

# Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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# Message from the Bishop of Dromore

The Mission Statement of the Diocesan Youth Commission states that its aim 'is to promote for our young people a lifestyle that is based on the person of Jesus Christ who came to proclaim life to the full'. To do this it will help them to:

- Identify their faith development needs
- Provide opportunities for an inclusive involvement in the Church, and
- Empower them to minister to their peers.

The Pope John Paul II Award is designed to help young people to get involved in their local parishes for their benefit and the benefit of their parishes.

At Confirmation, when our young people receive the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray that God will 'support them through every trial and by their works of love build up the Church in holiness and joy'. The Pope John Paul II Award is one way in which our young people can express their faith and build up the life of the Church.

I trust that the Pope John Paul II Award will help our parishes, our current volunteers, the members of parish groups, and organisations to grow in awareness of the faith needs of our young people and of the spiritual gifts and energy they can bring.

I pray God's blessing on this project of the Youth Commission.

+ John McAreavey  
Bishop of Dromore



# 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 Dromore 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-primary education
- The award is non-competitive, flexible and voluntary and requires an ongoing commitment

## The people involved

- Award Patron - The Bishop of Dromore
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the participants to fulfill individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Dromore 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 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](http://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 £15. The Award Leader will collect all money. A cheque will then be sent to the Dromore 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 Dromore 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
- 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

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
- Children in Crossfire
- Gateway
- Coaching games
- Spred
- Ongoing fundraising
- 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:

<b>Papal Cross</b>	7.5 hours
<b>Gold</b>	6 hours
<b>Silver</b>	4.5 hours
<b>Bronze</b>	3 hours

## Pilgrimage

Each year many people from the Dromore Diocese travel to Lourdes on Easter Sunday and in May to care for people with 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 to Taizé and Clonmacnois. These pilgrimages can also be considered as Award Top-Ups.

## Magis Experiments

Following our experience at World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, Dromore Diocese is offering young people an opportunity to experience the power of Ignatian spirituality through MAGIS Experiments.

MAGIS is a Latin word for “more”, for people who want to give more on their journeys of faith. Service, Creative, and Pilgrimage are the three forms of Magis Experiments. Each form encourages the participants to live together simply and participate in activities that bring them closer to God.

## 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

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## **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 principal or designated child protection person for Dromore 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  
2 Francis Street  
Derry  
BT48 7DS

Tel: 028 7126 4087  
Fax: 028 7126 9090

Email: [admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com](mailto:admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com)  
[www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com](http://www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com)



## **Dromore Diocese:**

Youth Ministry Office  
38-40 Hill Street  
Newry  
Co. Down  
BT34 1AT

Tel: 028 3083 3898

Email: [dromoreyd@btconnect.com](mailto:dromoreyd@btconnect.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.