

Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

Contents

	Message from the Bishop	1
	Pope John Paul II Award	2
	Who is the Award for?	3
	How does the Award work?	4
	Parish Involvement	6
	Social Awareness	7
	Presentation	8
	Award Top-Ups	9
	Code of Ethics	10
	Offices	12

Message from the Bishop

I am very pleased to welcome the introduction of the Pope John Paul II Award to the diocese of Waterford and Lismore. Very frequently, at their meetings, our Parish Pastoral Councils discuss the issue of how to encourage young people to become more involved in the life of the parish. The initiative of the Pope John Paul II Award is one way in which young people can contribute to the life of their local parishes. This involvement will be rewarding for themselves and will be of great benefit to the parish community.

When I meet and converse with young people they tell me that they want very much to be part of the life of the Church. As all of us know, our youth are most idealistic and generous and they need opportunities to express that idealism and generosity.

In recent years many young people travel on our annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. They come on pilgrimage primarily to assist in the care of the sick. Each year everyone on the pilgrimage is so impressed with their good humour and wonderful caring spirit. No task is too much for them. Each develops a friendship with a sick person in their care and that friendship continues long after

everybody returns home. The young people also establish friendships among themselves, friendships, please God, that will stay with them into the future.

I am very happy to recommend the Pope John Paul II Award to parishes and to all who are interested in helping our young people to develop their gifts.

I invite all our young people to engage with the Award programme and I am confident that the programme will provide for those who engage in it important opportunities which will enable them to make a worthwhile contribution to the life of their parishes.

I wish the initiative every blessing and success.

+ William Lee
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore



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 Diocese of Waterford and Lismore 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 and the award is particularly suited to students in Transition Year in secondary school
- 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 on-going commitment

The people involved

- Award Patron - The Bishop of Waterford and Lismore
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy, Safeguarding Team
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the candidates to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Holy Cross Church, Tramore, Co. Waterford



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 (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 there is a small fee. The Award Leader will inform you of this charge and collect all money. All fees go towards the on-going investment of the scheme and are managed by the Committee.

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 Principal, and forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Diocesan Co-ordinator at Holy Cross Church, Tramore, Co. Waterford.



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
- Collector
- Composing Prayers of the Faithful
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin
- Setting up and managing websites / Facebook pages for the parish
- Assisting in Ministry of Welcome in the parish



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
- Trocaire
- Meals on wheels
- Volunteering in local charity shop / fundraising schemes
- Home visitations to elderly or assisting in Sacramental Parish Programmes
- Regular visitation of residential homes
- Faith Friends



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.

School & Diocesan Youth Activities

On a number of occasions during the year, the schools and diocesan team will organise youth activities such as participation in the diocesan pilgrimage to Knock or Lourdes, arrange 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 Pope John Paul II Committee 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.

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 Parish Representative, the School Principal or designated Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for the diocese of Waterford and Lismore 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 Representative, School Principal or the Award Committee.

Offices

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

The Pope John Paul II Award Committee
Waterford & Lismore
Holy Cross Church
Priests Road
Tramore
Co. Waterford

Tel: 051 386477
Email: jpriiwaterford@hotmail.com
www.waterfordlismore.com

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. Declan, patron of Waterford & Lismore

Ardmore is the legendary home of St. Declan, patron of the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore, who is said to have come to Ardmore, bringing Christianity before St. Patrick somewhere between 350 and 420 AD.

St. Declan built a monastery in a high place overlooking Ardmore Bay. Ardmore from the Irish '*Aird Mhor*' means '*Great Height*'. The ruins of a 13th century church and 8th century oratory, as well as a well preserved round tower dominate the hillside where St. Declan first settled and built his monastery.



The oratory, still standing after 1200 years has been a place of private prayer and reflection. One needs only to be still in this religious compound and look out over the land and sea to sense the faith of men and women that has been nurtured and grown here.

The remnants of by-gone faith and human spirituality are not only in these buildings. There are unseen remnants - felt only in prayer here.

*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.