

Event Resources for Parents & Youth



Here are a few ideas when thinking about linking in parents/guardians with your youth programme. Feel free to contact Christina using the details below for any more information regarding any of these ideas.

1. Parent and Young Person Dinner Date

Why not invite your parents of young people to book in for one night and have quality time with their teen. You could divide it up and do Mother & Son or Father & Daughter nights, or have everyone together. The idea is that the parent and one young person book in to have dinner together, they are served a meal and have the opportunity for quality time. There is some information below about how you could prepare for this event resource & a place mat with suggested conversation ideas.

2. Have a Birthday Service or Parents Night

Run your normal youth program but invite all the parents/guardians along to join in. You get them to play the games, take part in quizzes or competitions and share in the discussions. This allows the parents to have a real experience of what the group is about but also for the young people to see their parents enjoying themselves! Alternatively you might want to invite the whole parish along! If you run this as a Birthday service you can choose one day each year as your group's 'Birthday', invite everyone along and have cake!

3. Organise Guys Night & Girls Night

Invite your young people to come along to one of these nights along with their mum or dad or family. There is a list of suggested for these events that could be organised in partnership with parents of teens below.

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4. Mystery Trip

Get your parents and teens to join up into 2 big teams, recommend keeping families together to ensure the shared experience. Each team will have a different destination and treat planned but where they are going is a mystery! Both teams could meet at your parish and giving them a series of clues or directions to ensure they get to their mystery destination. Once there, they must carry out a task to get their treat. For example you might have one team do a human pyramid so they all get an ice cream from the local cafe! This event is less about the destination as it is about the getting there! In a small area, you could do it as a walking trip or in a couple of cars.

5. Training or Awareness Evening

If you come across a pertinent issue in your youth, whether it be about a relevant issue or something your group is struggling with, why not put on a training evening. You can have your youth in one space, and invite your young people's parents to meet in another room in your parish. The Diocesan Development Team would be happy to help in facilitating this or directing towards helpful organisations to deliver training.

Ideas for Guys & Girls Event



Guys Night

- Survival Skills Night: you could get a tutor to come and teach your men and teen guys some skills and then challenge them to camp out overnight.
- Football, Fifa and Fajitas: Why not play some football in real life and online then eat some mexican food together!
- Bowls: Get the older men in your parish to teach the teens & dads how to play bowls. Have some inter-generational chats and finish the night with pizza.
- BBQ skills: Why not bring in an expert on BBQ-ing and cook up some treats for the guys?
- Treasure Hunt: How about organising a competitive treasure hunt for the teens and dads to partner up and see who can find the treasure first?

Girls Night

- Bake Off: why not do mums verses girls and see who can create the most beautiful cake during an evening.
- Ice Cream Drains: you can buy half round gutter pipes and use them to fill up your ice cream delights.
- Learn a Skill: why not invite talented ladies in your parish to share their skills with your teen ladies eg. teaching them how to knit, sew or paint.
- Slumber Party: everyone comes in comfy clothes, have hot chocolate, watch a silly film and have stations for hair & make up. Such a treat!
- Ethical Brands Show & Tell: why not gather a few ideas on ethical brands for the ladies to look through and information about how to make choices around what they buy.

Event Resource for Dinner Date



The purpose of this event is to treat your families with young people. Often life can be busy and your parish can give them a treat evening to give parents set aside time with their young people.

1. Set a date! You need to plan far enough in advance for your families to book it in their calendars!
2. Decide how many parents & teens you are going to cater for. Do you need to put different time slots or can you host everyone in one session?
3. Organise a location: do you want to hire/book out a local restaurant or cafe, or do you have a nice room in your parish which you could decorate. Consider your budget and whether you want the event to be free or for a cost.
4. Organise your food: how much do you need, how many courses, how will you provide for allergies or intolerances.
5. Advertise and get your parents to book in!
6. Gather your team to carry out the event. You want to ensure everyone has a job for the evening, including: welcomers, photographer, catering, servers. Encourage your team to get dressed up to make a big deal of the event & that they are there to facilitate. This might be your youth leaders or other members of your parish.
7. Small touches matter! Think about the layout of your room, how are you going to decorate each table, will you give a gift to each young person.
8. Below is a suggested list of questions to help conversation between your parent & young person, you might want to change these or offer different questions.

Who do you most admire as a leader?

What has been your favourite trip we have taken?

Which celebrity would you most want to have dinner with?

If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where would you go?

What is the best compliment you have ever been given?

If you could write to yourself 3 years ago, what advice would you share?

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

If you were writing a book, what would it be about?

What is the best gift you have given?

What is your favourite thing about our family?

What would you like to learn to cook?

Do you miss anything from your childhood?

Funniest YouTube video you have seen recently?

If we had £100 to spend on a day out, where would we go?

What is cool now?

What do you wish was different about your life?

How can I help when you feel sad/angry/ashamed?

What helps you cope?

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS TO ASK

What was your childhood like?

How would your parents have described you?

What happy moment will you cherish forever?

Name a song which reminds you of being a teenager and why?

What have you always wanted to tell me, but haven't had the courage to?

What mistake have you made, that you would like to prevent me making?

Best trip of your life?

What were you like when you were my age?

What family tradition do you value the most?

When did you first fall in love?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNG PERSON TO ASK