



POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

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Message from the Bishop of Ossory

Pope Francis has kindly reminded us that the Gospel contains three great truths which are especially addressed to young people, and by extension to all. First, "God loves you". It makes no difference whether you have heard this before or not. Second, Christ, out of love, sacrificed himself completely to save you. Third, inseparable from the second, 'Christ is alive!'

Sharing the good news that 'Christ is alive,' encapsulating the two other points, is what lies at the very heart of the Church's mission in the world. One of the ways in which the Church in Ireland tries to communicate this message to youth is through the Pope John Paul II Award, a programme well-established in many dioceses. It is committed to helping young people to discover, rediscover and grow in their experience of life and faith. The youth are invited to do so through participation in school, parish and community activities which aim to enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development.

It is a well-established fact that those who enter truly into the spirit of the Award are likely to grow greatly as people by demonstrating commitment to working with and for others, setting goals and fulfilling tasks. This helps them to be better Christians and citizens, people more able to care for others, enhancing their own sense of personal wellbeing and achievement.

The Pope John Paul II Award supplements other outreaches by the Diocese to young people which include pilgrimages to Lourdes, Medjugorje and Taizé,

fundraising for charities, cairdeas, care for the earth initiatives as well as participation in various ministries in their parishes as readers, eucharistic ministers, singers and musicians. In addition, many young people participate in diocesan liturgies, especially in St Mary's Cathedral, throughout the year. Significantly, such pastoral and liturgical engagement can be included in what is taken into account for inclusion in the JP II Award.

Pope Francis has also said that the modern world, despite its many difficulties, provides numerous opportunities for personal development, community building, and social change. Young people, he went on to say, with their joy and exuberance are called to be innovative and courageous, using their unique talents and passions to make a positive impact on the world around them. The process of facing and overcoming challenges can lead to profound personal growth and deeper self-awareness.

I recommend this new rolling out of the John Paul II Award programme in the Diocese of Ossory, and I pray that all involved with it will find it a great source of blessing and encouragement.



+ Niall Coll
Bishop of Ossory

Pope John Paul II Award

The Pope John Paul II Award encourages you to go beyond your comfort zone on a **journey of self-discovery**. It challenges you to give your time, your talents, your intellect, and your social skills for the **well-being of others and for the Glory of God**.

The Award was created to commemorate the late Pope John Paul II who was so committed to young people and who had such belief and confidence in them.

Through the Pope John Paul II Award, young people in the Diocese of Ossory will be enabled to take an active part in the life of their Church, in the life of their community and society, and also become more aware of the teaching and role of the Catholic Church in the world. This will enable young people to engage at a deep level with Christ, whose body the Church is.

It will allow young people to understand that religion and faith are not just for learning, nor are they a list of rules, but that they are for living.



Who is the Award for?

Who is the Award for?

- Students in full-time education who have completed Junior Certificate
- Anyone between the ages of 16 and 18, who is not in post-primary education

The Award is non-competitive, flexible and voluntary, and requires an ongoing commitment

The people involved

- Award Patron - The Bishop of Ossory
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - trained parish Award leaders in collaboration with teachers, chaplains and clergy
- Facilitators - trained parish Award leaders who will facilitate Award participants to fulfil individual parish and social awareness activities
- Administrative Centre - Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator, Pope John Paul II Award Office, St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny



How does the Award work?

How many Awards are there?

There are four Awards: The Papal Cross, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

What is the completion time?

16 months beginning in September.

How do I earn the Award?

You earn your Award by taking part in activities through Parish Involvement and Social Awareness, and preparation of a reflection. For the Papal Cross Award, which only begins after completing the Gold Award, the reflection is replaced by a project.

Award Levels:



The Papal Cross Award

Gold Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 26 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 26 weeks

Project

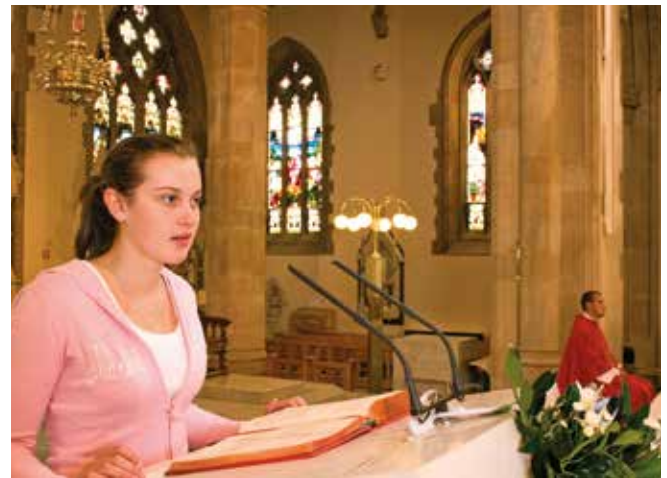


Gold Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 20 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 20 weeks

Reflection



Silver Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Reflection



Bronze Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Reflection

How does the Award work?

How do I enrol in the Award?

Visit thepopejohnpauliiaward.com to download the application form and parental consent form (for those who are under 18 years of age). You should return the completed forms with the enrolment fee to your Award Leader in your school/parish.

Enrolment Fee

To enrol in the Award costs €20. The Parish Award Leader will collect the fee. The Parish Award Leader will send all fees to the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator

What happens next?

When your enrolment is processed, you will receive your Record Card from your Award Leader. You will decide with your Award Leader what activity or activities you intend to carry out under the sections 'Parish Involvement' and 'Social Awareness'.

Please be sure that the named facilitator signs your Record Card each time. When you complete the 'Parish Involvement' and the 'Social Awareness' sections of the Award you will then prepare a reflection.



How do I claim my Award?

On completion of the hours and the reflection, you should return your Record Card and reflection to your Parish Award Leader. These are ratified by the designated person(s) in the parish and are then forwarded to:

The Pope John Paul II Award
Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator
Pope John Paul II Award Office
St. Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Parish Involvement

Encouraging Parish Involvement

When we are baptised we become members of the Body of Christ. This means that we are called to be the presence of Christ in the world. As the Body of Christ, we belong to the community of the Church. We live out this belonging in our parish. For the Church, for the Body of Christ to be fully alive everybody needs to be actively involved. There are many things we can do in our parish.

Examples of activities that can be done for the Award in the parish are:

- Minister of the Word
- Altar Server
- Minister of Holy Communion
- Assist the sacristan with preparing the Altar for Mass
- Member of choir/music group/organist/musician
- Assisting with Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Composing and/or leading the prayer of the faithful
- Active member Pioneer Total Abstinence Association (PTAA)
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin
- Serve tea/coffee after parish Masses



- Forming/leading/coordinating parish youth prayer gatherings
- Engagement in third level chaplaincy liturgy/prayer/activities

There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator for approval.

Social Awareness

Encouraging Social Awareness

As members of the Body of Christ, through baptism, we make Christ present by the way we treat others. Our faith is lived out most fully in our actions, that is why it is important to be aware of the needs of others and to minister to their needs. That is why 'Social Awareness' is such an important aspect of this Award.

Examples of activities in the area of Social Awareness that you could do for your Award are:

- Assist the St Vincent de Paul society in your parish
- Coaching GAA/other sports for younger children
- Participation in or leadership training for local youth group
- Volunteering at charity shops
- Volunteering at community centres
- Ongoing fundraising for local charities
- Tidy Towns
- Visiting residential homes



There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator for approval.

Reflection

Preparing the Reflection

When the participant completes the 'Parish Involvement' and the 'Social Awareness' sections of the Award he/she prepares a reflection. This reflection may be written, or on request it can take the form of an oral presentation which will be recorded and then transcribed.

The Reflection is to include:

- A personal reflection and evaluation on any one activity carried out for the Award
- The teaching of the Church that is relevant to the activity (e.g. visiting a residential home - teaching of the Church in relation to the care of the elderly and vulnerable. Reading at Mass - teaching of the Church in relation to the Word of God).
- An answer to the question - What does it mean to be a baptised member of the Church?

Through the reflection, the participant will show a knowledge and understanding of what they did within the context of the Church. Their role within the Church will become more apparent.



Award Top-Ups

Award Top-Ups

Award Top-Ups are given in recognition of the extra activities that young people are already involved in. Top-Ups will go towards the total number of hours an individual has to complete.

Top-Ups can be achieved in a number of ways - see below:

Top-Ups:

Papal Cross	7.5 hours
Gold	6 hours
Silver	4.5 hours
Bronze	3 hours

Parish & Diocesan Pilgrimages

Many parishes organise pilgrimages, either specifically for young people, or for the wider parish community, but open to young people. Pilgrimages to Knock, Lourdes, Taizé and Medjugorje happen every year in the Ossory Diocese and participation in this type of activity can be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

Training for Ministry

During the year, the diocese will extend an invitation for young people to participate in training programmes for ministry. These training events can also be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

Diocesan Liturgies

Diocesan liturgies held throughout the year are enriched by the participation of young people and taking part in these liturgies can be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

Taizé prayer

The diocese organises Taizé prayer evenings for young people throughout the year which involves a prayer around the Cross followed by a social event. Participation in these evenings can be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator for approval.

Code of Ethics

Participants Code of Ethics

The Pope John Paul II Award values and encourages the participation of young people in activities which allow them to live their faith in Jesus Christ in the community of the Church. The Award is committed to helping young people enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development through participation in school, parish and community activities.

In keeping with this ethos, the Award has drawn up a Code of Ethics for all participants.

Participants will:

- Abide by the policies and procedures already in place in their schools, parishes and community groups where the Award activities will take place
- Seek signed consent from parents/guardians to participate in activities and events associated with the Award, where participants are under 18 years of age
- Treat people with courtesy, dignity and respect
- Avoid inappropriate language and/or sexually suggestive comments/jokes
- Not engage in any behaviour that could be construed as bullying or abusive
- Not engage in any inappropriate physical contact

Code of Ethics

Participants will:

- Respect a person's right to privacy
- Act with particular care if visiting residential homes and ensure all safeguarding requirements are adhered to
- Abide by arrangements and procedures for entering and exiting activity events and venues
- Act according to directions and regulations when carrying out fundraising activities for charities
- Report immediately to the School Principal or designated Child Protection Person for the Diocese of Ossory if they have any concerns about their own safety and well-being, or that of another participant
- Sign up to the Code of Behaviour before beginning the Award
- Not be permitted to smoke whilst engaged in activities associated with the Pope John Paul II Award
- Refrain from alcohol or illegal substances



Participants found to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances during activities will be asked to withdraw immediately from the Award and their continued participation will be reviewed in consultation with the School Principal or the Award Committee.

Offices

Diocese of Ossory:

The Pope John Paul II Award
Gemma Mulligan Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator
John Paul II Award Office
St. Kieran's College
Kilkenny

Tel: **087 7571250**

Email: Gemmamulligan@ossory.ie
thepopejohnpauliiaward.com/ossory

All Award activities must adhere to the Diocese of Ossory safeguarding policies, GDPR procedures and Pope John Paul II Award guidance as outlined on ossory.ie

Award Central Office:

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre
The Gate Lodge
2 Francis Street
Derry
BT48 7DS

Tel: 00 44 28 7126 4087

Email: admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com
thepopejohnpauliiaward.com

*Trust Christ; listen attentively to his teachings, fix your eyes on his face,
persevere in listening to His word.
Allow Him to focus your search and aspirations,
all your ideals and the desires of your heart.*

Pope John Paul II