



# Diocese of Port Pirie

## Chancery

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### **Pastoral Letter to Young People, Advent 2013** **“Chosen to Proclaim Justice”**

Dear Young People

Our Church has much to learn from you, and a lot of listening to do. A great example from young people has been the strong stance that the Young Christian Students (YCS) group has taken to oppose children living in immigration detention centres. Tessa Ganley, a St Mark's student from Port Pirie, has taken a leading role as National Chairperson and spokesperson for the End Child Detention Australia Coalition of NGOs. You have new and creative ways of relating to our faith community: through social justice campaigns, petitions on social media, being connected and informed about our faith and world. However, you also contribute beautifully to the wider church community in areas common to all: through participation in the Sacraments, altar serving, reading, distributing Communion, operating PowerPoint projectors and other technology, volunteering for Vinnies, providing liturgical music, art, drama or dance, participating in parish events and retreats.

Pope Francis has proved to have great appeal for young people like yourselves. He reaches out and receives from you, and sends you out on mission to the world. He was greatly loved at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, particularly by the disadvantaged young people he visited in Favela communities. He called for the Spirit of that event to spread: “Let me tell you what I hope will be the outcome of World Youth Day: I hope there will be noise. Here there will be noise, I’m quite sure. Here in Rio there will be plenty of noise, no doubt about that. But I want you to make yourselves heard in your dioceses, I want the noise to go out, I want the Church to go out onto the streets, I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable...”

Next year the whole diocese will be focusing on justice and reconciliation. We seek “to become increasingly recognised as a welcoming, healing and reconciling community and as effective advocates for social justice.” In this, you are leaders and beacons of hope for our Church. The diocese will host a Youth Assembly in March, the 'Justice League of the Diocese'. All young people will be challenged to take up the call to justice and reconciliation along with these superheroes - Superman, with the power of welcoming; Wonder Woman, with the power of healing; Doctor Light, with the power of reconciling and Spiderman, with the power of advocating.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is described in the words of Isaiah, “Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.” This message is for all of us. We are chosen and loved by God, and therefore we are called to proclaim justice in our world.

Yours in Christ

+ Gregory O’Kelly SJ  
**Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie**