

FAITH IN ACTION: BCYS TRAINING DAY UNITES DIOCESE IN HOPE

SHARED MISSION INSPIRES COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND COLLABORATION



Talks being given to those in attendance

The Catechist Training and Resources Day, hosted by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS) on Saturday, 9th November 2024, brought together a vibrant gathering of catechists, youth leaders, and young people from across the Diocese for a day of learning, fellowship, and inspiration. Held at 10:00 am, the event was a resounding success, embodying the themes of faith, community, and the shared mission to uplift and transform lives.

Claire Bailey, Director of Youth Ministry for the Brentwood Diocese, warmly welcomed attendees, setting a tone of enthusiasm and gratitude. Her opening address highlighted the invaluable contributions of catechists and youth leaders, encouraging all present to see the day as an opportunity not just to learn but to connect and collaborate. The dedication and energy in the room were palpable, reflecting the collective commitment to supporting and inspiring parish communities.

Among the standout participants was the Newham Deanery, whose strong representation underscored the-

ir dedication to deepening faith and fostering collaboration. With catechists from every parish actively engaging in workshops and discussions, their contributions enriched the event and brought dynamic perspectives to the fore. The Newham Deanery and Partnerships Coordinator expressed an ambitious vision for the future, aiming to build on this success with an even greater presence at next year's event.

This aspiration speaks to the Deanery's enduring commitment to serving and uplifting their communities through faith and teamwork.

The highlight of the day was an impactful keynote address by Mary Madziva, whose extensive experience in Youth Ministry and national initiatives like the Flame Youth Congress brought depth and resonance to her words. Speaking on the theme of hope, Mary urged attendees to embrace their roles as "Pilgrims of Hope," drawing inspiration from Pope Francis' call for the 2025 Jubilee Year. Her reflections emphasised that hope is a transformative force, capable of shaping lives and fostering a more compassionate soc-



CAFOD workshop!

A CELEBRATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND SHARED PURPOSE

-iety. Attendees were visibly moved, leaving the session with renewed energy and purpose.

The afternoon workshops provided practical tools and fresh ideas for catechists and leaders. From First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes to youth leadership initiatives, the sessions were designed to address a variety of parish needs. Participants engaged in lively discussions, exchanged best practices, and explored innovative approaches to enriching their communities. These workshops ensured that every attendee left with actionable insights, from new resources to creative strategies for engaging young people in their faith journeys.

Beyond the structured sessions, the event was a celebration of fellowship and shared purpose. Lunchtime provided a chance for informal networking, as attendees exchanged stories and forged new connections. The atmosphere was one of warmth and unity, embodying the spirit of the day. A powerful closing prayer brought everyone together in gratitude and reflection, marking the perfect end to a day of growth, inspiration, and community spirit.

The BCYS Training and Resources Day was a powerful reminder that the work of catechists and leaders extends far beyond teaching—it is about nurturing faith, inspiring hope, and building a supportive community. Attendees left with not only new strategies but also a renewed sense of their vital role in shaping the future.

With the ongoing support of the Newham Deanery and Partnerships Coordinator, the vision for an even larger and more impactful event next year is an exciting prospect. Together, through faith, collaboration, and hope, the Diocese is building a brighter future. For those unable to attend, resources and presentations will be shared in the coming weeks. Stay connected via www.bcys.net/events for updates, and continue the journey as "Pilgrims of Hope."



Brainstorming and collating!

UNITING HEARTS AND MINDS: BCYS INSPIRES THROUGH FAITH

CATECHIST TRAINING DAY BUILDS HOPE AND COMMUNITY



Director of Youth Ministry, Claire Bailey, circled



TO SERVE AND UPLIFT OUR YOUTH COMMUNITIES

