

## Information and Updates from the BCYS – 28th October 2020

Dear Parish Priests, Catechists, Chaplains ... friends!

I am so pleased to be able to let you know that I am back from maternity leave, although I can hardly believe it's been 9 months already!

Despite a particularly difficult year, I do hope you are all well and do so look forward to working with and seeing you all again very soon.

As a youth service we are striving to continue to provide as much as we possibly can for our young people and all those who work with them, although the majority of this will continue to be online for the foreseeable future. Many of you may have tuned in to our live streamed Masses, Youth Masses, joined us for "Lourdes in your Living Room", been introduced to our new Walsingham House team and so much more via our Social Media and YouTube channel. Much of this is still available on there – simply search for @brentwoodcys.

Coming up, we have so much more to offer you!

**All details can be found on our website [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events)** and we will be regularly updating our Instagram, Facebook and Twitter (@brentwoodcys) so please keep an eye on those for information!

Please do also share this email with your First Holy Communion and Confirmation catechists; we have direct emails for some of them, but not for everyone, and there are a lot of resources here to support their work. If you are receiving this as a lead catechist, do share it with your team of catechists. Thank you.

**I'd just like to draw your attention to a few dates in particular;**

### **Catechist Training and Resources Day, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

For several years we have held Training and Resources days for Catechists at Sacred Heart school in Upminster. This year we will be online, and we encourage you, if possible, to arrange a Zoom call, or – at a safe distance – gather with catechists you work with in the parish, to watch and share ideas together. As it is on YouTube you can, of course, adjust the timings/date to suit you – it will all remain on the BCYS YouTube channel after the day, and the direct link will be posted online a few days before 7th November.

The day will include prayer with the Walsingham House team, a keynote speech from David Wells, fresh reflections and ideas for catechists from Fr Dominic, inspired by the new Directory for Catechesis, and a showcase of fabulous resources from a number of groups and organisations. Read more here; <https://bcys.net/events/catechistsday/>

## **BCYS Voices Launch, THIS Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Normally on this weekend we would have “Youth Gather” – but as we cannot gather, on 24th October we are launching “BCYS Voices” with an Instagram morning prayer led by Harry and Georgia from the chapel at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. You’ll find this on the @BrentwoodCYS Instagram and YouTube at 10am.

Our Catholic faith has much to offer when we consider the key issues of the moment – and we are fortunate to have some wonderful speakers who were once young people within the BCYS, now immersed in these issues. They will present a series of “**BCYS Voices**” to bring their experience and insight to help us to see where we can “dare to dream” as we apply our faith to the way we live our lives in 2020 and 2021.

The first BCYS voices features Fr Paschal Uche, reflecting on the pain and problem of racism, and how we all have the potential to overcome it, as part of living our faith. Each new episode of “BCYS voices” (of approximately 45 minutes, including time for you to reflect about what is being said) will go live on YouTube on the first Saturday of every month, beginning with Fr Paschal on 7th November, and continuing through until next March.

## **National Youth Sunday, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

Celebrated on the Feast of Christ the King, National Youth Sunday 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.

National Youth Sunday calls all young people to think about what following Jesus means to them.

We’ve just celebrated the beatification of Blessed Carlo Acutis – an incredible example to us all about how we can use the skills and resources we’ve got to bring people together and bring people to Christ.

This year the theme 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. There are many resources available at [www.nationalyouthsunday.com](http://www.nationalyouthsunday.com)

We would normally be asking young volunteers from around the Diocese to come and speak in parishes about the youth service, our work and their own experiences. That is not possible this year, so **for the week prior to National Youth Sunday we will release a short video each day, with young people, young leaders, parents and catechists answering the question “What does the BCYS mean to me”**, followed by a longer video for National Youth Sunday weekend. We will send the direct

links for this in the next couple of weeks, to give you time to share them. This will be accessible on our website and social media accounts (search @brentwoodcys), but we will also be happy to send this directly to anyone who can make use of this resource. We would also ask anyone to wishes to make a donation to do so on our website at [www.bcys.net/donate](http://www.bcys.net/donate)

### **Monthly Youth Mass**

These will, for the time being, continue to be streamed on Instagram live on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm. The next is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, and it is a memorial Mass for young people who have died. There are more details on [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events)

I hope this gives you a plenty to look into and share with your young people and those within your parish who work with them.

For those now able to go ahead with any delayed Confirmation and First Holy Communion programmes, I do hope everyone has a blessed celebration and as always thank you for everything you do and continue to do during this year.

Kind Regards

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