

Saint Augustine of England Catholic Church

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West Midlands

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Parish Priest Father Dominic Kavanagh with Deacon Kevin O'Connor

21st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with a warm invitation on behalf of our parish community.

We recognise how important it is for our young people to feel connected, supported and welcomed as they grow in faith, confidence, and friendship. I am delighted to invite your children to be part of our parish youth ministry, developed in collaboration with the St Carlo Acutis Association. This is your youth group that is going from strength to strength – and is very close by, I ask you to encourage your children to come along and let them enjoy the many wonderful events and quality time together that is readily available every Friday evening – term time.

We are pleased to offer two age-specific youth groups within our parish cluster:

St Carlo Acutis Senior Youth Group

For young people in **Year 6 and above**

- **Location:** Olton Friary Parish Hall and Grounds
- **Day and time:** Every Friday during term time, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

St Carlo Acutis Junior Youth Group

For children in **Years 4 and 5**

- **Location:** Our Lady of the Wayside Parish
- **Day and time:** Friday during term time, 6:30pm – 8pm

Birmingham Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 234216

These groups provide a safe and welcoming environment where young people can meet others their age, take part in games and activities, explore questions of faith and life, and enjoy time together away from screens and phones. Each session includes fun, discussion, and a short time of reflection or prayer rooted in the life of the Church.

All sessions are led by dedicated parish volunteers who are fully DBS checked and trained in safeguarding. The safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority, and all activities follow diocesan safeguarding guidance.

There is no requirement for children to attend every week. They are warmly invited to come along, see what it is like, and become part of a positive and faith-filled community. It may be best to attend with a friend initially.

Also we are seeking any prospective parishioner from St Augustine's (e.g. perhaps a parent of a child within this age category) that may feel you have a calling and consider joining the team of youth leaders – and in turn to then invite and encourage other youth from St Augustine's to attend this wonderful St Carlo Acutis youth group. It doesn't have to be a weekly commitment – just as and when you can make it – please consider.

Further details, including registration information can be sought by youth leader representatives – Dan McHale on 07391889268 / Ben McHale on 07493945166 or the YG Chairman Ray McNally on 07827894446

I sincerely hope you will consider encouraging your child to attend. Youth ministry plays a vital role in helping young people experience that the Church is a place where they belong, where they are listened to, and where they are valued.

Please keep this initiative in your prayers and thank you for your continued support of our parish and school community.

With every blessing,

Fr Dominic Kavanagh
Parish Priest