



POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

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Message from the Bishop

I am delighted to introduce the Pope John Paul II Award in the Diocese of Limerick. When we celebrated the Synod in 2016, we agreed it would be good to introduce this Award because it provides a structure for young people to explore practical ways in which they can play an active role in their parish and also become more aware of their community and the challenges that people face in their locality.

Pope John Paul II visited Limerick in 1979. He placed great value on the important role that young people play in the Church. He once said: "The Church needs your energies, your enthusiasm, your youthful ideals, in order to make the Gospel of Life penetrate the fabric of society, transforming people's hearts and the structures of society in order to create a civilisation of true justice and love."

I gladly encourage young people in the Diocese to embrace with enthusiasm the opportunity of participating in this Award. Your parish and the Diocese will be a richer place for your involvement.

I'd like to suggest three words to guide you as you set out.

Courage: Don't be afraid to reach out and take an initiative.

Benevolence: Be kind in the way you go about things, offering each other an encouraging word, praising someone when they do something good, consoling them if they have a difficulty, speaking up for them if others are downing them. In other words, be kind in what you say and in how you do things.

Spirit: You are at school, you're learning many things. But don't forget in all of this, you are a spiritual person so you need to look after that side of yourself. The Pope John Paul II Award wants to help you do that. It's so important to keep in touch with the person of Jesus Christ. He's not just someone you learnt about who lived two thousand years ago. He's alive today too and is by your side. He wants to help you, support you and guide you. So be sure and keep in touch with him as you strive for the Pope John Paul II Award, nurturing the spiritual side of your life (remember you always have the Holy Spirit to strengthen you!). Jesus made a wonderful promise and he makes it to you today: "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." Jesus wants your life not just to be ordinary but to be fruitful, really fruitful.

I'll pray for you and I ask you to pray for me. Every best wish and blessing.

+Brendan Leahy
Bishop of Limerick

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 Limerick 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 of 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 - Bishop Brendan Leahy
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy
- Facilitators - persons who will facilitate the candidates to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Limerick Diocesan Pastoral Team

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 the Award?

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



Award levels:



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

Reflection



Silver Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Reflection



Bronze Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Reflection

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 (for those who are under 18 years of age). You should return the completed forms with the enrolment fee to your Award Leader in your school/parish.

Enrolment Fee

To enrol in the Award costs €20. The Award Leader will collect all money. Payment will be sent to the Pope John Paul II Award Office in the Diocesan Centre.

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. When you complete the 'Parish Involvement' and the 'Social Awareness' sections of the Award you will then prepare a reflection.



How do I claim my Award?

On completion of the hours and the reflection, you should return your Record Card and reflection to your Award Leader. These are ratified by the appropriate person(s) e.g. Parish Youth Representative, School Principal and are then forwarded to:

The Pope John Paul II Award Office
Limerick Diocesan Centre
St Munchin's
Corbally
Limerick

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
- Prayers of the faithful
- Preparing articles for the parish newsletter
- Pastoral Council
- Member of Parish Youth Group
- Decorating Church / School Oratory
- Involved in Easter Liturgies



- Help erect the crib and parish Christmas Tree
- Passion Plays
- Knock Shrine and/or Lourdes Pilgrimages
- Youth Leader
- Trócaire - Social Justice Day
- Welcome group for parishioners
- Youth, Thanksgiving or Parish Family Mass

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 Office 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:

- Litter picking / Green Schools / Tidy Towns
- Charity Colour Run
- Member of Youth Club / Mentors / Student Council Member
- Under age training groups
- Cycle against Suicide
- Trad for Trócaire
- Open night in school
- Organising personal development day
- Volunteer at local animal shelter
- Helping out at senior citizen party
- Meals on Wheels
- Volunteering in local charity shops



- Charity cake sale / Helping at local parish shows
- Shoe box appeal
- Food collection at Christmas for homeless
- Sports Coaching / Community Council
- Positive Mental Health Week
- Environmental projects / Community games
- Life Saving Course
- Brownies / Scouts

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 Office for approval.

Reflection

Preparing the Reflection

When the participant completes the 'Parish Involvement' and the 'Social Awareness' sections of the Award he/she prepares a reflection. This reflection may be written, or on request it can take the form of an oral presentation which will be recorded and then transcribed.

The Reflection 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 reflection, 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

Many parishes organise pilgrimages, either specifically for young people, or for the wider parish community, but open to young people. Participation in this type of activity can be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

Diocesan Youth Activities

On a number of occasions during the year, the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team will organise youth activities such as participation in the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, climbing Croagh Patrick,

Youth Retreat Days or other pilgrimage activities. Participation in these activities can be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

Training for Ministry

During the year, the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team will extend an invitation for young people to participate in training programmes. These training events can also be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

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 Office 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 and ensure all safeguarding requirements are adhered to
- Abide by arrangements and procedures for entering and exiting activity events and venues
- Act according to directions and regulations when carrying out fundraising activities for charities
- Report immediately to the School Principal or designated Child Protection Person for the Limerick 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 School Principal or the Award Committee.

Offices

Limerick Diocese:

The Pope John Paul II Award Office
Limerick Diocesan Centre
St Munchin's
Corbally
Limerick



Tel: 061 350 000
Email: jp2award@limerickdiocese.org
www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com/limerick

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
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