opened to receive. How can young people be encouraged to take part in the many acts of mercy practised in the life of your parish?

Printed resources are available to order from Redemptorist Publications using the order form available on www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk.



Online Resources
Available to download from www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk

- Newsletter inserts
- Questions for discussion, sharing and prayer.
- Meditation.
- Examination of conscience.
- Liturgical resources.

Video Clips

- Meet our Bishop for Youth, Bishop Ralph Hesketh, who will introduce you to National Youth Sunday.
- Watch Fr David Cain's video homily on finding happiness by helping others.

Social Media

Follow us on social media to pass on:

- Bible passages.
- Video clips.
- Inspirational quotes.

Printed Resources

- King of Hearts posters.
- Playing cards.
- Homily hints.
- Universal prayers.
- Children's liturgy.

The NYS resources are not prescriptive plans, but tools that can be used in a variety of circumstances. They have been developed by the National Office for Vocation (NOV) in collaboration with the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) and are distributed in partnership with Redemptorist Publications.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

It is recommended that each prayer is proclaimed slowly and followed by a noticeable silent pause, after which the reader says the invocation that is customary for the local congregation, *e.g. Lord in your mercy R. Hear our prayer.*

Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us bring the intentions of our heart to our heavenly Father.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH – HEART OF WELCOME

Reader: We pray for the Church, that we may have a heart of welcome for all people, young and old.

[Pause]

Priest: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

PRAYER FOR SOCIETY – HEART TO HEART

Reader: We pray for the people of our country, may we have a heart of love so that Christ's kingdom will come.

[Pause]

Priest: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

PRAYER FOR THOSE IN NEED – HEART OF MERCY

Reader: We pray for those who work with vulnerable young people, may our parish community know how to support them with a heart of mercy.

[Pause]

Priest: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

PRAYER FOR THE YOUNG – KING OF HEARTS

Reader: We pray for young people, may this celebration of National Youth Sunday enable them to invite Jesus to become the king of their hearts.

[Pause]

Priest: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

[Please insert prayer for your parish here]

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH

Priest: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Priest: Hear the prayers of your faithful, O Lord, and grant that all humanity may come to joyfully anticipate your Kingdom to come.

Priest: Through Christ our Lord,

All: Amen

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

GAME: TRUE OR FALSE

Ask the children to decide whether the following statements are true or false. If they think a statement is true ask them to give you a thumbs up, if false a thumbs down.



I love ice cream.



[Name of someone the children know] support's [insert a football team].



Prince Charles will one day be King.



Everyone here can stand on their head.



Jesus wants to be King of our hearts.



Conclusion of the game: Prince Charles is the eldest son of the Queen so one day he will be the King, but Jesus is a King in a different way. Because he loves us, Jesus wants to be King of our hearts.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL

In today's story we meet Jesus at a time when being King was not easy. After his arrest, Jesus was brought to the leader of the Romans called Pilate. He wanted to find out about Jesus, so asked him an important question. Can you work out what it was?

[Read the Gospel from a child friendly text]

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL

Ask the children if they can remember what questions Pilate asked Jesus. Draw them to the question '**Are you the king?**' Remind them of Jesus' response '**I am a King**' but not the kind of King Pilate expected. Jesus does not want riches or power. Because he loves us, he wants to be king of our hearts. Finish by asking the children, '**Will you ask Jesus to be the king of your heart?**'

MOMENT OF PRAYER

Ask the children to close their eyes and think of King Jesus. Ask them to imagine what he looks like. He wants to help them to hear and follow the truth. If they want to, they can invite him to be the King of their hearts. Either lead the following prayer or invite them to repeat it after you section by section.

Dear Jesus,
Please come into my heart today.
I love you and need help to listen to your voice.
Amen



ACTIVITY – KING OF HEARTS

Here is an image of Jesus the King of Hearts. Ask the children if he looks like the Jesus they imagined in their prayer. Invite them to draw their image of Jesus on a blank card so they can remember what he looks like.