

Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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Message from the Cardinal

“Do not let people disregard you because you are young, but be an example to all the believers in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, your faith and your purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

These words of encouragement were written by St Paul to Timothy as he led the church in Ephesus. They are included in the front of the Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission (ADYC) Strategic Plan 2007-2010 and seem fitting for the introduction of the Pope John Paul II Awards to the Archdiocese of Armagh.

Life as a Catholic today presents many challenges for young people within their peer groups and their Church community. Building friendships with peers like-minded in their faith and playing an active part in parish and community serves to strengthen the young people of our Church. The Pope John Paul II Award is an excellent way to offer the structure and support for young people to do this.

Preparing a place for young people in our parish communities is never easy. There have been many consultations throughout the diocese for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, the ADYC Strategic Plan and more recently as we form our new Pastoral

Areas. It is clear through these consultations that parishes have a strong desire to involve our young people in the life of the church. This takes commitment and in some cases courage to change our way of doing things.

I welcome Pope John Paul II Awards to the Archdiocese of Armagh and look forward to meeting the young people who inspired by Pope John Paul II, answer the call of their baptism to be a part of the Church of today and tomorrow.

+ Cardinal Seán Brady
Archbishop of Armagh



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 Armagh 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 Year 13 and 14 Northern Ireland
- Students in 4th year in the Republic
- Students in transition year
- Students in full-time education who have completed GCSEs or Junior Certificate
- Anyone between the ages 16 and 18, not in post-primary education
- The award is non-competitive, flexible and voluntary and requires an ongoing commitment



The people involved

- Award Patron - Cardinal Seán Brady, Archbishop of Armagh
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy, Community and centre based Youth Leaders
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the parish to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry 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 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. A list of Award Leaders is available on www.adyc.ie

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 £15. The Award Leader will collect all money. A cheque will then be sent to the Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry Office 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 Principal, and forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Committee at the Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry Office.



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 (only if already commissioned)
- Member of choir/folk group
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Church Decoration
- Collector
- Composing Prayer of the Faithful
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin
- Use of ICT in the Liturgy
- Assisting in any other way in the Liturgy 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
- Gateway
- Youth Leadership including centre based and coaching games
- SPRED
- Ongoing fundraising and Justice Work
- Regular supervised visitation of a residential home
- Peace building activities
- Faith Friends and/or other Peer 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 (Armagh) 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) or prepared using Powerpoint or other IT based medium. 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

A pilgrimage is described as a journey to a holy place or shrine. Many people from the Archdiocese of Armagh take part in pilgrimages every year. For some this is an opportunity to care for others through involvement in the ADYC pilgrimage to Lourdes in the summer, or the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in May. Others attend pilgrimage as an opportunity for prayer and reflection to places such as Taize or Santiago De Compostella. There are also local pilgrimages to sites such as Knock, Lough Derg and St Brigid's Shrine, Faughart. Taking part in

a pilgrimage can be part of this Award through the Award Top-Ups.

Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission (ADYC) Activities

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office organise youth activities throughout the year with opportunities for young people to become involved in the planning and delivery. Further information on the activities can be found at www.adyc.ie. Each of these activities will be assigned Top-Up hours.

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 charitably and 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 care and consideration 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 principal or designated child protection person for Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry Office 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 Representatives, School Principal or the Award Committee.

Offices

Central Office:

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre
The Gate Lodge
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Derry
BT48 7DS

Tel: 028 7126 4087
Fax: 028 7126 9090

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Archdiocese of Armagh:

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BT61 7QY

Tel: 028 3752 5592

Email: awards@adyc.ie
www.adyc.ie

*Dear Lord,
You raised servant Karol to succeed St Peter,
As Shepherd of your worldwide flock as our Holy Father John Paul II.
In memory of his enthusiastic and courageous work and dedication,
I pledge myself to follow his faithfulness and loyalty to the Gospel message.
By promising to be truly a disciple I pray,
That I may be loving and generous to all I meet,
May my efforts to build your kingdom be truly blessed by you.
I pray also for all others who like me have decided
to take on this task through pursuit of the Pope John Paul II Awards
and I trust You will surround us always with your compassion, care and love.
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.