

# Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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# Message from the Bishop

I am delighted to welcome the inauguration of the Pope John Paul II Award to the Diocese of Killaloe. In the Listening process now underway in the Diocese, one of the questions continually asked concerns how our Church can engage with our young people. This Award programme is, I believe, an excellent opportunity for young people to engage in a real and concrete way with their Church.

In recent times, one of the most fascinating experiences for me has been the involvement with the youth volunteers who participate in the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. I have been very impressed with their energy, good humour and spirit of service towards those on the pilgrimage who have serious health issues. The young, gathered from around the diocese show a great sense of caring and goodwill to those entrusted to their care over the days of the pilgrimage. Young people have a great ability to link with each other creating networks of friendship that I hope will last a long time.

I am sure that the young people I have met on the pilgrimage represent the many young people throughout the diocese who are committed to the values of the Kingdom of God and will benefit greatly from the Pope John Paul II Award programme.

I invite young people to engage with the Award programme and seize the opportunity to live their baptism in a real way and become involved as members of the Church of today and tomorrow. Every blessing on all those involved.

Rath Dé oraibh.

+ Kieran O'Reilly, SMA  
Bishop of Killaloe



# 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 Killaloe Diocese 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 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 Killaloe
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Chaplains, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the candidates to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Pope John Paul II Award Office, The Presbytery, Church Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary



# 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](http://www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com) to download the application form and parental consent form (for those who are under 18 years of age). 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 €20. The Award Leader will collect all money. A cheque will then be sent to The Award Co-ordinator 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. Parish Youth Representative, School Principal, and forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Office, The Presbytery, Church Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.



# 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
- Play and Pray
- Church Decoration
- Collector
- Composing prayers of the faithful
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



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
- Member of the Legion of Mary
- Leader of Youth Group
- Acting as a mentor/coach for younger people in sporting organisations
- Ongoing fundraising
- Regular visitation of residential homes
- Volunteering in charity shop
- Parish based community building activities
- 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). On request it can take the form of an oral presentation which will be recorded and 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).
- 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:**

<b>Papal Cross</b>	7.5 hours
<b>Gold</b>	6 hours
<b>Silver</b>	4.5 hours
<b>Bronze</b>	3 hours

## **Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

Each year pilgrims from the Killaloe Diocese travel to Lourdes between the 26th of June and 1st of July. A number of the people who travel are registered as assisted pilgrims. 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.

## **Pilgrimage to Taizé**

Each year a pilgrimage of young people from the diocese joins the community of Taizé in southern France. The Taizé Community is made up of over a hundred brothers representing around thirty nations and coming from both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds. Participating in this pilgrimage can be part of this Award.

## **Humanitarian Trips**

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

## **Retreats - Youth Activities**

Taking part in the Diocesan Youth Day, attending festivals such as the Knock Youth Festival or the Clonmacnois Youth Festival, retreats lasting at least two days, or attendance at World Youth Day 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 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, 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
- 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 Parish Youth Representative, the School Principal or designated Child Protection Person for the Killaloe Diocese 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 Parish Youth Representative, School Principal or the Award Committee.

# Offices

**Killaloe Diocese:**

The Pope John Paul II Award Office  
The Presbytery  
Church Road  
Nenagh  
Co. Tipperary

Tel: 067 31272

Email: [jp2killaloe@gmail.com](mailto:jp2killaloe@gmail.com)

[www.killaloe-diocese.ie](http://www.killaloe-diocese.ie)

**Central Office:**

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

Tel: 048 7126 4087

Fax: 048 7126 9090

Email: [admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com](mailto:admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com)

[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.