



POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

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Message from the Bishop



I welcome the setting up of the diocesan structure for the Pope John Paul II Award, involving young people in second level schools. All belong to the family of God, including the young, and all are called to respect and

cherish the giftedness of their lives in the sight of God. Pope John Paul II, among many other initiatives, began the worldwide gathering of young people known as World Youth Days. His initiative, which has evoked an enormous response, was a call and a challenge as well as an affirmation of the contribution young people can make to their families, their local community, the Church and wider society.

The Award encourages such involvement and outreach which has a formative and positive impact on the lives of those who take part in its programmes. I trust many will be able to participate in the programme in all parts of our Diocese. I especially thank those who have given their time and expertise to oversee this welcome development.

+ Michael Smith
Bishop of Meath



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 Meath 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 Meath
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - School Chaplains, Teachers, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the candidates to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Meath Diocesan Catechetical Office



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 the Meath Diocesan section of 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 Meath Diocesan Catechetical Office and made payable to Meath Diocese.

How do I claim my Award?

On completion of the hours and the presentation, you should return your Record Card and presentation to your Award Leader. These are ratified by the appropriate person(s) e.g. School Chaplain, Parish Youth Representative, School Principal, and forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Committee at the Meath Diocesan Catechetical Office, The Whinnies, Tierworker, Kells, Co. Meath, A82 NT67.



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 of the Word
- Church Decoration
- Usher/Collector
- Composing and/or reading prayers of the faithful
- Assisting with the preparation of the parish bulletin/newsletter
- Forming/Leading/Co-ordinating parish youth prayer meeting



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
- Leader of Foróige or No Name Club
- Charity work
- Coaching games
- Volunteer in charity shop/ongoing fundraising
- Regular visitation of residential homes
- Faith Friends and other confirmation programmes



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

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 may organise youth activities such as participation in the diocesan

pilgrimage to Knock, Youth Retreat Days, Youth 2000 retreats or other pilgrimage activities. Participation in these activities can be part of the Pope John Paul II Award.

Training for Ministry

During the year, parishes may 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 4 days or more to work on specific projects, such as orphanages in Romania or home building in Africa. The Immersion Projects which bring young people to Zambia or other areas to work in a voluntary capacity in schools and communities can also 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 School Principal or designated Child Protection Person for the Diocese of Meath 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

Meath Diocese:

The Pope John Paul II Award Committee
Meath Diocesan Catechetical Office
The Whinnies, Tierworker
Kells, Co. Meath
A82 NT67

Tel: 086 8300334

Email: meathjp2@gmail.com

www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com/meath

www.dioceseofmeath.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

www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com



St Finian, Patron of the Diocese

Born in the 6th century, St Finian made his way to Clonard in Co. Meath where he established a school for Christian learning. It is recorded that no fewer than 3,000 pupils were educated at one time in Clonard. St Finian appears to have had a special gift for teaching, particularly in exposition of Sacred Scriptures. Many of his pupils became great teachers and established monastic schools throughout Ireland and Europe. The work of St Finian contributed in no small part to the reputation of Ireland as 'the land of saints and scholars'.

We thank the Knights of St Columbanus for kindly sponsoring this project.

Prayer for the Feast of St Finian

*By the work of your bishop St Finian,
Lord you formed a multitude of Saints in the knowledge
of the Gospel and in the monastic life;*

*In our own day raise up, we pray, at his intercession,
saints to edify your people by the vitality of their Christian
lives.*

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

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