**Liturgy Resource for Youth Week - April 20th to April 26th, 2024**

**Theme for Youth Week: Hope Alive!**

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*This resource includes suggestions to help in the preparation for Youth Mass in your parish. Please feel free to modify as necessary.*

**Sacred Space for Youth Week** Prepare a simple sacred space for Youth Week. If there is already an Easter sacred space in your church, add symbols that are relevant to young people to this space. See suggestions below.

* Place a nice cloth/material in front of altar or at your Easter sacred space as a base.
* Place symbols relevant to young people on the cloth/material – this could be done at the entrance procession.
* A young person can read the following words of introduction to the symbols (you may like to add additional symbols relevant to your area.):
* X brings forth a football/hurling jersey, symbolising the strong sporting tradition in our parish.
* X brings forth a mobile phone, symbolising the strong networks of connection and friendship between our young people.
* X brings forth a musical instrument, symbolising the love young people have for music and the arts.
* X brings forth a globe, symbolising the care our young people have for our environment and for creation. *Please feel free to add or change symbols.*

**Music for Youth Mass**

Music should be uplifting and reflect the Easter season and the mission of our young people. Where possible, maybe young people could prepare the music and take part in it. See diocesan website for links and further suggestions for music. See Diocesan Hymnal Canaímis for further suggestions also. I have suggestions a few hymns below.

***Celebration of Mass***

**Suggestions for Opening Hymns**

* God’s Spirit is in my Heart – Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VTQvYG-bl4) to listen
* Come, O Come and fill this Temple - Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VTQvYG-bl4) to listen
* Come, now is the time to worship - Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usBFdIbGZvk) to listen

**Opening Procession** As suggested above, involve young people in the opening procession. They can carry symbols relevant to their own lives; sporting items, symbols relevant to music, art, mobile phones. These items can be placed at a sacred space. Involve the altar servers in carrying the cross and candles.

**Suggested Words of Introduction after Opening Blessing** Throughout the Diocese of Kerry this week we celebrate our young people, we celebrate their gifts, their talents, we celebrate what they bring to our faith communities. We also celebrate the fourth Sunday of Easter, a time of great joy and hope in the Church. Indeed, young people bring great joy and hope to everything so to celebrate them in the midst of the Easter season is appropriate. The theme for Youth week echoes that of our Diocesan Mission last January; Hope Alive! At the United Nations International Youth Day last August, Pope Francis urged young people to ‘dream big and promote a culture of care,’ he also calls on our young people to ‘shine, to listen, and to be unafraid.’ In a divided and broken world, we must acknowledge that young people can bring hope, promote a culture of care, dream big and be unafraid, anything is possible.

**Scripture Readings** Use the reading for the Day – Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter. As a psalm, the choir/cantor could sing an alleluia refrain and the verses of the day. The same alleluia can be repeated for the Gospel Acclamation.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

***Presider:*** *With Easter faith, hope and joy, we place our needs before God.*

1. (Young Person) As we celebrate youth week, let us pray for young people all over our diocese and all over the world. Lord, may your Spirit nourish the dreams and aspirations of young people, may we be seekers of peace and may we have our hearts set on building a world where justice reigns. Lord hear us.
2. (Adult) We pray for the joy and hope that Easter brings, may the joy of the resurrection touch the hearts of all people. Lord hear us.
3. (Young Person) We pray for young people who have lost hope, who see no future in today's world. May they perceive in their hearts the force of your love for them and your confidence in them. Lord hear us.
4. (Adult)We pray for students preparing for state examinations. May God grant them wisdom, understanding and the courage to know that all will be well. Lord hear us.
5. (Young Person) We pray for our families, may they continue to support and inspire us in all our endeavours through life. Lord hear us.
6. (Adult) We pray for the young people of Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, may God protect them from harm and give them the strength to endure. Lord hear us.

***Presider:*** O God, you so loved the world that you sent your only Son for our salvation. Raise us up with Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

**Preparation of The Gifts (Offertory)**

* Invite two young people to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine. Invite two other young people to precede them carrying candles which are then placed on the altar.
* **Music for Offertory:** Be Still for the Presence of the Lord - Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U) to listen OR suitable instrumental music.

**Eucharistic Prayer – Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs IV**

**Singing of Eucharistic Acclamations:** If the Eucharistic acclamations are to be sung Liam Lawton’s Mass of Glendalough is very uplifting and suitable for youth choirs

**Communion Rite - Communion Hymn**s:

* I am the Bread of Life – Susanne Toolan - Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX4uC3a7RC8) to listen
* Taste and See – Tom Kendzia - Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNX4faS-0E4) to listen

**Post-Communion Reflection -** *Dare to Dream by Julie Anne Forde*

Let nothing hold you back from exploring your wildest fantasies, wishes and aspirations. Don’t be afraid to dream big and to follow your dreams wherever they may lead you. Open your eyes to their beauty; open your mind to their magic; open your heart to their possibilities. Dare to dream. Whether they are in colour or in black and white, whether they are big or small, easily attainable or almost impossible, look to your dream and make them become reality. Wishes and hopes are nothing until you take the first step toward making them something! Dare to dream, because only by dreaming will you ever discover who you are, what you want, and what you can do. Don’t be afraid to take risks to become involved, don’t be afraid to make a commitment. Do whatever it takes to make your dreams come true. Always believe in miracles, and always believe in you!

**Suggestions for Recessional Hymns**

* Go Out – Diocesan Mission Hymn - Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=id5bMHzxqf8) to listen
* Jesus Christ, you are my Life - Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeCNprVmgBQ) to listen