

In partnership with parish, school and home, the Diocesan Youth Service will promote and support school and parish/deanery based mission and retreat programmes delivered locally for and with young people.

The Youth Service will continue to encourage the participation of our young people in the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and at World Youth Day; it will also focus on how these events are followed-up and how contact is maintained with the young people who have taken part in them.

Working with schools, sixth form college and parishes, the Youth Service will identify and co-ordinate opportunities for our young people to understand how their faith can make a real difference for the good in the world around them and to use their personal interests, skills and talents in the service of Christ and His Church.

More information on the strategy for the future provision of Youth Services within the diocese is given in Appendix B to this Pastoral Letter. Copies of this letter and its two appendices will be available on the diocesan website.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I commend these changes to you. Ahead there will be challenges but also great opportunities. Together let us do all we can to serve the children and young people in our diocese and to proclaim our faith in Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to those around us.

Please pray for all our Catholic schools, for our teachers and parish catechists, and for me your bishop.

Assuring you of my prayers and every blessing, I remain

Your servant in the Lord

+ *Marcus*

* Marcus Stock
Bishop of Leeds

Given at Leeds on the 19th September 2016 and appointed to be read in all Churches and Chapels of the Diocese on the 24th and 25th September 2016.