



Plymouth Diocese 2021
Catechetical Summer Camps

NEWSLETTER MAY 2021

Welcome to our newsletter, giving you some information about what has been happening in the world of the Summer Camps since the country went into lockdown.

We have face the restrictions faced by everyone with regards to social distancing, hand gel and face protection.

Since the first lockdown in March 2020, the committee has faced the challenge of reaching out to the young people of the Plymouth Diocese and offering something which allowed them to maintain contact with the camps and to meet - albeit via technology - with other young people, in order to build their relationship with the living Christ and share the Gospel message.

Introduction:

The Plymouth Diocese Catechetical Summer Camps for young people were started in 1952, managed at that time, by the Catholic Women's League, giving young people in the diocese of Plymouth the opportunity to come together for a week of fun and fellowship, a chance to meet young people and learn to grow with their faith.

The camps originally took place in schools across the diocese, making them accessible to all young people.

The control of the camps passed from the Catholic Women's League, to a committee of enthusiastic members of the diocese, who kept the Camps growing, based at Grangehurst House, supported by the hospitality of the Benedictine community of Buckfast Abbey.

The aims of the Camps continue to provide all young Catholics of the Diocese of Plymouth, with an opportunity to learn more about their faith within a holiday atmosphere, living as part of God's family, with the support of clergy and parishioners from throughout the diocese.

Over the years, the camps have developed into three age tiers: Junior, Senior and, laterly, St Petroc's.

The last Camps took place during the Summer of 2019

and then the Covid-19 pandemic struck and

2020, the year of the virtual Summer Camps...

Last year it was not possible to have the usual camps, and after some careful planning, the Camps' went online, using a variety of media for the week's activities.

The Junior camp took place over a week, with morning prayers shared over YouTube and the young people being given activities to do during the day, sharing the results electronically and having a closing evening prayer.

The St Petroc's Camp went one step further by using Zoom video conferencing to share liturgy and discussion, and finally coming together for a socially-distanced day at St Rita's Centre in Honiton.

And so to.....

The pandemic has not just gone away, but equally, the country is opening up, with the possibility that by July there will be little restrictions in place, and so the Camp Committee is anxious to build on the "Virtual Camps" for last year, offering the young people of the diocese an opportunity to come together to share and grow in their faith.

This year, the plan for the Camps is that each of the three Camps will take place during the week from 9th August to 13th August, and each Camp will run in its own way:

Junior Camp for School Years 3-6 - 9-13 August online with activities in the morning and evening, with the group coming together on Friday 13th at St Rita's Centre, Honiton.

Email: juniorcamp@prcdtr.org.uk

Senior Camp for School Years 7-10 - 9-13 August online with meetings in the morning and afternoon, as a short taster, **with a live 4-day actual camp at Buckfast in October half term**. Details for the residential Camp will be advertised shortly.

Email: seniorcamp@prcdtr.org.uk

St Petroc's Camp for School Years 11 and 12 - 9-13 August will have a **Live** Camp at St Rita's Centre, Honiton

Email: stpetrocscamp@prcdtr.org.uk

PDSUMMERCAMPS Website

If you have been searching for the PDSUMMERCAMPS website recently, you may have discovered that it is not available. A decision was made to incorporate the Summercamps Website and information in to a portion of the Plymouth Diocese website. Information on the camps can be found at: <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/summer-camps/> . As yet, the information is in need of updating.

Advertising is available on the Plymouth Diocese website and through social media, Facebook and instagram. In the first instance, young people and their parents can make enquiries and register their interest through the appropriate email addresses, where electronic application forms and further details will be available.

Payment of Fees for last year

Several families had already submitted application forms for last year's camps before the camps were cancelled. In most cases they were happy to allow the fees to be held over until the next residential Camp for their age group. Should anyone wish to apply for a refund of their fees, please contact Susanne Kowal (susanne.kowal@gmail.com), who can arrange a refund.

The Senior Camp team are planning to hold a shortened Camp during the Autumn Half-Term in October, building on the theme from our Summer Activity. The hope is that we will be able to return to Buckfast Abbey for this Camp.

We look forward to welcoming young people to all of our Camps this year, so that they can come together in faith with other like-minded youngsters.

Rev'd Deacon Michael Turnbull
Chair, Plymouth Diocese Catechetical Camps Committee

Email: michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk



Reflect Enrich Build

Junior Camp

ONLINE

9-13

Aug.2021

Diocese of
Plymouth
Summercamp

To
join
in
ONLINE
Contact:
juniorcamp@prcdtr.org.uk



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Encounter

St Joseph

9-13 August

Online

To join

in contact:

seniorcamp@prcdtr.org.uk

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2021

REFLECT
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**ST.
PETROC'S
SUMMERCAMP**

9-13 August

Diocese of
Plymouth

@St. Rita's, Honiton



To join
Email:

stpetrocscamp@prcdtr.org.uk