

DIOCESE OF CORK AND ROSS

22nd May 2025

Dear Principal, R.E. Teacher, Chaplain

As you may be aware over the last year the Diocese has engaged in a Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment as we listen together to where God is calling us to be His Church in Cork and Ross in our time.

One of the most prominent themes that emerged from this time of listening is the strong desire within the parish faith community to support and walk alongside our young people as they navigate the challenges of faith, identity and the uncertainties of life. A key way the Diocese proposes to offer this support is through **Alpha Youth**.

Alpha Youth is an engaging and interactive programme designed to help young people explore life's big questions and deepen their understanding of faith in a fun and relaxed setting. Through a series of thought-provoking discussions, videos and activities, **Alpha Youth** creates a safe space where young people can ask questions, share their thoughts and connect with others. Whether exploring topics like purpose, identity or spirituality, **Alpha Youth** fosters an open environment that encourages curiosity and personal growth. It is a great opportunity for young people to engage with faith in a way that feels relevant and relatable to their lives.

Our hope is to pilot **Alpha Youth** in a number of areas and through it strengthen the bonds between the school and the local parish faith community. Ideally, we aim to engage Junior Cycle students, particularly those in 1st and 2nd years. Presently, we are identifying schools and parishes who might be interested in being part of this and are hosting two information sessions:

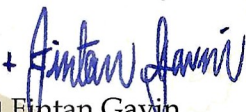
- **Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025 – Mardyke House, Cork 2.00pm - 3.30pm**
- **Tuesday, September 9th, 2025 – Clonakilty Parish Centre 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

I would be grateful if you could bring this information to the attention of your R.E. teachers, chaplains and members of your school community.

Be assured of my prayers for you, your teachers and your students as exam time approaches.

With every blessing.

Yours sincerely in Christ

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✠ Fintan Gavin

Bishop of Cork and Ross



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