

**'Friendship with Christ
is the true sign of being
an adult in the faith.'**

(Benedict XVI)



'Open wide the doors to Christ!'

'Jesus Christ not only shows God to you but shows you to yourself, and reveals to you your high calling.'

(John Paul 2, to Young People)

THE ESKER EXPERIENCE can be over-night or for one day. The day retreat begins at 9.30am, and concludes at 3.30pm. The over-night gives the young people more time to engage with issues, and to bond with each other as a group. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered on the over-night experience.

The ESKER YOUTH VILLAGE can cater for large groups over-night,- with 2 dormitories, 35 beds in each, and use of the retreat house nearby.

A

Dormitory---



The Meditation Loft

Enquiries to:

info@redemptoristsesker.ie

or to The,Redemptorist Monastery & Retreat Centre, Esker, Athenry, Co. Galway. 091 844007

We're only a phone-call away.

See School Retreats on website

www.redemptoristsesker.ie

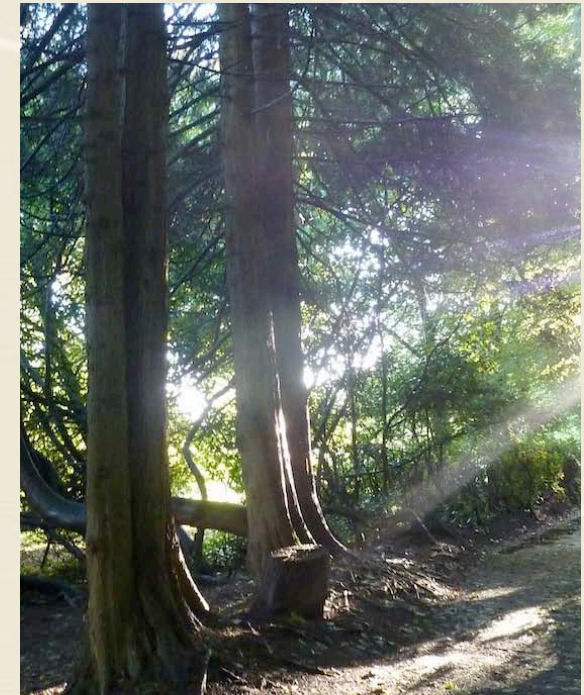
Esker is under 2 hours from Dublin on M6.

Locate at N53° 16.940; W8 40.852°

The **THEMES OFFERED** seek to help the young people to discover and unwrap the gift of the real person. We encourage them to continue their 'Search', all through life.

- **1st Year Themes**- Friendship, Acceptance, Transition from Primary to secondary school, New Beginnings, Continuing faith after Confirmation, Getting to know each other, Meditation.
- **2nd Year** -Peer-identity, self-discovery, self-image, exploring God in their lives, Bullying, Inclusion, Respect & Reverence, Values, Meditation.
- **3rd year**- Pressure of Junior Cert, Dreams/Fears, Having a personal relationship with God, happiness, heroes, meditation.
- **TY/ 4th Year**; - Communications, Choices, Transition to Senior Cycle, Relationships, and peer pressure, self-esteem, Prayer, Meditation, vocation, family, leadership.
- **5th Year**- The Hero's Journey, Independence, Right Choices/Decisions, Who is God, Healing, Forgiveness, Self discovery, Respect/Reverence.
- **6th Year**- Stereotypes (Male/Female) , Justice, Change and Choice, Dealing with Stress, Moving On, Independence to Interdependence, Community, Service, Vocation, the Mystery/Wonder of God in all of life.
- **The themes are explored** through pottery, art, discussion groups, activity groups and guided self-discovery, focussed discussion, brain-storming, power-points, games, ice-breakers, drama, singing. Retreat team is flexible and deals with young people's issues as they arise.
- **Requests** taken if a school wants a particular issue covered.

'THE ESKER
EXPERIENCE'
**'COME APART
AND REST
A WHILE'**



INVITATION TO
A TIME APART
FOR
**SECOND-LEVEL
STUDENTS -**
IN ESKER,
ATHENRY, CO.
GALWAY.



*“YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO FAR TO FIND GOD, - JUST NOTICE THINGS!”
(SIMONE WEIL)*

A Journey shared, into...



'I fell in love with human nature, and through human nature I fell in love with God.'

(Bryan McMahon, Writer, quoting his teacher in Primary School in Kerry.)



just notice ...

- nature
 - gifts
 - ♣ people
- experiences
 - stillness
 - ♣ awareness
- community
 - creation
 - ♣ the Creator
- the face and eyes of Jesus
 - the divine dignity & wonder of each other

(‘Life to the full’)

And Just notice that each one of these young people is **‘like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody...and if we could see it ...’** (Thomas Merton)



Feedback from Teachers:

- About the Facilities...‘Very good for both students and teachers/ Students very impressed with Meditation Area.’
- About the Team: ‘Professional, caring, very much in touch with today’s youth, well able to keep their attention,- very organised from the time we stepped off the bus.’
- ‘The students benefited greatly from the experience’.



Feedback from Students:

‘I liked and enjoyed all aspects of the retreat.’ / ‘I loved the surroundings.’ / ‘I like the way my whole year bonded together.’

‘I really enjoyed my visit to Esker. Thank you!’ / ‘So good. Loved the sessions, food, people. Good to get back religion.’

‘Bonding with people we don’t usually talk to. ‘ / ‘The meditation was cool. Felt very refreshed after it.’

‘I would love to go back again, it will be one of, if not the best, memory of Leaving Cert. year. Thank you so much...’

‘Thanks a million for everything. We have so many memories. I feel sorry for those that didn’t go... they really missed out. Thanks a bunch, Esker. Thanks again.’

‘I would love to go back again with our year before the Leaving Cert...’ ‘I loved the final Mass with everyone in the year’