

# Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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# Message from the Bishop of Derry

The purpose of this initiative, 'The Pope John Paul II Award' in this diocese is to enable young people to live their faith and to witness to that faith lived out in the parish community.

I concur fully with the late Holy Father's sentiments expressed so beautifully in Galway in 1979, "I believe in youth". The youth of today will be the leaders in the church and in society in the future.

The components of 'The Pope John Paul II Award' comprises parish engagement - liturgical and pastoral, social awareness and an eventual written presentation of their endeavours.

Now and in the future all our endeavours must be based on prayer, intercession and active participation in the liturgical life of the Church. In this way we will receive God's grace and help. "If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labour" Ps 126.

I invite you, the young people of the diocese, to participate in this initiative. I thank in advance all the leaders and others who will assist and facilitate you.

+ Séamus Hegarty  
Bishop of Derry



# Pope John Paul II Award

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 Derry 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 is not just for learning, nor is it a list of rules, but that it is for living.



# Who is the Award for?

## Who is the Award for?

- Students in Year 13 in Northern Ireland
- Students in 4th Year in Republic of Ireland
- Students in full-time education who have completed GCSEs or Junior Certificate
- Students in Transition Year
- Anyone between the age of 16 and 18, 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 Derry
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Community Leaders, Clergy, etc.
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the participants to fulfill individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre

# How does the Award work?

## How many Awards are there?

There are three Awards: Gold, Silver and Bronze.

## What is the completion time?

16 months beginning in September.

## What exactly do I do to earn an Award?

You earn your Award by taking part in activities through Parish Involvement and Social Awareness, and preparation of Presentation.

## Each Award requires the following:

### Gold Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr a week x 20 weeks  
Social Awareness: 1 hr a week x 20 weeks  
Presentation

### Silver Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr a week x 14 weeks  
Social Awareness: 1 hr a week x 14 weeks  
Presentation

### Bronze Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr a week x 8 weeks  
Social Awareness: 1 hr a week x 8 weeks  
Presentation



# How does the Award work?

## **How do I enrol in the Award?**

Visit [www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com](http://www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com) to download the application form and parental consent form. You should then return the completed forms with the enrolment fee to your Award leader in your school/parish.

## **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. The presentation is to be completed at the end of the tasks.

## **Is there an enrolment fee?**

Yes, to enrol in the Award it costs £10 or €15. The Award leader will collect all money. A cheque will then be sent to the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre and made payable to the Pope John Paul II Award.

## **How do I claim my Award?**

On completion of the hours and the presentation, you should return your Record Card and presentation to the Award leader. These are ratified by the school principal and forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Committee at the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre.



# 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 in the parish that can be done for the Award are:

- Reading at Mass
- Altar Server
- Eucharistic Minister
- Member of choir/folk group
- Church decoration
- Collector
- Composing prayers of the faithful
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin
- There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Pope John Paul II Award Committee 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:

- Member of St. Vincent de Paul
- Children in Crossfire
- Spred
- Faith and Light
- Ongoing fundraising
- Regular visitation of residential homes
- Faith Friends
- There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Pope John Paul II Award Committee for approval.



# Presentation

## Preparing the Presentation

When the participant completes the Parish Involvement and the Social Awareness sections of the Award he/she prepares a presentation. This presentation may be written (approx 1500 words) or through an interview (interview conducted by the Award leader, recorded, then transcribed).

### The Presentation 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, etc)
- An answer to the question - What does it mean to be a baptised member of the Church?

Through the Presentation, 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, for example - helping with the sick pilgrims at Lourdes or working on behalf of Children in Crossfire. These activities will gain participants Award Top-Ups:

<b>Gold</b>	6 hours
<b>Silver</b>	4.5 hours
<b>Bronze</b>	3 hours

There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Pope John Paul II Award Committee for approval.

## Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Each year about 600 people from the Derry Diocese travel to Lourdes between the 16th-21st July. About 80 of the people who travel are registered as sick. These people need special care while in Lourdes. Volunteers are always needed to give them that care. It may be pushing their wheelchair or just

accompanying them. Working in Lourdes with the diocesan pilgrimage can be part of this Award.

## Humanitarian Trips

Trips lasting 4 days or more to work on specific projects, such as orphanages in Romania or home building in Africa.

## Children in Crossfire

Organise a Children in Crossfire week in your school or parish. This can be organised by an individual or a group (no more than 5). There are 3 elements required:

- At least one fundraising event during the week
- Organise a talk or display focusing on an issue in the developing world
- Cross Community - organise a talk or display focusing on some aspect of 'another' community within our society, e.g. another faith community, minority community or ethnic community.

# Code of Ethics

## **Participant's 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.

## **Participant's 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
- 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

## **Participant's will:**

- Respect a persons right to privacy
- Act with particular care if visiting residential homes
- Abide by arrangements and procedures for participating in and leaving activities, events and venues
- Act according to directions and regulations when carrying out fundraising activities for charities
- Report immediately to the school leader or designated child protection person for the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre 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

Smoking will not be permitted whilst engaged in activities associated with the Pope John Paul II Award.

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 their school.



# Offices/Organisations Involved

## **Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre**

The Gate Lodge  
2 Francis Street  
Derry  
BT48 7DS

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Fax: 028 7126 9090

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[www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com](http://www.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.