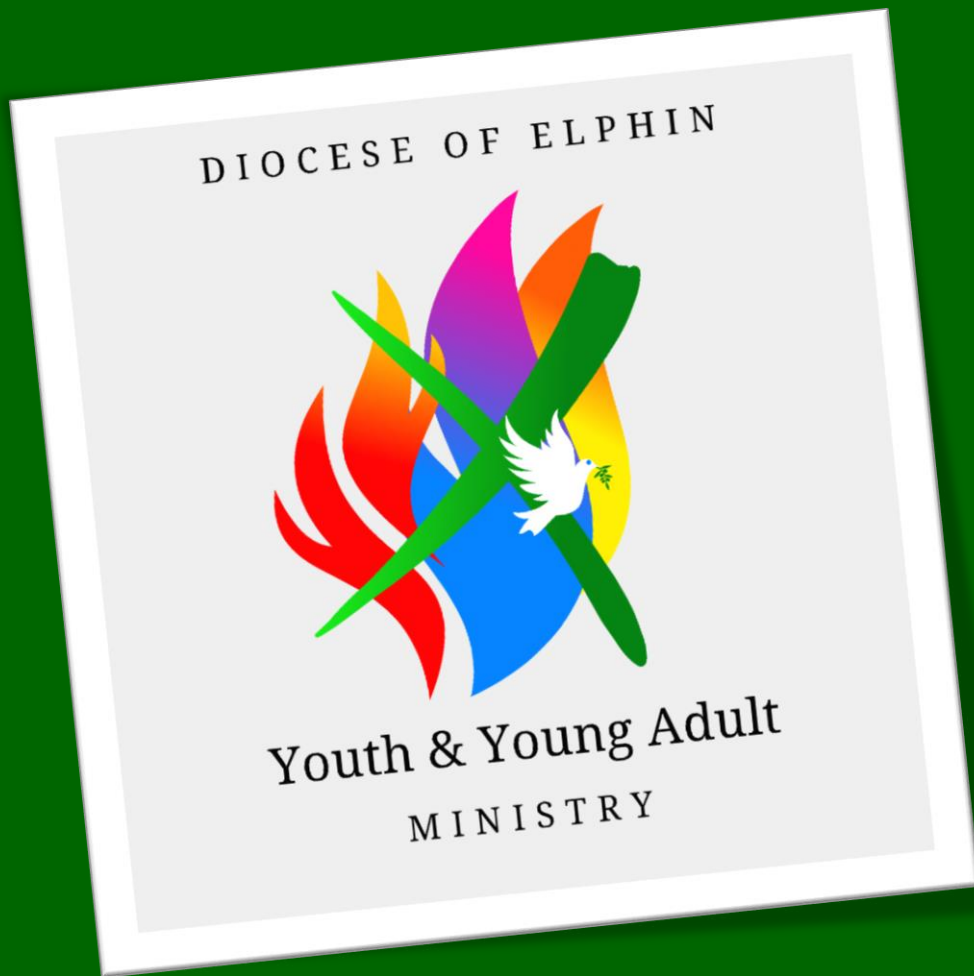


PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

January 2020 – December 2021



“Let us encourage the generosity which is typical of the young and help them to work actively in building a better world. Young people are a powerful engine for the Church and for society”

- Pope Francis



What's A Parish Youth Minister? The Diocese of Elphin, through its diocesan office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, is offering an opportunity for Parishes to have trained volunteers who will support their priest in building a vibrant and engaging youth and young adult ministry programme. While there are many faith based initiatives, programmes and events available for young people, very often it is difficult to get young people to engage unless they are personally invited by someone whom they know and trust at local level. Youth and Young Adult Ministry is all about building positive, supportive, balanced and healthy relationships with young people while encouraging them to continue to explore and develop their faith. To achieve this the Diocese needs people of faith who have a heart for young people, are willing to work as part of a dynamic and creative team, in union with priests, deacons, catechists, parish pastoral councils and others, and are willing to undertake some training in order to be in a position to offer local support, encouragement, guidance and leadership to young people who are interested in engaging with their faith.

Course Accreditation? Those who complete the course will be awarded a Certificate in Youth Ministry from St. Mary's College, Queens University, Belfast.

Who Will Deliver The Course? The course will be led by Fr. Michael Kelleher CSsR and his team in conjunction with Elphin Youth & Young Adult Ministry & Knock Youth Ministry

Where Will The Course Take Place: The course will take place in Knock Shrine.

Course Content & Structure? The course will be run over 9 weekends (Saturdays & Sundays) between January 2020 and December 2021. The dates and topics covered are outlined below:

Weekend 1: 11th & 12th January 2020 -	Topic: The Principles of Youth Ministry
Weekend 2: 16th & 17th May 2020 -	Topic: Foundations of Ministry Leadership
Weekend 3: 19th & 20th September 2020 -	Topic: Skills for Christian Leadership
Weekend 4: 28th & 29th November 2020 -	Topic: Practices for Youth Ministry
Weekend 5: 9th & 10th January 2021 -	Topic: Evangelisation & Catechesis
Weekend 6: 17th & 18th April 2021 -	Topic: Prayer & Worship
Weekend 7: 11th & 12th September 2021-	Topic: Justice & Service
Weekend 8: 23rd & 24th October 2021-	Topic: Pastoral Care
Weekend 9: 27th & 28th November 2021-	Topic: Final Orientation

The course equips participants with knowledge, skills, practical tools and techniques needed for creative and comprehensive ministry with youth in parishes and other settings. It nurtures the personal, spiritual, theological and ministerial growth of leaders for ministry and develops confidence, competence and credibility for effective youth ministry.

** Safeguarding Training will also be provided early on in the programme.

What Are The Entrance Requirements For Anyone Who Is Interested?

First of all and most importantly the person should be interested in getting a deeper understanding of their Christian faith, have a heart for young people and be willing to share their faith and knowledge with them at local level.

Secondly because of the collaborative nature of the role the following will also be required. The applicant:

- Should be nominated or approved by their Parish Priest and will be interviewed for suitability by a panel comprised of Diocesan/Parish Personnel.
- Should be a Baptised practicing Catholic and be a person of faith with an enthusiasm for handing on the faith to youth and young adults.
- Should be living and settled in the parish and available to help out during the week and weekends if and when required by agreement.
- Will agree to volunteer for a minimum of 3 years subsequent to finishing training.
- Should be at least 21 Years of age but applications will be processed on a case by case basis.
- Should be able to engage with the course material, participate in class, open to learning and upskilling and willing to collaborate with their parish priest and other volunteers at local level in the area of youth ministry.

How Much Will The Course Cost? For successful applicants, all costs will be borne by their nominating Parish or Parishes as the case may be. The cost of the course to the parish or parishes for each successful applicant will be €1,800. This fee will include all associated costs (Venue, Accreditation Fee, Administration, Materials, Resources, Food and Accommodation, etc.). Participants on the course will however be required to travel to and from the course venue(s) at their own expense.

How Long Will I Need To Commit To The Role After I Complete The Course? Given the investment by the parish, each participant who successfully completes the course should be willing to volunteer in the role for a minimum of three years subsequent to its completion. The amount of time each volunteer is required to give will be agreed between him/her and his/her parish priest, taking into consideration personal circumstances, family, work, and other commitments they may have. Given that this is a voluntary role the volunteer will be able to negotiate what level of commitment they can give. However the volunteer should bring a spirit of generosity to the role and only consider taking on the training if they are in a position to give a minimum of 2 hours a week on average to the role.

Will The Parish Youth Minister Get Paid? The role is a voluntary one where the person commits initially for three years to giving two hours a week to organising and delivering various youth ministry programmes. A parish may however decide to pay any personal expenses incurred by the youth ministry through their role but this will be discretionary on its part.

Can A Cluster Of Parishes Work Together In Appointing Parish Youth Ministers? Ideally there should be a minimum of one/two people from each parish. However for practical and financial reasons parishes may wish to join together in nominating a number of applicants who would then, if they successfully complete the course, act as Parish Youth Ministers for that group/cluster of parishes. Parishes in each cluster area are encouraged to consult on this.

What Is The Deadline for Applications? The final date for receipt of applications is the 20th December 2019. This is to allow the Diocese to process the applications, set up interviews with applicants and begin the practical steps involved in running the course.

How Do I Apply For The Course? Those who are interested should complete the application form overleaf, filling in all pertinent details including the contact details of two referees (one of whom must be your Parish Priest). The completed application form should be signed and dated by the applicant and their Parish Priest and sent to the following address: Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Elphin, St. Mary's, Temple Street, Sligo, F91 KTX2.

More Information? If you would like to find out more or chat it over please contact: Frank McGuinness by telephone: 087 9880690 or by email: frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie



APPLICATION FORM

Parish Youth Ministry Leadership Training Course

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Relevant voluntary or youth work/ministry experience:

Why do you want to do this course?

Please provide the names and contact details of two people (one of whom must be your Parish Priest) whom we could contact for a reference.

(1) Name:

Address:

Phone:

(2) Name:

Address:

Contact No:

Signed Applicant:

Date:

Signed Parish Priest:

Date:

Complete Application Form and Return to Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry,
St. Mary's, Temple, Sligo, F91 KTX2, no later than the 20th December 2019

All personal details will be stored in accordance with GDPR legislation and best practice guidance