

## IMPORTANT DATES RELATED TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2018

Here are some of the themed days and weeks that are celebrated in the wider Australian community and in the Catholic Church that relate directly to the lives of young people. Below you can see some examples of how you can take action as a parish on these dates.

### **Brisbane Youth Week --- 6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April**

Brisbane Youth Week is an annual celebration and showcase of young people from 12-25 years of age. It provides opportunities for young people to share ideas, attend live events, workshops, activities and forums and celebrate their contribution to the community.

**Action:** Organise for a group of young people from the parish to attend one of the events planned across Brisbane (see [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au)).

### **World Day of Prayer for Vocations --- 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

On World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the Catholic Church throughout the world prays for vocations, particularly those to the priesthood and to consecrated life.

**Action:** Contact Vocation Brisbane for resources on how to engage young people in a conversation about vocations (visit: [www.vocationbrisbane.com](http://www.vocationbrisbane.com)).

### **National Families Week --- 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May**

National Families Week is a time to celebrate with family, make contact with extended family and friends, and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community.

**Action:** Have a special Family Mass that Sunday aimed at families with children who are teenagers or young adults.

### **Social Media Day --- 30<sup>th</sup> June**

This day celebrates the impact of social media on global communication.

**Action:** Have the parish Facebook page share a post from the Catholic Collective's Facebook page (search: [@catholiccollectivebne](https://www.facebook.com/catholiccollectivebne)) on this day.

### **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday --- 1<sup>st</sup> July**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) advises the Bishops Commission for relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics, and every year this council produces a Resource Kit for parishes and schools to celebrate the day.

**Action:** Invite local Indigenous students to Sunday Mass and invite the community to pray a special blessing over them.

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### World Youth Day, Sydney 2008 - 10 Year Anniversary --- 20<sup>th</sup> July

This is a special day to be celebrated within the Year of Youth, as we give thanks for the great blessings God has bestowed on the Australian Catholic Church.

**Action:** Put on a meal and invite families, teenagers and young people to attend. Have a few local WYD2008 pilgrims from your parish share some of the stories and photos of their experience.

### United Nations' International Youth Day --- 12<sup>th</sup> August

This day recognizes efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society.

**Action:** As a parish, commission an award at your local high school for a student who has made a significant positive impact in the community.

### Child Protection Sunday --- 9<sup>th</sup> September

The Catholic Church in Australia observes Child Protection Sunday in conjunction with National Child Protection Week.

**Action:** Create an opportunity for young adults to discuss Child Protection efforts in the Catholic Church today, and the recommendations from of the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse. Visit the Truth, Justice and Healing Council's website at [www.tjhcouncil.org.au](http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au) to view some of the Community Resources available to parishes to help facilitate discussions.

### R U OK? Day --- 14<sup>th</sup> September

R U OK? Day asks all of us to consider the people around us and start a conversation with the question "Are you ok?"

**Action:** Encourage parishioners to commit to calling a child / grandchild / young person on this day and ask them: R U OK?

### Mental Health Week --- 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October

Mental Health Week is about promoting practices of self-care and positive mental health in the community.

**Action:** Encourage families this week to pick an evening where the whole family commits to "unplugging" from their phones and have a screen-free night.

### Schoolies Week --- 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>rd</sup> November

Schoolies Week is a graduation festival celebrated by Year 12 school leavers from every corner of Australia.

**Action:** Encourage young adults you know to get involved in Rosies ([www.rosies.org.au](http://www.rosies.org.au)) or Red Frogs Australia ([www.au.redfrogs.com](http://www.au.redfrogs.com)) to provide support during schoolies week.