



## REFLECTION SHEET FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

### First Sunday of Advent

*'Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.'*  
(Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)

#### From Damascus with Love

In the second reading at Mass this weekend Paul prays that the Lord will enable the community of Thessalonica grow in love. What is this love? In fact the question should be 'who is this love? The Love Paul speaks about is not a feeling it is a real person - Jesus Christ. It is this Love with which Paul's life overflowed following his extraordinary encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. Paul encountered Divine Love heart to heart and this proved to be the catalyst for his transformation into a missionary of love not hate. The road to Damascus became a first step for Paul on a journey of discovery that would lead him to become an energetic and enthusiastic sharer of God's Love with the people of his time and world.

#### 3 Questions for you?

As a young person have you ever had a Damascus moment (maybe not as dramatic as St Pauls!) where you really felt the loving presence of God and this had a transformative effect on your life? Where has this led you? Where are you now?

As a young person still unsure about how the future is going to unfold for you have you ever hoped for a Damascus moment that would give you clarity on the kind of life you are meant to live, what path you should take, the life that God wants for you? How do you reach that Damascus moment?

As a young person have you ever wondered who this Jesus that Paul encountered on the road to Damascus really is? Who is it that could change someone like Paul from a hater of followers of Jesus to a lover & proclaimer of the Gospel?

*If the above questions strike a chord with you & you would like to explore them further why not join us for a series of zoom meetings on Saturday 4th, 11th, 18th December from 10 am - 11 am.  
Simply drop an email with your name and parish to [vocations@ossory.ie](mailto:vocations@ossory.ie) and we will send you the link*

#### YOUNG PERSONS PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Lord may I work with you in a spirit of trust, together building a vision for my life .

Open the doors of my my heart to allow you to come & speak to me.

My I take time to connect with you, my self, and others so that the road ahead becomes clearer

Help me to be amazed by you & know that you are amazed by me.

May I find time to think and explore the bigger questions, always willing to learn about you and how I relate myself and to others.

No matter what happens may I imitate you and be an instrument of your Love and Compassion.

Give me the generosity of spirit to offer all that I am in the service of my sisters and brothers.

Guide me along the right path, showing me how to navigate the course of life and discover my true destination, my true identity, my mission on this earth. Amen

**For further Information contact Fr Kieran O' Shea [vocations@ossory.ie](mailto:vocations@ossory.ie)**