

St Christopher's Catholic Church, Holsworthy

YOUTH MINISTRY



Dear St. Christopher's Parish, Holsworthy,

I hope this email finds you all well and enjoying this Easter season!

I'm emailing because, as you may know, I'm currently doing a mission year in Ireland. The organisation I'm with is called NET Ministries Ireland and is a volunteer missionary program. NET stands for National Evangelisation Teams; sending missionaries to parishes and schools to build up the communities and give young people a chance to see their faith and the Catholic Church in a new way; a way that is relevant to them.

I'm part of the Waterford-Lismore Diocese NET Team. Since arriving here in Waterford, we have done a number of things!

- Run primary school and secondary school retreats
- Started a Catechesis night for young adults
- Continued the prayer group last year's team started
- Are helping to build up the young adult community in a town called Dungarvan
- Attended philosophy classes with high school students to help them see God in the ordinary-everyday
- Invite young adults over for Saturday-night dinners to create fellowship
- Street ministry to reach out to people who aren't necessarily associated with the Church
- Create videos to engage people through social media

My mission year so far has been an amazing experience; both challenging and super rewarding. The things I'm learning about life, myself, and my Faith have been so invaluable and formative, and I look forward to the time when I can share and pass on these experiences in more depth with the parish and community.

One experience that was really powerful for me was during a Confirmation retreat that my team and I ran for a primary school. In these retreats, we do talks, dramas and activities that give the students a different perspective on the Catholic Faith. There was one young girl (about 12 years old) who wasn't going to make her Confirmation, however, was open to the activities of the day. She and I got into a discussion about faith. One question she had and that we discussed was, "What kind of person can you be as someone who believes and practices your Faith, compared to someone who does not practice any faith".

This was a powerful moment as it showed me that youth and young people have questions about the Faith that aren't being answered in their regular lessons, and that my team and I, as young people who are trying to live out our Catholic Faith, are in a position where we can have these discussions with them as peers. At the end of the day, this young girl decided that even though she wouldn't be making her Confirmation this year, she would look into it more herself and make the choice to make her Confirmation when she got older.

This is just one example of many experiences my team and I have had throughout the year. We hope to continue having moments like these until we finish up in mid-May 2018. Until then, I ask that you please keep myself and my team in your prayers, as well as all the people we have and will meet. I am praying for St. Christopher's Parish, and hope that the work I am doing here in Ireland blesses the parish and community too!

If you would like to keep up with what my team and I do in our ministry, please feel free to visit our social media!

- Facebook: Waterford NET Team
- Youtube: Waterford NET Team
- Instagram: waterfordnetteam

If you would like to know more about the organisation I'm doing my mission year with, please visit <https://www.netministries.ie/>

I hope you all continue to enjoy this Easter season!

Warmest regards and God bless!

Marie Teriana

3rd April 2018