

CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREATS

Our retreat programme aims to give students a positive and powerful experience of God, the Church and the Sacraments. We help students to understand more about the Sacrament they are about to receive and the importance of this in their everyday lives. Some of the elements we have to offer are:

CONFIRMATION

- "What is the Holy Spirit?"
- A workshop on the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit and how we can use them in our everyday lives
- Letters to God
- Prayer and Meditation
- Reconciliation Service
- Story & Tour of Knock Shrine
- Visit to Knock Museum

COMMUNION

- "You are invited to the table"
- Art Work
- Adoration
- "Our Church"
- Story & Tour of Knock Shrine
- Visit to Knock Museum

The retreat takes place in a youth friendly, fun, relaxed and open environment.

BOOKING

Each retreat programme is adapted to the needs of different age groups, size of group and time restrictions. We cater for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools. Please book early to avoid disappointment. The retreat programme is €10 per student. We request that students bring a packed lunch and we will provide you with a hall to have your lunch. There must be one teacher with the group at all times.

KNOCK

Knock Youth Ministry



Youth Ministry

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Our aim here in the youth ministry is to bring young people to Knock and whilst they are here give them a positive experience of Knock, a powerful encounter with God, and enable them to realise the power the church and Sacraments have to transform their lives.



Our lives can be so swamped with the noise and pace of modern life, its difficult to find time and space to tune into ourselves. We can be deaf to our needs, our desires, our hurts and our joys.

Our retreat in Knock aims to give young people the 'time out' they need to go on that inward journey and get back in touch with themselves and the church, in the context of their modern lives.

The Elements

You can choose from some of the following elements.

- **A guided tour of Knock Shrine**

Students get a chance to see the actual site of the Apparition and hear details of the events around the evening it took place.

- **Visit to Knock Museum**

Students can step back in time and see how their counterparts lived at the time of the Apparition in 1879 and see artefacts and accounts from the witnesses of the Apparition.

- **Self-reflection Workshops**

Students are invited and enabled to go on an inward journey of self-discovery. They are given an opportunity to reflect on themselves and their lives in light of the Christian faith. By helping them to become more aware of Gods love and Gospel values we hope to enable them to make more informed decisions when faced with the choices life presents.

- **Youth and the Sacraments Workshops**

The students are enabled to form and experience a link between the Sacraments and their lives in an informative, creative and enjoyable way.

- **Meeting with Cenacolo**

A centre for young recovering drug addicts who are overcoming their difficulties through sharing in a community of faith. The young people share their story of how they fell into the drug trap and how faith has been an important part of their recovery. (This is recommended for Leaving Cert level).

- **Testimonies**

Real life stories of how faith has changed young peoples lives.

- **Reconciliation Service**

Provides the students with an opportunity to avail of individual confessions. This includes preparation and an examination of conscience, which enables them to make an informed choice about the sacrament. This is carried out in a non-threatening creative and reflective way, which is attractive to young people.



- **Mass in the Apparition Chapel**

If a priest comes with the school we can organise a mass in the Apparition Chapel.

- **A Time of Reflection and Prayer**

Creating a silent space where the students can experience God with the aid of meditation and music.

We encourage teachers to choose the elements they feel would best suit and benefit their students. We can tailor the programme to suit your needs, numbers and time restrictions.