

Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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Message from the Archbishop

'Faith is a flame that grows stronger the more it is shared and passed on, so that everyone may know, love and confess Jesus Christ.'

These words of Pope Francis to the young people of the world were given at the closing Mass for World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro. They remind us how important young people are, and how valued their contribution to the life of the Church is today. 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 within our own hearts, and in the hearts of those to whom we pass it on.

The Pope John Paul II Award was established in thanksgiving for the life of Blessed Pope John Paul II, who was such a keen supporter of and believer in young people, and of the gifts and talents that they so generously bring to their parish communities. Through this Award, I know that our young people will be encouraged to reflect on their relationship with Jesus Christ more deeply, knowing that our Lord will also enable them to participate fully in the life of the Church and the world which we are all called to serve.

I am very pleased, therefore, to commend the Pope John Paul II Award to the young people of our diocese, and I am grateful that this excellent initiative is being made available for them. I would also like to thank the Birmingham Catholic Youth Service for their help in organising this initiative, and particularly to the Knights of St Columba for their generous offer of financial support.

Pope Francis reminds us that Jesus is calling each of us to be a disciple with a mission, and he gives us three simple ideas of what the Lord is saying to us: Go, do not be afraid, and serve. I believe that the Pope John Paul II Award offers the young people of our diocese help and support in taking up the challenge of Pope Francis, and in discovering the joys that our faith so readily gives.

With my prayers and every blessing.

+ Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham



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 Birmingham 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 GCSEs
- Anyone between the ages 16 and 18, not in post-secondary education
- The award is non-competitive, flexible and voluntary and requires an ongoing commitment

The people involved

- Award Patron - The Archbishop of Birmingham
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the Award to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Birmingham Catholic Youth Service, Main Office, Don Bosco House, Coleshill, Birmingham



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 £10. The Award Leader will collect all money. A cheque will then be sent to Birmingham Catholic Youth Service 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 Head Teacher, and forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Committee at the Birmingham Catholic Youth Service.



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/music group
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Church Decoration
- Collector
- Composing prayers of the faithful
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin
- Flower arranger or church cleaner
- Welcomer at Mass
- Helping with preparation for the sacraments



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
- Ongoing fundraising
- Regular visitation of residential homes
- Young leader at parish youth group or a uniformed group
- Young leader for CAFOD
- Active member of Chaplaincy team in school
- Volunteer sports coach
- Volunteering with the sick or elderly
- Running a fair trade stall
- Volunteering at a hospital
- Leading a residential retreat for young people



- Working with the homeless
- Raising awareness of the needs of others
- Volunteering on a parish or community project that supports the vulnerable

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:

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

Pilgrimage

Each year many people from the Birmingham Archdiocese travel to Lourdes at Whitsun to care for people with illness and disability. 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.

There are other Diocesan pilgrimages. These pilgrimages can also be considered as Award Top-Ups.

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 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 parish youth representative, the school Head Teacher or designated child protection person for Birmingham Catholic Youth Service 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 Head Teacher or the Award Committee.

Offices

Archdiocese of Birmingham:

Birmingham Catholic Youth Service
Don Bosco House
Coleshill
Birmingham
B46 3EA



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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.