

# World Youth Day

England and Wales

with World Youth FUNday & World Youth Sunday

2021 THEME:

*“Stand up. I appoint you as witnesses  
of what you have seen” (based on Acts 26:16)*

**Sunday 21st November 2021**

@WorldYouthDay\_EW // [worldyouthsunday.com](http://worldyouthsunday.com)

# **World Youth Day Newsletter insert**

## **National Youth Sunday becomes World Youth Day!**

In November 2020, Pope Francis called for a relaunch of World Youth Day (previously celebrated annually on Palm Sunday) and moving forward asks the global Catholic community to celebrate locally on the Solemnity of Christ the King, on Sunday, 21st November 2021.

It will be a day for the world to recognise and celebrate young people in our local church communities, whether that be through school, at home, or of course in church. For us, in England and Wales, there will be a number of resources made available for all settings including home, school, parish, university and individual.

Everyone is also invited to join in with World Youth FUNday on Friday, 19th November, a live interactive day of quizzes, prayer, input and activities for schools and families, all live streamed on the CYMFed YouTube channel and to participate in local activities using the WYD resources on Sunday 21st November 2021

Please keep an eye on our communication channels, especially instagram, twitter and facebook for further updates and to engage in exclusive online content:

WorldYouthSunday.com @worldyouthday\_EW admin@cymfed.org.uk  
info@acutisproject.com

## MAIN PRESS RELEASE

### National Youth Sunday becomes World Youth Day!

The role and presence of young people in the Catholic Church has always been of the utmost importance, and the Catholic Church in England and Wales has a rich history of recognising this every year by celebrating National Youth Sunday. Now, though, what once was a national event held on a local level, will become a global day of celebration.

World Youth Day was previously a separate day of celebration, set up by Pope Saint John Paul II, who said that ***“All young people must feel that they are cared for by the Church. Therefore, may the entire Church on a worldwide level be more and more committed to young people.”*** The first ever World Youth Day was held on Palm Sunday in 1984 and has since been celebrated locally on this day in all corners of the world.

In November 2020, Pope Francis called for a relaunch of World Youth Day and invites us all to celebrate it on the Solemnity of Christ the King, on **Sunday, 21st November 2021**, the same day as what would have been National Youth Sunday. It will be a day to recognise and celebrate young people and their invaluable contribution to the life of the local, national and universal church.

A collection of resources will be released in the coming weeks and months which will help facilitate these celebratory, spiritual and life-giving activities.

Everyone is also invited to join in with World Youth FUNday on **Friday, 19th November**, a live interactive day of quizzes, prayer, input and activities for schools and families, all live streamed on the CYMFed YouTube channel and to participate in local activities using the WYD resources on Sunday 21st November 2021

We must also remember that this is not just a few days of celebration for us to forget soon after, as Pope Francis reminds us that ***“World Youth Days are not ‘firework displays’, flashes of enthusiasm that are an end in themselves; they are the stages of a long journey.”***

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# 2021 THEME: WITNESS

## *Share What You've Seen*

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*"Stand up. I appoint you as witnesses of what you have seen" (Acts 26:16)*

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Jesus calls to be a positive change in the world which comes from the recognition that we have purpose and we are appointed.

(Acts 26:16) These words are those of Jesus to Paul, then Saul, on the road to Damascus – but they are also words of Jesus to us, wherever we are on our life's path.

- 1) **Stand up.** Jesus calls us not to be afraid, but to stand up, wake up and open our eyes to the world around us: even though we may fall, Jesus helps us to stand and see the way forwards.
- 2) **You are appointed.** You are called and *chosen* to do a specific job or mission. Jesus sees our particular gifts and talents and calls us to use them. But he also chooses us because he loves us.
- 3) **Go as a witness.** The disciples were first-hand witnesses of Jesus' work on earth and were sent out by Jesus to share the good news. As witnesses of Jesus' light and love at work in our lives today, we are also sent out to share it!

## 1. Stand up.

To you, to me, to each one of us, Jesus says: "Arise". – Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*

Do not be afraid...

*Something similar happened to the prophet Jeremiah, called despite his youth to rouse his people. In his fear, he said: "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth" (Jeremiah 1:6). But the Lord told him not to say that and added: "Do not be afraid, for I am with you" (Jeremiah 1:8). – Christus Vivit 10*

Even when you fall...

*We are very aware that, as Christians, we constantly fall and have to get up again. People who are not on a journey never fall; then again, neither do they move forward. That is why we need to accept the help that Jesus gives us and put our faith in God. The first step is to let ourselves get up... – WYD Letter 2020*

*Jesus always, always, always embraces us after every fall, helping us to rise and get back on our feet. Because the worst fall, and pay attention to this, the worst fall, the one that can ruin our lives, is when we stay down and do not allow ourselves to be helped up". – Christus Vivit 120*

Get up and wake up!

*"Arise!" is also an invitation to "dream", to "take a risk", to be "committed to changing the world", to rekindle your hopes and aspirations, and to contemplate the heavens, the stars and the world around you. "Arise and become what you are!" – WYD Letter 2020*

*If you have lost your inner vitality, your dreams, your enthusiasm, your optimism and your generosity, Jesus stands before you as once he stood before the dead son of the widow, and with all the power of his resurrection he urges you: "Arise!" (Lk 7:14). – Christus Vivit 20*

*Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Don't observe life from a balcony. Don't confuse happiness with an armchair, or live your life behind a screen... Don't be parked cars, but dream freely and make good decisions. Take risks, even if it means making mistakes. – CV 143*

## 2. You are **appointed**.

Appointed means to be given *authority*, to be *chosen* or *set apart* to do a particular job.

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. – 1 Peter 2:9*

Jesus appointed his disciples:

*"13 And he went up into the hills, and called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him. 14 And he appointed twelve,[a] to be with him, and to be sent out to preach 15 and have authority to cast out demons" – Mark 3:13-15*

Jesus appoints you – he sets you apart and chooses you... because he loves you.

*For we know, sisters and brothers beloved by God, that he has chosen you; – Thessalonians 1:4*

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; – Isaiah 42:1*

If we are God's chosen and appointed, let's act like it/recognise the appointment of others...

*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, – Colossians 3:12*

### 3. Go out as a **witness**.

What?!

The disciples were first-hand witnesses of Jesus' teachings on earth. After the disciples saw Jesus at work, Jesus sent them out share the Gospel message with the world.

Jesus works in our lives too – through signs of hope and light, compassion and love. If we see or witness God's work, we've got to share this message of light and love to others.

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." – Matthew 28:18-20*

How?!

*Filled with the love of Christ, young people are called to be witnesses of the Gospel wherever they find themselves, by the way they live... Being an apostle does not mean carrying a torch in hand, possessing the light, but being that light – Christus Vivit 175*

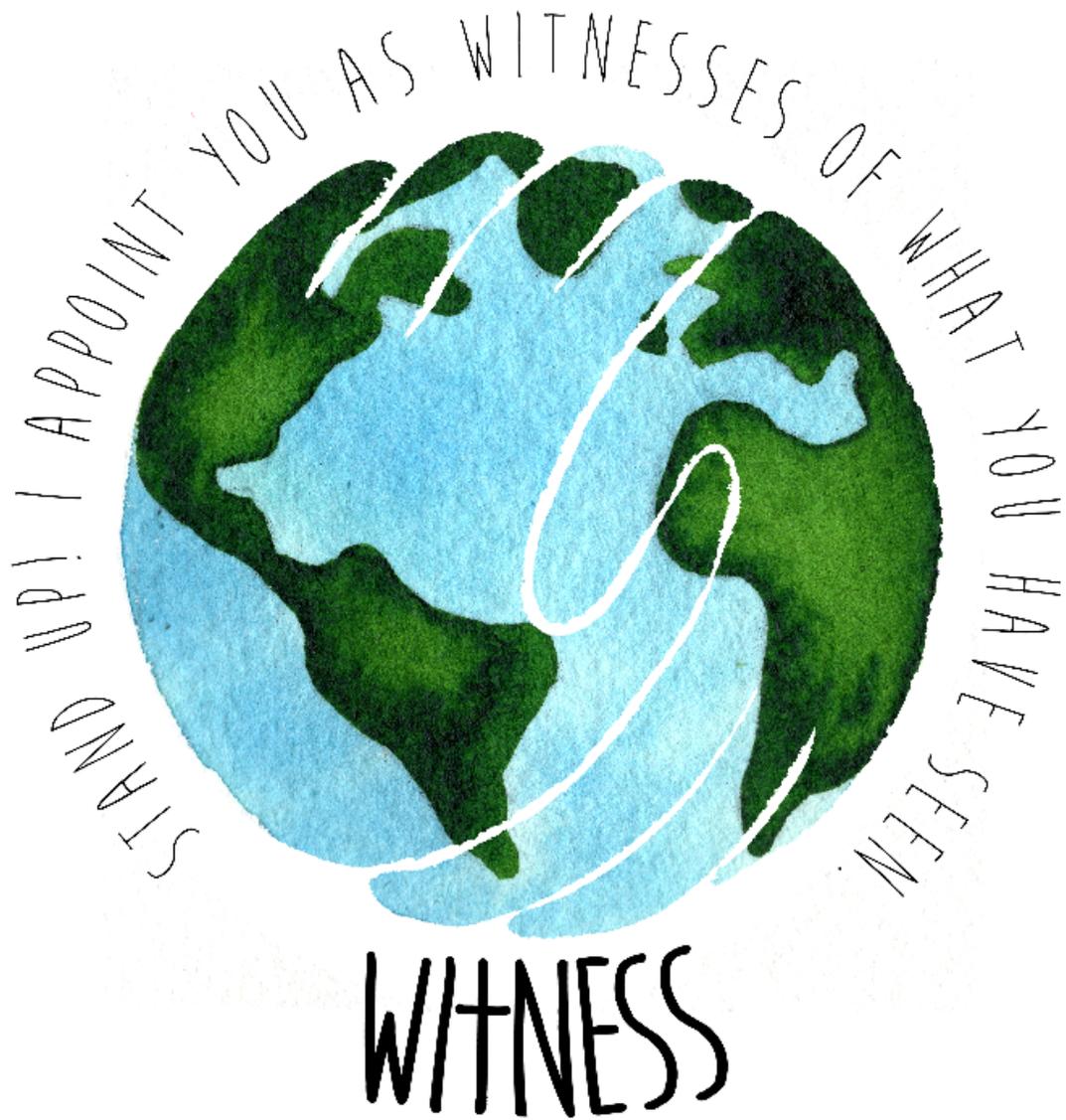
Where?!

*"Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us everywhere... He invites us to be fearless missionaries wherever we are and in whatever company we find ourselves: in our neighbourhoods, in school or sports or social life, in volunteer service or in the workplace... He loves you, dear young people, for you are the means by which he can spread his light and hope. He is counting on your courage, your boldness and your enthusiasm. – Christus Vivit 177*

When?!

*Young friends, don't wait until tomorrow to contribute your energy, your audacity and your creativity to changing our world. Your youth is not an "in-between time". **You are the now of God...** – Christus Vivit 178*

**2021 Theme Logo: with thanks to Phil Salkeld, YMT**



## World Youth Day Revised Main Logo:

