

# Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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# Message from the Bishop

It is sometimes said that our young people are the Church of tomorrow and so they are. But these young people are more than just the future of the Church. They are the Church of today. As such, as well as presenting us with our greatest resource, young people present us with our greatest challenge.

From my conversations with young people, I am convinced that many want to be involved in our Church. Our challenge is to offer them practical and meaningful opportunities to play their part in the building up of our faith community.

Through our team at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, we continue to seek ways of identifying the faith development needs of our young people, to provide

opportunities for their inclusive involvement in the Church and to empower them to minister to their peers. At Confirmation when they receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray that God will 'support them through every trial and by their works build up the Church in holiness and joy'.

The Pope John Paul II Award is one way in which our young people can get involved in their local parishes for their benefit and for the benefit of their parishes. It offers them practical ways to express their faith and it challenges them to reflect on their role in their Church. I pray God's blessing on all who will benefit from their involvement in the Pope John Paul II Award.

+ Martin Drennan  
Bishop of Galway



# 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 Galway 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 5th Year/Pre-Leaving 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 Galway
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the candidates to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administration - Diocesan Youth Ministry 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 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 Galway Diocesan section of [www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com](http://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 Diocesan Youth Ministry Team 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 Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Aras de Brún, Newtownsmith, Galway.



# 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
- Church Decoration
- Welcomer/Usher/Collector
- Composing Prayers of the Faithful
- Helping to prepare 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
- Big Brother, Big Sister
- Participation in parish based community building project
- Involvement with Faith and Light
- Member of Legion of Mary
- Coaching games
- Leader of Foróige or No Name Club
- Volunteering in charity shop/ongoing fundraising
- Regular visitation of residential homes or of elderly in the community
- Involvement with the 'You Shall be my Witnesses' confirmation programme



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**

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

## **Humanitarian Trips**

Many third level students undertake humanitarian trips to Third World countries during their summer break. These trips can also provide an opportunity for Top-Ups for the Pope John Paul II Award.

## **World Youth Day**

World Youth Day is an international festival of Catholic faith organised every three years. Pilgrims who travel to this wonderful event participate in a six month preparation programme.

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, 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 Youth Representative, the School Principal or designated Child Protection Person for the Galway 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 Parish Youth Representative, School Principal or the Award Committee.

# Offices

## **Galway Diocese**

The Pope John Paul II Award Committee  
Diocesan Pastoral Centre  
Aras de Brún  
Newtownsmith  
Galway

Tel: 091 565 066

Email: [jp11galway@gmail.com](mailto:jp11galway@gmail.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](mailto:admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com)  
[www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com](http://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.