



The Light – November 2025

Welcome to The Light, our first youth ministry newsletter.



The Light takes its name from Matthew 5:14 — ‘you are the light of the world’ — reminding us that young people are called to shine Christ’s light in their communities.

In our first edition we share news on the appointment of the Youth Council, recent events, appointment of our Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator, and good news stories from around the diocese.

Fr Joy D’Souza OCD, Diocesan Youth Director



Youth Council Appointment

Bishop Greg Homeming OCD has re-established the Diocesan Youth Council as part of the Diocese of Lismore's ongoing Renewal Journey, reaffirming the Church's commitment to listening to, accompanying, and empowering young people on their faith journeys.



Welcome Zac

Zac Parnell will begin as Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator next month, bringing energy and extensive experience in youth and young adult ministry. He has served in roles with St Agnes Parish, Evangelisation Brisbane, NET Ministries, and the Catholic Schools Office, and is a graduate of St Joseph's Regional College. Zac holds a Bachelor of Theology from ACU, and was awarded the Executive Dean's Award for Academic Excellence. Based in Port Macquarie, Zac will work with parishes, clergy, schools, and Church agencies to support and lead youth ministry across the diocese.

Ignite Conference



Coffs Harbour Parish Youth Coordinator, Christa Morrow reflects on this year's conference theme 'The Light'. It was a wonderful way to gain energy and inspiration as we head towards the end of the year. Taking a group from the parish and joining with the diocesan contingent provided an incredible opportunity for our youth and young adults to connect with other young people of faith from across the diocese.

One of the highlights was hearing Fr Rob Galea speak about the Church as the Bride of Christ, a message that deeply resonated with many. The young people who attended returned home with a renewed appreciation for the beauty, diversity, and richness of the Catholic Church, encountering so many different religious orders and charisms all united under one faith. We are truly grateful to the Diocese for their support in making this experience possible and helping us make the journey all the way to Brisbane.

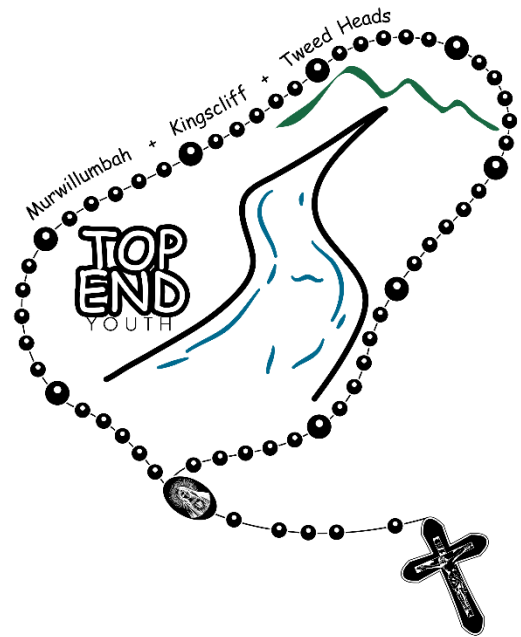


Young Adult (YA) Festival

Plans are well underway for YA Festival, which will take place in Murwillumbah from the 12-15 of December. We are excited to be supporting young people financially to attend this event, which offers a distinct approach to encounter, right here in our own diocese! Registrations are open via the Microsoft Form <https://forms.office.com/r/xUdVB6YxRj>

Top End Youth

Top End Youth is a new collaborative ministry between the Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, and Kingscliff Parishes, created to help young people grow in faith, build friendships, and encounter Christ in a meaningful way. Our first youth night in mid-October was a fantastic start! Young people from across the region came together for an evening of fun, prayer, and connection — setting the tone for many more to come. It's exciting to see how God is moving in the hearts of our youth. We're looking forward to what's ahead and invite you to follow our journey on Instagram: **@topendyouth**



Teens journey in the faith

It's been a joyful season across our parishes as five teens in Ballina and nine in Port Macquarie completed their Sacraments of Initiation after participating in the *Journey to the Catholic Faith for Teens* program. Over 10 sessions, these young people explored the foundations of our faith — learning about the sacraments, saints, Scripture, and what it means to follow Jesus today. The sessions were filled with honest conversations, big questions, and plenty of shared laughter — and snacks! Their journey culminated in a beautiful celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion, surrounded by family, friends, and a supportive parish community. Each teen made a courageous and heartfelt commitment to a life of faith. We're incredibly proud of them all. Their openness, curiosity, and enthusiasm have inspired us all. Please keep these young Catholics in your prayers as they continue walking with Christ.

