

Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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Message from the Bishop

Youthcom leads our mission of “building faith in young people.”

On behalf of the Diocese of Down and Connor, Youthcom carries out this mission by constantly affirming the giftedness of our young people. It fosters this affirmation by engaging them in creative roles within our parishes, youth centres and schools.

I welcome the introduction of the Pope John Paul II Award by Youthcom into the Diocese of Down and Connor. I pray that this Award will inspire young people to get involved in their local parishes, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of the wider parish community.

The Pope John Paul II Award gives concrete expression to the vision at the heart of the Framework Document for Youth Ministry in Ireland, *‘Called Together - Making a Difference.’*

The talents, skills and gifts of young people can make a real difference to their peers. We see the impact they have on the lives of the wider community through many acts of selfless service. They are called to play a full and active part in our

parish communities. The joy and vitality that they bring to this task makes a difference. The Pope John Paul II Award will hopefully channel their youthful enthusiasm. Their involvement and work will be an eloquent witness to faith in Jesus Christ for all of us in our Diocese as we share the common task of building God’s kingdom.

I trust that the Pope John Paul II Award will strengthen links in the Diocese between our youth centres, schools, movements and organisations - and all who believe in the goodness of our young people.

We are called together - through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Inspired by our faith in Christ, let us be sure of this: together we will make a difference!

+ Noel Treanor
Bishop of Down and Connor



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 Down and Connor 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?

- Young people in full-time education who have completed Year 12
- Young people between the ages 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 Down and Connor
- Award Making Body - Youthcom, through the Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Youth Workers, Faith Development Workers, Clergy
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the young people to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Youthcom



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 an Award?

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

Each Award requires the following:



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

Presentation



Silver Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Presentation



Bronze Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Presentation

How does the Award work?

How do I enrol in the Award?

Visit 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 £15. The Award Leader will collect all money. A cheque will then be sent to the Youthcom Office 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 appropriate person(s) e.g. Faith Development Worker, School Principal, Youth Worker and forwarded to the Youthcom Office.



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:

- Reading at Mass
- Altar Server
- Eucharistic Minister
- Member of choir/folk group
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Church Decoration
- Collector
- Composing Prayers of the Faithful
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin or website



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. This is why it is important to be aware of the needs of others and to minister to their needs, and 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
- New Day Programme
- Parish Youth Centre volunteer
- Coaching games
- Spred
- Ongoing fundraising for charitable projects
- Regular visitation of residential homes
- Faith Friends
- GIFT Programme

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). On request it can take the form of an oral presentation that will be recorded and then transcribed. Multi-media presentations are also encouraged.

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).
- 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 - see below:

Top-Ups:

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

Pilgrimage

Each year, many people from the Diocese of Down and Connor travel to Lourdes at Easter and during the summer, to care for people with disabilities. These people need special care while in Lourdes and 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 groups can be part of this Award.

Young people also take part in pilgrimages to places such as Taizé, Clonmacnoise and Santiago de

Compostela. These pilgrimages can also be considered as Award Top-Ups.

Home & Overseas Service Projects

Young people may engage in service projects lasting four days or more at home or abroad, such as summer schemes - SERVE, Habitat for Humanity or working in orphanages in Romania. These service projects may be considered as Award Top-Ups.

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.

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
- 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 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 youth worker, school principal or designated child protection person for the Diocese of Down and Connor 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 youth worker, school principal or the Award Committee.

Offices

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*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.