

November 2025

Newham Deanery Youth

oliveahonmele@brcdt.org

IGNITE 2025 SETS NEW STANDARD FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH IN NEWHAM

FAITH, PERFORMANCE AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP SHINE AT ST ANTONY'S



Hundreds across the Deanery gathered for the event!

Hundreds of young people from across Newham filled St Antony's Catholic Church in Forest Gate on Saturday 22 November for IGNITE 2025, a free day of worship, performance and testimony that has quickly become one of the borough's most anticipated Catholic youth gatherings. Hosted by the Newham Deanery Youth Council, the event ran from morning Mass through to a late afternoon closing prayer, blending liturgy with music, drama and spoken word to highlight the energy and creativity of local Catholic youth.

The day opened with Newham Deanery Mass, celebrated at St Antony's, framing the entire programme as an act of worship and thanksgiving for the gifts of young people in the Church. Parish clergy from across the deanery concelebrated, with choirs and young readers taking leading roles, setting a tone that was both reverent and joyful from the very first hymn.

Following Mass, acclaimed singer Adenike Adewale took to the stage as the first featured artist of the day, leading the congregation in a set of powerful worship s-

ongs that had teenagers and families alike on their feet. Her performance, marked by soaring vocals and heartfelt testimony, helped break down the barrier between sanctuary and pews, turning the church into a space of shared praise and participation.

The momentum continued with a keynote talk from actor and author Paterson Joseph, who drew on his new children's book "TEN: Children Who Changed the World" to reflect on courage, justice and the hidden potential of young people. He spoke about real historical figures who overcame oppression at a young age, challenging listeners to see themselves as part of the same story of change, before remaining in the church to sign copies of the book and meet young readers.

After a lunch break that allowed parish groups and youth leaders to mingle, share stories and explore information stalls, the afternoon programme opened with a rousing address from Monsignor John Armitage, a priest long associated with youth ministry



Parish Priests from across the Deanery, took part in the Mass!

"DANCE, SONG AND TESTIMONY SHOWCASED THE DIVERSITY OF NEWHAM'S YOUTH"

in East London. Drawing on his decades of pastoral experience, he encouraged young Catholics to root their social action in prayer and community, reminding them that their voice is urgently needed in both Church and society. The energy then shifted into high gear as Blessed Dance Group brought a burst of movement and colour to the sanctuary, using urban choreography to interpret themes of hope and resilience in faith. Their performance paved the way for Young Athena, a local vocal group, whose harmonies and original arrangements turned familiar worship songs into something fresh and deeply resonant for the teenage audience.

Later in the afternoon, youth speaker Edward Badu offered a personal reflection on faith, ambition and mental resilience, speaking candidly about the pressures facing young Londoners and the importance of finding strength in God and community. His talk led naturally into a sequence of musical sets, beginning with NDYsing, whose choir-style sound filled the church with rich harmonies and drew enthusiastic participation from the congregation.

Soloist Onose and the Redemption Flame ensemble followed, blending contemporary gospel with Afro-influenced rhythms that had the whole church clapping along in time. Their set highlighted the cultural diversity of Newham's Catholic community, demonstrating how different musical traditions can come together in a single act of worship.

As the afternoon progressed, St Antony's Gospel Choir took centre stage, treating their home parish to an uplifting programme that showcased the depth of musical talent within the congregation. MIC Choir then rounded off the musical offerings with a polished performance that combined youthful enthusiasm with disciplined choral arrangements, showing the fruits of months of rehearsal across the deanery. The day concluded with a simple but profound closing prayer, as clergy, organisers, volunteers and performers gathered at the front of the church to lead intercessions for young people, families and parishes across Newham. As the final blessing was given and the last song faded, many participants lingered in the aisles, reluctant to leave a space that had, for one day, captured the best of what a living, youthful Church in East London can look like.



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IGNITE 2025 LIGHTS UP NEWHAM CATHOLIC YOUTH

**MASS, MUSIC AND TESTIMONY IGNITE FAITH AT
ST ANTONY'S**



Altar servers, priests, and parish youth entering the Church with their banners!



**"HUNDREDS OF
YOUNG PEOPLE
FROM ACROSS
NEWHAM
FILLED ST
ANTONY'S
CHURCH"**



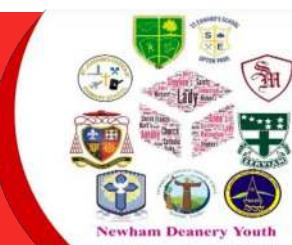
Fr Paschal during the Homily



St Antony's Gospel Choir during the Mass Hymns!



Paula Apeja introducing first act: Adenike Adewale!



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NEWHAM YOUTH GATHER IN FAITH AND JOY

**MASS, MUSIC AND ROLE MODELS INSPIRE
IGNITE 2025 CROWD**

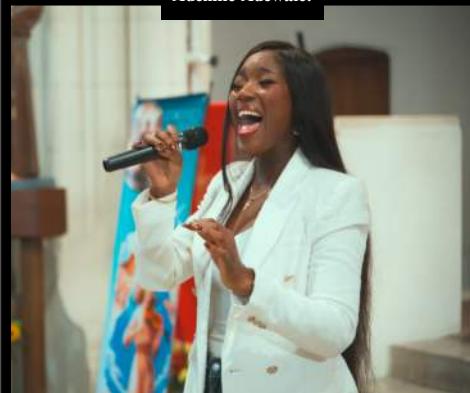


Paterson Joseph reading a chapter of his book: TEN Children Who Changed The World

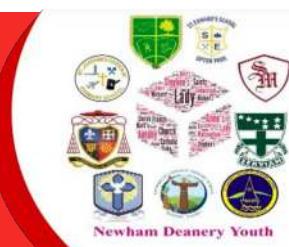
**“THE CHURCH
BECAME A
SPACE OF
SHARED PRAISE
AND
PARTICIPATION”**



Adenike Adewale!



All smiles in the Church!



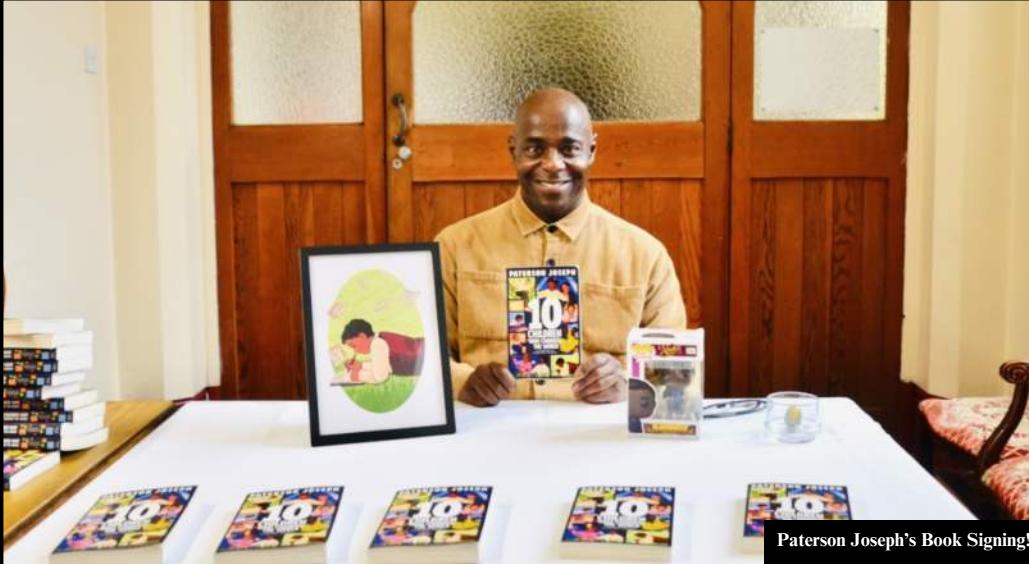
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FAITH, TALENT AND COMMUNITY ON SHOW AT IGNITE 2025

YOUNG CATHOLICS FILL ST ANTONY'S WITH WORSHIP AND WITNESS

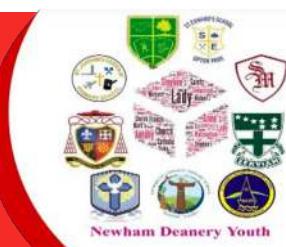


Paterson Joseph's Book Signing!



**"YOUNG
CATHOLICS
WERE
CHALLENGED TO
SEE THEMSELVES
AS WORLD
CHANGERS"**





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YOUTHFUL CHURCH ALIVE IN NEWHAM AT IGNITE 2025

PERFORMERS AND PREACHERS FIRE UP HUNDREDS OF YOUNG CATHOLICS



Onose during his performance!

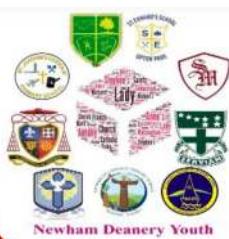


Monsignor Armitage and his talk!

"FOR ONE DAY THE CHURCH CAPTURED THE BEST OF A LIVING YOUTHFUL FAITH"



All the amazing food and refreshments provided!



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IGNITE 2025 GATHERS NEWHAM YOUTH IN FAITH

**MASS, MUSIC AND TESTIMONY SPARK
HOPE AT ST ANTONY'S**



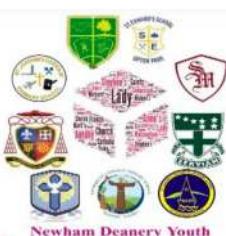
The amazing Young Athena!



**“YOUNG
CATHOLICS
TURNED ST
ANTONY'S
INTO A HOUSE
OF PRAISE”**



Blessed Dance Group!



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YOUNG CATHOLICS SHINE AT IGNITE 2025

WORSHIP, WITNESS AND COMMUNITY FILL ST ANTONY'S WITH JOY



NDYsing Choir!



St Antony's Gospel Choir!

"THE DAY CAPTURED THE FAITH, TALENT AND HOPE OF NEWHAM'S YOUTH"



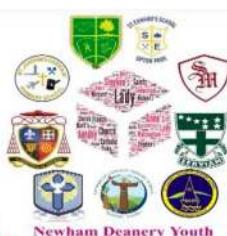
Edward Badu giving his talk!



Young Athena with NDYsing Choir!



Nathan Chan with St Antony's Gospel Choir



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IGNITE 2025 BRINGS NEW FIRE TO NEWHAM YOUTH

MASS, MUSIC AND MISSION ENERGISE DEANERY CONGREGATIONS



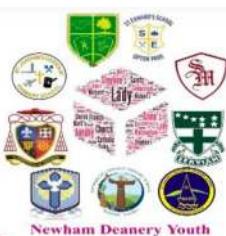
Marinated In Christ (MIC) Choir!



**“YOUNG
PEOPLE LEFT
DETERMINED
TO CARRY
IGNITE’S
ENERGY BACK
HOME”**



St Bonaventure's & NDPYC Redemption Flame!



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NEWHAM YOUNG CATHOLICS STAND UP AT IGNITE 2025

WORSHIP, WITNESS AND TALENT FILL DEANERY YOUTH WITH HOPE



Fr Dan's final address and blessing, with the NDPYC!



"FAITH, CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER IN ONE UNFORGETTABLE DAY"



Redemption Flame presentation, with Onose's talk



Special thanks to our MCs! Clinton, left, Andrew, right!