

# Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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# Message from the Bishop

I warmly welcome the proposal to introduce the Pope John Paul II Award in the diocese of Kilmore. Parish Pastoral Councils frequently discuss the issue of how to find creative ways to engage young people with the faith and how to involve them more fully in the life of the parish. The initiative of the Pope John Paul II Award is a very concrete way of inviting young people to reflect more deeply on their faith and take part in activities which will be engaging and rewarding for themselves, and at the same time be of service and benefit to others. It will enable young people to live out their faith and witness to it in their parishes and communities.

Bearing witness to our Christian faith means having the courage and conviction to speak about it to others, to share what we believe in and to invite others to do the same. It is an exercise of Christian leadership that needs to be practised and cultivated. The Pope John Paul II Award provides opportunities to do that. I know that there is a great wealth of idealism and generosity in our

young people. Very often all it needs is a little bit of encouragement and the opportunity to express it. It is also greatly helped by the support of a group of peers who are similarly motivated and engaged.

There is a lot of talk about the need for renewal in the Church today. Renewal means change and that has to begin with each one of us embarking on a journey of change. Like every journey, the journey of change begins with a first step. This initiative is a very worthwhile first step.

It is my fervent wish that the Pope John Paul II Award will provide the opportunities, the motivation and the support to some of our young people so that they can make their contribution to the life of their parish or community.

I wish this initiative every blessing and success.

+ Leo O'Reilly  
Bishop of Kilmore

# 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 Kilmore 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 Kilmore
- 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
- Administrative Centre - Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre



# 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](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/made payable to Kilmore Diocese.

## **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 Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Cavan Town, Co. Cavan.



# 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
- Preparing First Holy Communion & Confirmation Children
- Coaching games
- Ongoing fundraising
- Regular visitation of residential homes



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. 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 will organise youth activities such as participation in the diocesan pilgrimage to Knock, climbing Croagh Patrick, 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 Youth Ministry Team 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.

## **Humanitarian Trips**

Trips lasting four days or more to work on specific projects, such as orphanages in Romania or home building in Africa. The Presentation Schools' Project 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.

## **Discovery Programme**

Participation in a Discovery Programme at parish level 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

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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 Representative, the School Principal or designated Child Protection Person for the Kilmore 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 Representative, School Principal or the Award Committee.

# Offices

## **Kilmore Diocese:**

The Pope John Paul II Award Committee  
Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre  
Cullies  
Cavan Town  
Co. Cavan

Tel: 049 437 5004

Email: [youthministry@kilmorediocese.ie](mailto:youthministry@kilmorediocese.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](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.