

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CELEBRANT

MOST REVEREND DONAL MCKEOWN

BISHOP OF DERRY

PATRON OF THE POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

RTÉ STUDIO'S, DONNYBROOK, DUBLIN
SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER 2017



**POPE JOHN PAUL II
AWARD**

OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

OPENING HYMN

Light of the World (I am to worship)

Tim Hughes

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, Let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you
Hope of a life spent with you

Chorus

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely. Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Bishop McKeown and Altar servers approach the Altar, venerate the Altar. The servers will make their way to their places. Bishop McKeown goes to take his place at the Altar.

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the earth you created
All for love's sake became poor

Chorus

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely. Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Bishop:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your Spirit.

Bishop:

I welcome you here today to the studios of RTE, to all who are joining us for the celebration of the Eucharist here on this the third Sunday of Advent where John the Baptist is centre stage. These Sunday celebrations can be important for many, especially those who are at home, in hospital, in nursing homes who are unwell at this time. You may be listening to us from the sea or in prison, on the farmland or the kitchen, here in Ireland or far away. Even though we may be separated by distance, we are connected through the wonders of technology, but more importantly, we are connected through the risen Christ.

As it is the third Sunday of Advent, I ask Maebh McGrady from the Diocese of Dromore to come forward and light the third candle on our Advent wreath.

Maebh steps forward, lights the candle with background instrumental music.

Maebh goes back to her seat and music stops.

Bishop:

We are here today to celebrate with representatives of all the young people involved in the Pope John Paul II Award over the last 10 years. The Pope John Paul II Award is for young people between the ages of 16 and 18. The young people participating in the Award

get involved in their parish. They get involved in the Masses at the weekend. They do the readings, they bring up the gifts. They do prayers of the faithful. They do basket collecting. Some are Altar servers, some are Eucharistic ministers and some get involved in the choir.

As well as being involved in the Church, they are also going out from the Church to be the presence of Jesus to others. By helping those in need, by visiting care homes and by volunteering with local clubs and charities. Here is a brief video which gives a glimpse of how the Award is working in the parish of Kilfinane in the Diocese of Limerick.

VIDEO PLAYS – approx 55 seconds

Bishop:

I wish the Diocese of Limerick and the other 25 diocese in Ireland and Britain running the Pope John Paul II Award continued success in making young people's contribution to their Church and their parish better and stronger as the years go on.

Brothers and sisters, as we gather together, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All:

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the angels and saints,
and you my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Bishop:

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

KYRIE

Title: Kyrie

Composer: Seán O'Raidá

Bishop (sung): A Thiarna déan trócaire

Choir: A Thiarna déan trócaire

Bishop (sung): A Chriost déan trócaire

Choir: A Chriost déan trócaire

Bishop (sung): A Thiarna déan trócaire

Choir: A Thiarna déan trócaire

Bishop: Let us pray:

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING (Reader: Finola McCaughan,
Archdiocese of Armagh) [61:1-2, 10-11]**

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Resp. Psalm: Glorify the Lord*Liam Lawton*

My soul glorifies the Lord my God
my spirit sings in God who is my Saviour.
In favour God has looked upon this lowly one
Every age shall call me blest.

Chorus

I will glorify the Lord, I will glorify the Lord,
Glorify, glorify, glorify the Lord

The Almighty one for me has done great things.
And holy, holy is God's name!
Mercy thus is shown where God's fear is known
For all time in every generation.

Chorus

I will glorify the Lord, I will glorify the Lord,
Glorify, glorify, glorify the Lord

He has come to heal and help you Israel
Remembering a promise told of old.
A promise that was made to our people as they prayed.
Abraham his children ever more.

Chorus

I will glorify the Lord, I will glorify the Lord,
Glorify, glorify, glorify the Lord

**SECOND READING (Reader: Anthony O'Shaughnessy,
Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin) [5: 16-24]**

Reader: A reading from the First letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALL STAND

Alleluia: Pilgrims Song: Liam Lawton

Chorus

Al - le Al - le - lu Al - le - lu - ia X 4

**Speak O Lord your servant here is listening
You have the message of eternal life
Speak O Lord your servant here is listening
You have the message of eternal life**

Chorus

Al - le Al - le - lu Al - le - lu - ia X 4

GOSPEL

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. [1:6-8:19-28]

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Bishop:

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

Bishop:

Nearly twenty years ago colleague of mine brought out a book called *The God who loved stories*. The purpose of the book was simple. Most of the bible is not made up of laws and abstract teachings. My friend wanted to help us both read both the thousands of stories that are in the Bible – and then understand something of the one story that runs through the whole book.

Today we meet one of the great characters of that big story of hope and healing – John the Baptist. He was a youthful rebel in his own days. An only child of older parents, he was not prepared to take on his father's role in Jerusalem's magnificent Temple. He opted to go out into the dangerous desert, dressing and living in a way that refused to conform to the contemporary standards of religious practice.

But John was not just another hurting drop-out, able to be angry at everything but unable to offer much. He was not just a moaner but a happy complainer. So what part of the story that he was telling by his words and actions?

Firstly, as we are today, he was aware of the dangers of the present and fear of the future that lurked below the surface for many. But his message from God is that there is also love lurking behind the dark clouds. He would query the frightening story that we are telling our young people about their future and their dreams. John the Baptist is not a long-faced miserable saint, full of dire warnings about divine vengeance. From his young heart that has refused to become mature and sensible, settled and superior, he speaks about mountains being laid low and valleys filled in. He dares to echo the ancient prophet Isaiah's dream that the poor and weak would hear

good news rather than just criticism and austerity. He might tell us that we are failing too many young people, not because we don't give them enough things and freedom – but because we tell them to expect little from life. Just obey your thirst and believe that life is too short to say no – because that is as good as it gets. John's poverty in the wilderness invites us always to dream, not of what trinkets we can acquire but of what we can become. He believes in a God who continues to believe in people. Perhaps the dreamers speak a truth that sees further than do the sensible who see only facts. That is Good News and a reason to dream.

Secondly, his home in the wilderness says that new shoots of life will come from the most unexpected quarters in the apparent deserts where the wild animals live. Our culture markets glitzy toys and sparkling heroes. But man can have a short shelf-life and feet of clay. John's desert story tells us that the real future lies in little people doing amazing little things. John speaks of a God who will speak to us through an unplanned child who begins life with little of the milk of human kindness from others, but who is blessed with a family who love him, even when they don't understand him. The Christmas child is not daunted by the apparent hopelessness of his mission, the violence of his society or the insignificance of his family. It contains a message that unimagined beauty and wisdom can be found in not shirking difficult circumstances that are often not of our choosing. The allegedly sensible solution is often the really inhuman one. The weak can have a wisdom that the educated and strong haven't grasped. The desert can be a deceptively wonderful place – just as Calvary will be. And John invites us to believe that we can work to make a straight way in the most crooked of wildernesses. That is Good News and a reason to hope.

Thirdly, St Paul invites us to be happy, no matter where we are in life. And why should we do that? I tell children at Confirmation that they can look in the mirror every morning and say, "God loves me – and if somebody else doesn't, then that is their problem." Religious belief is not some opting out of the real world and a limitation on my freedom. Belief in the Transcendent frees me from being a slave to

the agendas of others or of my own short-term wants. We are invited to go beyond creating a world where the infallible adult's every wish becomes an unquestionable truth. Advent invites us to glimpse God's dream and not just to re-run the earth-bound nightmares of the past. That is Good News and a reason to be joyful.

The story told by Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph invites us to not just to be bearers of a different way of looking at things. Their telling of their story makes them participants in making the story come true. Salvation does not come from outside – as commercial society proposes - but from the God works through little people when they are open to be bearers of Good News. Advent is a time for new rebels and prophets. Advent is the season for those who refuse to stop dreaming. Advent is the time for those who know that the sun will come after the cold, who believe that grace is stronger than sin.

In eight days we will begin the Twelve Days of Christmas. This time of waiting and yearning is not an unnecessary deprivation. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Can we find space in the next week to be in touch with our deepest hunger for acceptance, healing, forgiveness, love in our own wildernesses? I guarantee that if we can do that, we will be celebrate – with food and festivities, carols and crackers – the mad belief that the depths of winter can mark the beginning of the journey back to high summer, that frozen bushes will bear fruit and that birds will return from their distant wintry homes.

Waiting time is not wasted time. That is Good News from the God who loves stories. Let us rejoice and be glad in the story that God tells us about his presence in all the circumstances of our lives.

Bishop:

Let us now stand and profess our faith:

ALL STAND**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
he descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of
God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
AMEN**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Bishop McKeown: As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour we pray with trust and confidence to God the Father of us all.

Reader 1 - Dominic Cronin, Diocese of Cloyne: For Pope Francis and all Church leaders: *(pause)* that they will continue to help us make a straight path for Jesus into our lives. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 1 - Dominic Cronin, Diocese of Cloyne: For all government leaders: *(pause)* that like St John the Baptist they will always be faithful witness to the light of truth that comes only from God. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 1 - Kieran Fahy, Archdiocese of Tuam: For all young people: *(pause)* that they will accept the trust that God places in them to be people who care, especially for the weakest and most vulnerable. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 1 - Kieran Fahy, Archdiocese of Tuam: For the Pope John Paul II Award: *(pause)* that all the thousands of past, present and future participants will faithfully build up the Body of Christ by being active members of their parish communities and caring members of society. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 2 - Caitríona Murray, Archdiocese of Dublin: For youth leaders *(pause)* that they may always inspire to lead our young people to Christ. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 2 - Caitríona Murray, Archdiocese of Dublin: For our parents, guardians, family and friends *(pause)* that the Lord will keep them safe and help them through any troubles they have. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 2 - Allannah Power, Diocese of Limerick: For those who are suffering today: *(pause)* that as we approach Christmas, through our care and generosity, their suffering may be lessened and they will know the powerful presence of our Saviour Jesus in their lives. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 2 - Allannah Power, Diocese of Limerick: For our own personal intentions we pray in silence *(long pause)* Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 2 - Allannah Power: For those who have died: *(pause)* that all our loved ones who have died are now in the joy and peace of heaven united with the communion of saints in the presence of God for ever. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Bishop McKeown: Loving God
We thank you for the joy of this Advent season.
We ask you to help us to wait patiently for your action in our lives and hear the prayer we make with confidence through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

ALL SIT**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Come, O long-expected Jesus
Charles Wesley

Come, O long-expected Jesus,
Born to set your people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Christ in whom our rest shall be

Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Born salvation to impart.
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Gifts are to be brought to the Altar by Patrick Kelly & Roisin Roddy

Born your people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now your gracious kingdom bring.

By your own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all sufficient merit,
Raise us to your glorious throne

Bishop McKeown (in silence): *Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.*

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Bishop McKeown (in silence): *Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.*

All: Blessed be God for ever.

After this, the Bishop, bowing profoundly, says quietly: *With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.*

Then the Bishop, standing at the side of the altar, washes his hands, saying quietly: *Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

ALL STAND

Bishop McKeown: Pray, sisters and brothers, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Bishop: May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Bishop: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him,
the Virgin Mother longed for him
with love beyond all telling,
John the Baptist sang of his coming
and proclaimed his presence when he came.
It is by his gift that already we rejoice
at the mystery of his Nativity,
so that he may find us watchful in prayer
and exultant in his praise.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy: Liam Lawton

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

REMAIN STANDING**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II*****Bishop:***

You are indeed holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your spirit upon them like the dewfall,
so that they may become for us the Body and + Blood of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his
disciples, saying:

take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be
given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
He took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his
disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my
Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this
in memory of me.

Bishop (sung): The mystery of faith.

Proclamation of faith

Liam Lawton

When we eat this bread and drink this cup
We proclaim your death O Lord, until you come again

Bishop: Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your church spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Francis our Pope and Diarmuid our Bishop and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with Blessed Joseph her spouse, with the blessed apostles, and all the saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you

through your son, Jesus Christ.

Bishop

Through him and with him and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all glory and honour is yours
forever and ever.

GREAT AMEN: *Liam Lawton*

A----men, A----men,
A -----men. A -----men

THE COMMUNION RITE

Bishop: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy
kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Bishop: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant
us peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be
always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the
blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now
and forever.

Bishop: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Lamb of God

Liam Lawton

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Bishop: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Choir will receive communion after the Mass has ended and broadcast has finished

A True Encounter

Liam Lawton

We seek his light, we seek His face. In every soul, we touch His grace.

We seek his voice, we seek His word: a true encounter with Our Lord

In every heart, our God abides; we may not see him with our eyes.

His loving presence still is found, for he is there, where love abounds.

We drink the wine, we share the bread; with humble hands, the hungry fed.

*The stranger sits as welcome guest, for Christ is here to offer rest.
No heart shall be turned away, no soul shall weep in dread despair.
For every road the Pilgrim walks, there follows, too, our saving Lord.*

When in the night our fear would reign, we reach beyond to heal our pain.

*To God the way, the truth, the life, to God our hope in darkest night.
A true encounter let us seek that we might touch his hands and feet.
When love is shared in bread and word, there we shall meet the risen Lord*

Instrumental: **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bishop: Let us pray.

ALL STAND

Bishop: We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Thank you for being with us here today for the celebration
of our Eucharist. As we take leave of you now, we assure all of you
who are watching or listening of our prayers and good wishes. You
might pray also for all our young people who are serving Christ in
their parishes and communities that Christ will continue to inspire
and guide them in their lives and ministry.

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop: Bow down for the blessing.

Bishop: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May he let his face shine upon you and show you his
mercy.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his
peace.

All: Amen.

Bishop: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the
Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you
for ever.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Lord reign in me*Brenton Brown*

Over all the earth you reign on high.
Every mountain stream, every sunset sky
But my one request, Lord my only aim
Is that you'd reign in me again.

Chorus

Lord reign in me, reign in your power.
Over all my dreams in my darkest hour
You are the Lord of all I am
So won't you reign in me again.

Over every thought, over every word.
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord.
Cause you mean more to me than any earthly thing.
So won't you reign in me again.

Chorus

Lord reign in me, reign in your power.
Over all my dreams in my darkest hour
You are the Lord of all I am
So won't you reign in me again.

Lord reign in me, reign in your power.
Over all my dreams in my darkest hour
You are the Lord of all I am
So won't you reign in me again

[ends]

CLOSING ANIMATION & CREDITS + RTÉ ©

First reading: Finola McCaughan - Armagh Archdiocese

Second reading: Anthony O'Shaughnessy - Kildare & Leighlin
Diocese

Prayer of the Faithful:

Dominic Cronin - Cloyne

Kieran Fahy - Archdiocese of Tuam

Caitriona Murray - Archdiocese of Dublin

Allannah Power - Diocese of Limerick

Offertory: Patrick Kelly - Dromore Diocese & Roísín Roddy -
Elphin Diocese

Music directors: Marie Smyth, Paula Higgins

Choir: Award participants and Award Leaders from Diocese of
Dromore

Guitar: Paula Higgins

Harp: Emma Fegan

Piano: Maria Smyth

Solists: Gráinne Kearney & Ciara Kelly

Whistle: Orla Ward

Altar servers: Anna Larkin & Martin Hughes

Award participants in audience: Eileen Cronin - Cloyne
Diocese, Ben O'Reilly - Elphin Diocese, Harry King - Galway
Diocese, Orla O'Brien & Evan Smyth - Kilmore Diocese,
Aine Crowley - Limerick Diocese, Darragh Reilly & Robert
Corroon - Meath Diocese.

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

The Award was launched by the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, His Excellency Most Rev Dr Giuseppe Lazzarotto on 7th November 2006 in the Diocese of Derry, Ireland.

In 2017, the Award celebrates its 10th anniversary.

This Mass broadcast on the third Sunday of Advent celebrates the achievements and the commitment to their faith and communities of over 20,000 young people who have enrolled in the Award to date.

