

carpenter's square



Mid-Winter
issue

sjt youth magazine



Takapuna Summer Camp

Fall Life Nights

Welcome to our mid-winter edition of our youth magazine, covering content from recent gatherings, amongst other things.

See inside this issue of *Carpenter's Square* for all youth & young adults events at St Joseph's Parish Takapuna.

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Takapuna Summer Camp

by Joanna Duszczuk



"Through Summer Camp 2023, I realised that these people will be my friends for life and will help me grow in my faith."



Summer Camp 2023 was such an experience. There was laughter, there were tears. There were moments of peace and quiet and moments of loudness. There was connection and solidarity. Everyone present was like family. But most importantly, there was God. There was the Holy Spirit in everyone. Summer camp 2023 helped me make new friendships, and strengthen the ones I already had. It helped me feel more connected to God as well.

The camp activities were super fun. They required teamwork, enthusiasm, and courage. You had to get out of your comfort zone for some activities. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and everything in between, I was surrounded by people who love and care about me. We had good conversations and lots of laughter.





Through summer camp 2023, I realized that these people will be my friends for life and will help me grow in my faith. There was always something to do at summer camp, like arts and crafts, playing games outside, or just simply chilling out.

We were always doing something, even at night! The stars shine so bright away from the city. It felt amazing to be there and have meaningful conversations under the stars. Summer camp 2023 made me feel so many different emotions. There was an air of connection and solidarity within everyone. After confession and prayer, some people were crying, and others just surrounded them and comforted them. It was a beautiful moment without judgement where you could just be open.



The messy games were always fun. There was slime, soap, water and everything in between. At some point everyone abandoned their game station and started a huge water fight! Summer camp was led by a wonderful group of people.

The leaders at summer camp are enthusiastic and made the whole experience so good for us. All the activities they planned for us were so engaging and exciting. Summer camp 2023 was such a fun week and I'm so glad I went. It was so amazing!

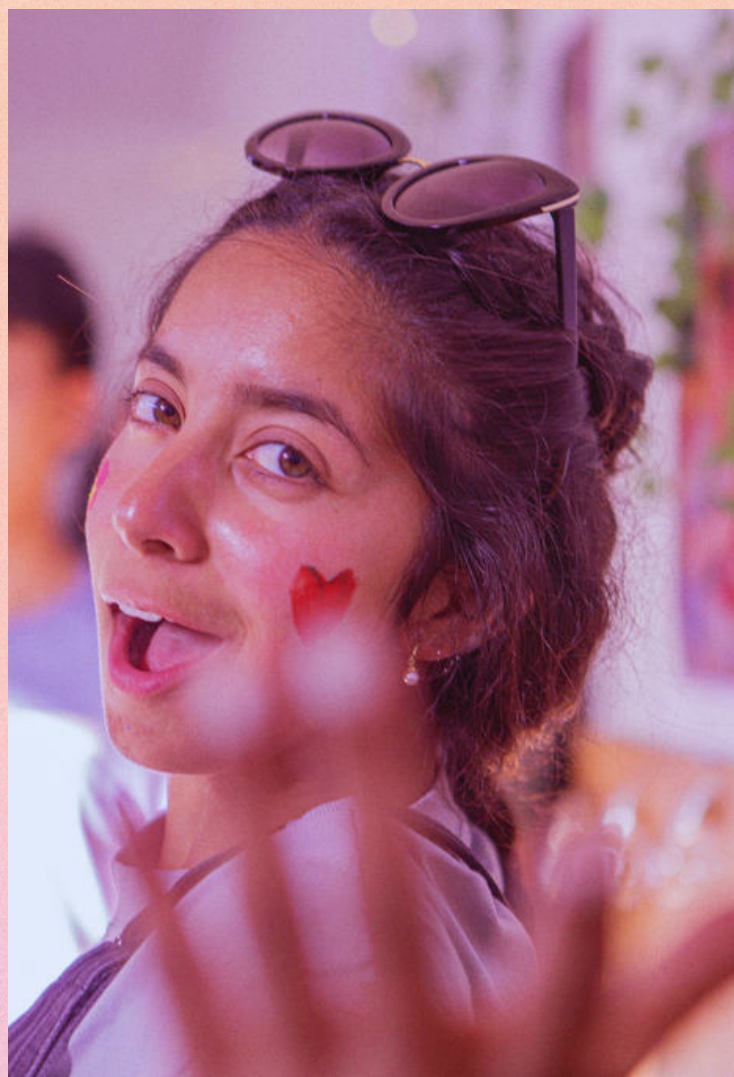
Fall Life Night's

by Talitha Pereira

*"We are a Church that wrestles with Scripture,
and that wrestling only makes us stronger."*

In a chaotic world of noise and distractions, we often struggle to hear God's voice. But in our fall series, we embarked on a profound journey that unveiled the Bible as God's living voice, speaking to us here and now. Here's the scoop:

In Session One, we met ordinary people from the Bible whose lives crossed paths with Jesus. This reminded us that just as God met them, he continues to stop us in our tracks, wherever we are. The Bible isn't just history; it's a living testament of God's power and loving desire to be in relationship with us.



Session Two rocked our understanding by showing the harmony between science and faith. Rather than contradicting, they complement one another. Science answers the who, what, when, and where, but it leaves us pondering the why. That's where God unveils His purpose for us - just like a creator knows His masterpieces.





In Session Three, we grappled with challenging Old Testament passages and found a God who relentlessly pursues a loving relationship with us. His goodness echoes through all of human history, revealing new dimensions of His character.

The final session brought clarity to our journey as we realised that the Church stands alongside us in understanding Scripture. We are a Church that wrestles with Scripture, and that wrestling only makes us stronger.

The Bible is not just a book; it's a life-changing adventure. It shattered our expectations, bridged science and faith, spoke to our hearts and left us hungry for more.



Easter Celebrations

by Kevin Paul Prabhu



"Easter is our origin story....."



In all walks of life, we have journeyed at some point and are continually journeying, even witnessing others' journeys. In many instances in the Liturgical Calendar, especially during Lent, may it be figurative or literal, we all journeyed with Jesus. Journeying from His resistance against temptation in the desert to His Passion, filled with mixed emotions, conflict, and perseverance throughout, leading to the most important event in our faith, Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Day. Easter is our origin story, from this point leading to Pentecost and onwards, Christianity sprouted, grew, and multiplied worldwide for generations to come. The events leading up to Easter may seem dark and traumatic. Still, Easter is a celebration filled with rejoicing and triumph.

Just as we celebrate a birthday every year, reminiscing and appreciating how far a person has come and is to go, we celebrate our faith and the fulfilment of the Old Testament, instilling the hope that all those who believe are saved. Looking back at the journey we went through with Him, and the journey He went through for us.



What I find very beautiful in particular is Holy Week. It ties us emotionally and spiritually close to Jesus, who is as human as we are, experiencing the hardships and betrayals we do, yet continues to move forward for our sake. The Easter Vigil Mass is my personal favourite. Seeing how hard the Rosmini and Carmel College leaders work to prepare and participate in the celebration as I once did is amazing. The tension and confusion caused by preparation beforehand are finally relieved afterwards, and that's what the disciples felt in the absence of Jesus. It should remind us that we're allowed to feel this way, and eventually, Jesus will come down to us and show us the way.

The pandemic brought us unprecedented times, testing our strength and faith and removing the routine of gathering communally. We take for granted the community we have. We rely on it so much that we realize its importance in its absence. We pushed forward as Jesus would've wanted, and fortunately, we can return to the special events we miss.

Every aspect I've talked about had the common theme of community: as a community, we journeyed together, carried our crosses, celebrated our faith and continue to do so together. Easter is about us joining together to live out this incredible moment in history, serving as a reminder of the hope and redemption found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



*Christ
is Risen*

Core and more

by Chris Macdonald



"Why Youth Group is important for Leaders too."



Youth group has been integral to a lot of my life, and I think it's a very important aspect of Church life as a whole, especially (obviously) for young people.

It serves many purposes, some of the more obvious being the benefits it has for the youth themselves. Teenagers have a lot going on, no matter their circumstances. And so, youth group stands as an oasis of peace and companionship where they can come to be surrounded by their brothers and sisters, and hopefully enjoy some downtime with friends. It's also a time where teens can come together for learning and sharing about our faith, in a way that is specifically targeted to them, focusing on their lives, their environments, and what they need to hear.

As we grow up through youth group though, it begins to serve a new purpose or at least in our parish, where we are lucky enough to have such young leaders stepping up.

It's often hard for young people to step into roles of leadership in their community, and it can be daunting too. Have young leaders organizing, running, and taking roles of leadership within the youth group really helps to further foster and build on what they've learned from youth group and grow them from teenagers into young adults.

In my time as a Core member, I know I've certainly grown, learned more, and been extremely grateful for the opportunity to be part of this fantastic team. I'm also grateful to the Parish, who took the leap of faith to trust us young people to lead, and have supported us throughout.

ON THE HORIZON

Upcoming Events

Youth CALENDAR 2023 🇳🇿

AUTUMN - WINTER SEMESTER

March	April	May	June	July	August
10 / FRI START OF SERIES / LN	07 / FRI LN	11 / THURS ACYM: THE UPPER ROOM	09 / FRI START OF SERIES / LN	14-16 / FRI-SUN CORE MID-YEAR RETREAT	04 / FRI LN
19 / SUN YOUTH MASS / COMMISSIONING	08 / SAT EASTER VIGIL	12 / FRI LN	23 / FRI LN	15 / SAT WYD - PILGRIMS DEPART	06 / SUN ACYM: WYD AUCKLAND
23 / THURS ACYM: THE UPPER ROOM	10-22 / MON-SUN TERM 1 BREAK	26 / FRI SOCIAL NIGHT	18 / SUN YOUTH MASS	16 / SUN YOUTH MASS	18 / FRI SOCIAL NIGHT
24 / FRI LN	28 / FRI LN / SOCIAL NIGHT	27 / SAT ACYM - MASTERCLASS	24 / SAT ACYM: MASTERCLASS	21 / FRI LN	29-30 / TUES-WED COLLEGE EXPOS

[CLICK HERE](#)

(Goals)

1. Formation for Core
2. Parish participation & fundraisers
3. Grow & foster relationships with colleges
4. Takapuna Summer Camp 2024



Glory Story

by Coen Tyler

"I, truly, feel a part of the community."

Youth Group has been the thing I look forward to doing every fortnight. Even though I only joined recently I truly feel a part of the community. My first major experience with youth was the camp earlier this year and I have to say it was the best experience of my life.



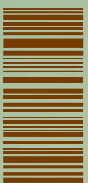
Rave parties every day, followed by sessions helping us get closer to God and going into small groups to get to know each other even better. It is something whenever I think about I smile from just messing around on the swing at the camp to the family dinner. It was great. Youth Group has helped me grow as a person has allowed me have so much fun, and that is why I will always go back.





Always Forward.

*” Rejoice in the
Lord
always ”*



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