

# ***Plymouth Diocese Catechetical Camps 2022***

***It's not only Queen Elizabeth II celebrating 70 years this  
year.....***

The Plymouth Diocese Catechetical Summer Camps had their first "Summer Camp" in 1952, as a young Princess Elizabeth came to the throne. At that time the camps were organised and managed by the Catholic Womens League, and had the aim of providing young people, particularly those without access to Catholic schools, access to instruction in the Catholic Faith in a fun and enjoyable environment, living, playing, learning and praying together with young people of a similar age, building that personal relationship we have with Christ Jesus.

The original plan for the camps involved camps in a wide range of schools and parish centres across the diocese, with the C.W.L. organising volunteer helpers, catechists, cooks, and clergy to provide the campers with a safe, comfortable space in which to share their faith, and to give them a summer holiday which would be memorable for them.

In the 2006 responsibility for the Camps passed from the C.W.L. to the Diocese of Plymouth, under the control of a committee of volunteers, giving freely of their time and energy, which I have the privilege to chair. With a very kind invitation from Abbot David at Buckfast Abbey, we have been able to run the camps during a two week period over the Summer holidays, with separate camps for the Juniors (school year 3-6), Seniors (school year 7-10), and more recently St. Petroc's (School years 11-12). These have run with accommodation based at Grangehurst and the other small houses available at Buckfast Abbey. It has been a joy to share our Camp experience with the community at Buckfast on a year-by-year basis.

The past two years of Covid have been challenging for our Camp experience.

In 2020, the Junior Camp functioned on-line with Morning and Evening prayer and activities for the Campers during the day at home, St Petrocs also had online sessions, but interactive, and enjoyed one day when they came together, suitably distanced, for a final Mass.

In 2021, with the theme of the Year of St Joseph, St Petoc's met for a face-to-face Camp, based at St Rita's Centre in Honiton, and the Senior Camp went online for a week of Morning and evening prayer and activities, followed up by a face-to-face short camp during the Autumn half-term in October.

This year our intention is to return the Camps to the pre-Covid format, meeting at Grangehurst, at Buckfast Abbey, for the Junior and Senior Camps, and St Rita's in Honiton for the St Petroc's Camp.

**Junior Camp** 7th August. - 12th August (Grangehurst) (School Years 3-6)  
**Senior Camp** 31<sup>st</sup>July. - 5th August (Grangehurst) (School years 7 -10)  
**St Petroc's Camp** 31<sup>st</sup>July. - 5th August (St Rita's, Honiton) (School years 11-12)

**Camp fee: £210**

**HOWEVER....** We are in need of some help in order to ensure that the Camps continue to provide this faith-nurturing and enriching experience for the young people of the Diocese of Plymouth.

We are always pleased to welcome people, young adult right up to any age, to help on the Camps. This will involve completing an application form and a DBS check, as would happen in the parish environment if you work with young people. Safeguarding training is also provided.

In addition to the Camp helpers, we have **THREE** vital roles for the Catechetical Camps Committee.

### **1. TREASURER**

To manage the finances of the Camp Committee, involving the overseeing the collection of fees for the Camps, paying for food and services; budgetting for the camps.

### **2. ADMINISTRATOR**

To provide a single point of contact with the parents/guardians of the young people applying for camp; to liaise with the Camp Leaders.

### **3. CATECHIST (particularly for the Junior Camp)**

To take the theme for the Camp and provide materials for use during the Camp, appropriate to the age group; to assist other helpers in delivery of the faith material.

This latter role is very important, particularly this year as we come back to face-to-face camps.

In addition to these roles we welcome people as:

## **CAMP HELPERS**

We are always in need of people (aged 18 +) who wish to share their faith by helping with the Camps. If you are able to offer us a week of your time to assist in the day to day running of the Camps, please get in touch to discuss how you might help. All our helpers have to be recruited as volunteers and undergo D.B.S. checks through their parishes.

Please help the Camps by ensuring that they are advertised in your parishes. There will be advertising materials available from parish priests after Easter but bookings can now be made using the Online Booking Form located through this QR Code.



Please distribute this material through your parish newsletters, share it through your Catholic schools, and help us to give the young people of the diocese an experience this Summer which will be memorable, enjoyable and Faith-filled

With blessings,

**Mike**

*Deacon Michael Turnbull  
Chair, Plymouth Diocese Catechetical Camps Committee*

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