

believe



Pope John Paul II Award Handbook
Archdiocese of Armagh



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Foreword from Archbishop Eamon Martin

"Don't be discouraged: with a smile and open arms, you proclaim hope and you are a blessing for our one human family, which here you represent so beautifully!"

These words of Pope Francis to the young people of the world were given at the closing Mass for World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. They remind us how vital young people are, and how we must value their contribution to the life of our Church. As we are only too well aware, standing out and being a witness to our Catholic faith is not without its challenges, but as Pope Francis suggests, the more we share our faith with one another, the brighter the flame of faith glows.

The Pope John Paul II Award is one of the most successful youth ministry initiatives to come from Ireland to the world. The Award was created to commemorate Saint Pope John Paul 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 Archdiocese of Armagh continue to be enabled to take an active part in the life of their Church, in the life of their community and also become more aware of the teaching and role of the Catholic Church. I invite our parishes and our schools to accompany young people in this youth ministry project.

Most of all I invite you, the young people of the Archdiocese of Armagh, to respond to the challenge that this Award offers you and to participate in the life and mission of our Diocese. Together we are all called to offer hope on the great adventure of faith and to seek to do the best for ourselves and for others.

Every blessing on all those involved.

+ Eamon Martin

+ Eamon Martin
Archbishop of Armagh

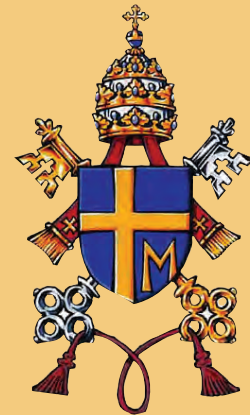


Pope John Paul II Award

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 Archdiocese of Armagh 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 Year 13 and 14 in Northern Ireland
- Students in 4th Year in the Republic of Ireland
- Students in Transition Year
- Students in full-time education who have completed GCSEs or Junior Certificate
- Anyone 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 - Archbishop Eamon Martin.
- Award Marking Body - Armagh Diocesan Faith Awards Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy, Community and centre based Youth Leaders
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the parish to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry Office





Dope John Paul II Award

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?

12 ~ 15 months beginning in Autumn time.

How do I earn an Award?

You earn your Award by:

- Taking part in activities through Parish Involvement and Social Awareness
- Completion of 4 Personal Reflections

Each Award requires the following:

- ▼ **The Papal Cross Award** *(only available after completion of Gold)*
 - 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*
 - Reflective Journal

(*Minimum of 4 Activities in both Parish and Social Initiatives)
- ▼ **Silver Award**
 - Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks*
 - Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks*
 - Reflective Journal

(*Minimum of 3 Activities in both Parish and Social Initiatives)
- ▼ **Bronze Award**
 - Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks*
 - Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks*
 - Reflective Journal

(*Minimum of 2 Activities in both Parish and Social Initiatives)

* More active in church life.
- Minimum of 4/3/2 approved activities in **both** Parish Involvement and Social Awareness.



Enrolling in the Pope John Paul II Award

ENROLMENT

September ~ October

- The Faith Award Leader launches the Award.
- The Faith Award Leader distributes application forms.
- The Faith Award Leader will collect application forms and forward with a fee to the Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry Office*.
- The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office will forward copies of the record card and letter of welcome to all Faith Award Leaders for distribution to their Award Participants.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Award should be completed over a 12 ~ 15 month period. See below a timeline that Faith Award Leaders should follow.

October ~ December

- The Faith Award Leader will discuss with the participants what parish involvement and social awareness projects they will undertake to achieve their award.
(Please see pages 6 & 7 for a list of approved initiatives)

- Session One and Personal Reflection to be completed.

January ~ March

- Session Two and Personal Reflection to be completed.

September ~ November

- Session Three and Personal Reflection to be completed.

November ~ January

- Submission of Record Card and Personal Reflection Journal to the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office

March

- Award Participants must attend the annual Faith Award Ceremony to receive their award.



* Fee - £15 / €20 Cheques made payable to ADYC

Faith Award Leaders are encouraged to meet regularly with Award Participants throughout this process.

Parish and Social initiatives should be carried out from September to the following November.



Parish Involvement

List of Approved Initiatives

- Minister of the Word
- Eucharistic Minister
- Member of Choir/Folk Group
- Taking up gifts in Offertory Procession
- Composing and/or reading Prayers of the Faithful
- Helping prepare Liturgies e.g. Easter/Christmas Services
- Becoming a Prayer Pal to other Parishoners
- Member of a Parish Prayer Group
- Collector/Counting Team (for collections)
- Church Decoration/Flowers
- Church Cleaning
- Cleaning Maintaining parish Graveyard
- Preparing articles for parish bulletin/newsletter/website/social media
- Maintaining a youth notice board in church
- Member of Parish Youth Faith Group
- Assisting with the Children's Liturgy Team
- Member of the Sacristy Team
- Member of Parish Peer Mentoring Programme
- Youth Pasporal Council/Youth Rep on Parish Pastoral Council
- Involvement in School Liturgies/Assemblies (up to a max of 50%)
- Parish/Diocesan Pilgrimages e.g. Knock, World Youth Day etc.
- Member of Parish Hospitality Team
- Preparation relating to Rosary/Adoration Groups

IMPORTANT!

Award Participants are encouraged to complete their Parish Involvement hours by taking part in any of the listed activities. If you wish to record hours for an initiative that is not on the approved list, you/your award leader should contact the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office. Hours may be discounted if prior approval is not sought.

Tel: (028)/(048) 3752 3084

Email: armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk

**** Please note hours will not be counted for attending Mass or Adoration.**



Social Awareness

List of Approved Initiatives

- Active member of a charity e.g. St Vincent de Paul, Trócaire
- Volunteering in local Youth Club
- Volunteering Abroad e.g. with Habitat for Humanity, SERVE, Romania, Zambia
- Helping with projects with younger children in the community
- Fundraising for charity e.g. MacMillan, NI Hospice
- Visiting Residential Home or Hospice (with vetted Award Leader)
- Member of Peer Mentoring Group
- Coaching/Training of underage players (in sports)
- Helping at community events e.g. fun days, senior citizens dinner
- Volunteering in a charity shop e.g. St. Vincent de Paul, Action Cancer
- Peer mentoring/homework clubs
- Active member of the Scouts/Girl Guides
- Active member of the Order of Malta/St John's Ambulance
- Taking part in Community Programmes e.g. shoebox appeal, mission appeal, environmental programme, preparing Christmas Hampers, singing Christmas Carols in nursing homes etc.
- Member of Youth Council
- Cross Community Schemes
- ICHPT Lourdes Trip



IMPORTANT!

Award Participants are encouraged to complete their Social Awareness hours by taking part in any of the listed activities. If you wish to record hours for an initiative that is not on the approved list, you/your award leader should contact the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office. Hours may be discounted if prior approval is not sought.

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Pope John Paul II Award

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:

Papal Cross 7.5 hours

Gold 6 hours

Silver 4.5 hours

Bronze 3 hours

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

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is described as a journey to a holy place or shrine. Many people from the Archdiocese of Armagh take part in pilgrimages every year. For some this is an opportunity to care for others through involvement in the ADYC pilgrimage to Lourdes in the summer, or the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in May. Others attend pilgrimage as an opportunity for prayer and reflection to places such as Taizé or Santiago De Compostella. There are also local pilgrimages to sites such as Knock, Lough Derg and St. Brigid's Shrine, Faughart.

Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission (ADYC) Activities

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office organise youth activities throughout the year with opportunities for young people to become involved in the planning and delivery. Further information on activities can be found on the Diocesan website and via social media. Each of these activities will be assigned Top-Up hours.

Humanitarian Trips

Trips lasting four days or more to work on specific projects, such as orphanages in Romania or home building in Africa. 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 Faith Award Committee for approval.



Personal Reflections

Journeying with Saint John Paul II

The Armagh Diocesan Faith Awards Committee have developed 3 catechesis sessions. These are designed for the Faith Award Leader to help enhance the faith journey of the participants.

These sessions will support Faith Award Leaders & young people as they journey onwards in the development and knowledge of their Catholic Faith.

~ After each session each participant must complete part of their personal reflection.

~ Further details can be found in the Reflective Catechesis Sessions Resource Booklet.



Pope John Paul II Awards



Participant 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.
- Treat people charitably and 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.

Participants will:

- Respect a person's right to privacy.
- Act with care and consideration 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.
- Refrain from alcohol smoking or illegal substances whilst participating in the Award.

Essential Criteria for Faith Award Leaders

As a Faith Award Leader it is your responsibility to ensure that the following essential criteria are followed in order for your award participants to receive their Pope John Paul II Award.

- Schools/Parishes will undertake to promote the Award for the purposes of increasing awareness about Pope Saint John Paul;
- All participants must attend the Awards Ceremony to obtain the Award Medal (date will be given in advance);
- All participants will be required to participate in 3 Catechises Sessions which involve group questions, viewing of videos, and completing 4 personal reflections. This is to be carried out with the guidance and supervision of the Faith Award Leader;
- Journal submissions must reflect personal interpretation of the 3 Catechises Sessions;
- Journal submissions are required to reflect personal faith development;
- Record Cards must be completed correctly and in their entirety by the Participant and Faith Award Leader, and all hours recorded must be on the approved activities list;
- There will be a clear demarcation between the different grades of the Award.
- Faith Award Leaders are encouraged to meet regularly with Award Participants.



Pope John Paul II Award



Contact Details

Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry Office
Archdiocese of Armagh
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Cathedral Road
Armagh
BT61 7QY

Tel: 028/048 3752 3084

Email: armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk

Web: www.armagharchdiocese.org



[@armaghyouth](https://twitter.com/armaghyouth)



facebook.com/adycinspired01



instagram.com/adyc_be_inspired

*Dear Lord,
You raised servant Karol to succeed St. Peter,
As Shepherd of your worldwide flock as our Holy Father John Paul II.*

*In memory of his enthusiastic and courageous work and dedication,
I pledge myself to follow his faithfulness and loyalty
to the Gospel message.*

*By promising to be truly a disciple I pray,
That I may be loving and generous to all I meet,
May my efforts to build your kingdom be truly blessed by you.*

*I pray also for all others who like me have decided
to take on this task through pursuit of the Pope John Paul II Award
and I trust You will surround us always with your compassion,
care and love.
Amen.*

*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

