



# POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

# 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
	Faith Development Activities	8
	Reflection	9
	Award Top-Ups	10
	Code of Ethics	11
	Offices	13

# Message from the Bishop of Cork & Ross



The Pope John Paul II Award has been part of the story of diocesan life in Ireland since its introduction in Derry in 2006. Since that time the Award has been taken on in most of the twenty six dioceses. I am delighted to be

introducing the Award into the Diocese of Cork & Ross so that our young people here may participate too.

As I said on the occasion of my episcopal ordination, young people are the best missionaries and witnesses to other young people and need to be supported and encouraged in their faith which I believe can be enhanced by their participation in this Award. They are as Pope Francis says: "the now of God" and we must make every effort in our parish communities to prepare them to be the Church of today and of tomorrow. As together we begin a new chapter in the diocesan story, we must reach out to find new ways of witnessing to the Gospel message and this I see as one of the many new initiatives we can offer to them.

To introduce this Award will require us to be leaders, to give commitment of time and energy, but in doing so I know it will bring many blessings to our parish communities as they see our young people take a visible place in our daily life as people of faith called to be Church in our particular place. I commend those parishioners and clergy who will seek to introduce this Award to their parishes, and know that it will be of great benefit not just to the young people who participate, but also to you as leaders and to the whole parish family.

My hope is that by participating in this Award at Bronze, Silver, Gold or Papal Cross Award level will help them to develop a lifelong habit of commitment to their faith and service to their local parish and the wider community.

Every blessing and thank you.

+ Fintan Gavin  
Bishop of Cork & Ross

# Pope John Paul II Award

The Pope John Paul II Award encourages you to go beyond your comfort zone on a **journey of self-discovery**. It challenges you to give your time, your talents, your intellect, and your social skills for the **well-being of others and for the Glory of God**.

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 Cork & Ross 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 of 16 and 18, who is not in post-primary education
- Students in third level education institutions through the Chaplaincy

The Award is non-competitive, flexible and voluntary, and requires an ongoing commitment

## The people involved

- Award Patron - The Bishop of Cork & Ross
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee of the Cork & Ross Pastoral Development Office
- Award Leaders - trained parish Award leaders in collaboration with teachers, chaplains and clergy
- Facilitators - trained parish Award leaders who will facilitate Award participants to fulfil individual parish and social awareness activities
- Administrative Centre - Cork & Ross Pastoral Development Office, Parochial House, Ballyphehane, Cork T12 K798



# How does the Award work?

## How many Awards are there?

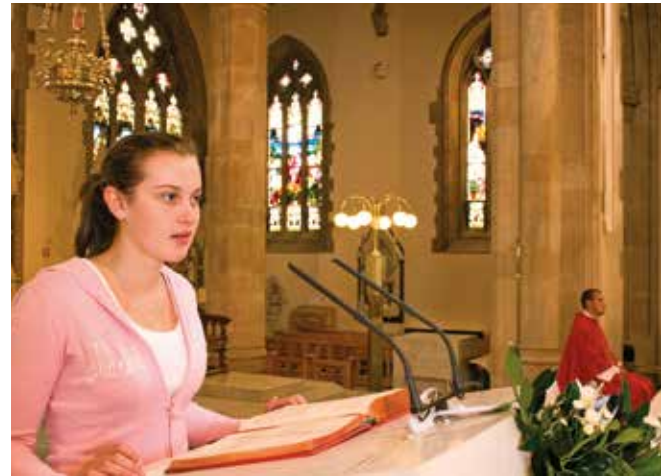
There are four Awards: The Papal Cross, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

## What is the completion time?

16 months beginning in September.

## How do I earn the Award?

You earn your Award by taking part in activities through Parish Involvement and Social Awareness, and preparation of a reflection. For the Papal Cross Award, which only begins after completing the Gold Award, the reflection is replaced by a project.



## Award Levels:



### 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

Reflection



### Silver Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks

Reflection



### Bronze Award

Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks

Reflection

# 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 return the completed forms with the enrolment fee to your Award Leader in your parish.

## Enrolment Fee

To enrol in the Award costs €25. The Parish Award Leader will collect the fee. The Parish Award Leader will send all fees to the Cork & Ross Pastoral Development Office.

## 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. When you complete the 'Parish Involvement' and the 'Social Awareness' sections of the Award you will then prepare a reflection.



## How do I claim my Award?

On completion of the hours and the reflection, you should return your Record Card and reflection to your Parish Award Leader. These are ratified by the designated person(s) in the parish and are then forwarded to:

### The Pope John Paul II Award

Cork & Ross Pastoral Development Office  
Parochial House  
Ballyphehane  
Cork  
T12 K798



# 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:

- Minister of the Word
- Altar Server
- Minister of Holy Communion
- Assist the sacristan with preparing the Altar for Mass
- Member of choir/music group/organist/musician
- Assisting with Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Composing and/or leading the prayer of the faithful
- Active member Pioneer Total Abstinence Association (PTAA)
- Assist the Parish Assembly/Pastoral Council with their regular activities during the year



- Assist the Parish Catechist with their ministry
- Assist the Family Mass group to prepare to lead the family Mass
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin
- Serve tea/coffee after parish Masses
- Forming/leading/coordinating parish youth prayer gatherings
- Engagement in third level chaplaincy liturgy/prayer/activities

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:

- Assist the St Vincent de Paul society in your parish
- Participate in SHARE
- Member of Foróige
- Participate in Youth Café activities in your parish
- Member of Macra na Feirme
- Assist in Trócaire activities
- Irish Red Cross/St John Ambulance/Civil Defence
- Member of Scouts/Guides
- Member of Ogra Chorcaí
- Coaching GAA/other sports for younger children
- Member of Meitheal in your school
- Volunteering at charity shops



- Volunteering at community centres
- Ongoing fundraising for local charities
- Tidy Towns
- Visiting 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.

# Faith Development Activities

Every Award participant in the Diocese of Cork & Ross is required to engage in a recognised faith development programme/activity offered in the diocese or parish:

- Alpha programme
- NUA programme
- Sycamore programme
- YOUCAT or DOCAT programme
- Youth 2000 prayer group
- Catholic Society/Chaplaincy team in third level
- FOCUS
- SCALA faith activities
- Youth prayer/faith discussion groups
- Taize prayer group
- Active member of the Legion of Mary
- Member of Jesus Youth

You may be involved in other faith development activities which with approval from the diocesan Award Committee will also be counted towards your Award hours.



# Reflection

## Preparing the Reflection

When the participant completes the 'Parish Involvement' and the 'Social Awareness' sections of the Award he/she prepares a reflection. This reflection may be written, or on request it can take the form of an oral presentation which will be recorded and then transcribed.

## The Reflection 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 reflection, 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**

Our diocese organises the young adults group to Lourdes (18-25) each year and also many parishes and other organisations (IHCPT, CASA, CLM, IPT, Chaplaincies, Catholic Society) organise pilgrimages, either specifically for young people, or for the wider community, but open to young people. Participation in this type of activity can be part of Pope John Paul II Award activities.

## **Diocesan Youth Activities**

At certain times the Cork & Ross Pastoral Development Office organise specific activities for young people or young adults which you will be invited to participate in, which 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 HOPE, SERVE or Habitat for Humanity, or with one of the religious congregations or other areas to work in a voluntary capacity in schools and communities overseas can also be part of Pope John Paul II Award activities.

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 and ensure all safeguarding requirements are adhered to
- Abide by arrangements and procedures for entering and exiting activity events and venues
- Act according to directions and regulations when carrying out fundraising activities for charities
- Report immediately to the School Principal or designated Child Protection Person for the Diocese of Cork & Ross 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 School Principal or the Award Committee.



# Offices

## **Diocese of Cork & Ross:**

The Pope John Paul II Award  
Cork and Ross Pastoral Development Office  
Parochial House  
Ballyphehane  
Cork  
T12 K798

Tel: **021 4537474**

Email: [pdo@corkandross.org](mailto:pdo@corkandross.org)

[www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com/cork-and-ross](http://www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com/cork-and-ross)

All Award activities must adhere to the Diocese of Cork & Ross safeguarding policies, GDPR procedures and Pope John Paul II Award guidance as outlined on [www.corkandross.org](http://www.corkandross.org)

## **Award Central Office:**

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre  
The Gate Lodge  
2 Francis Street  
Derry  
BT48 7DS

Tel: 00 44 28 7126 4087

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

[www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com](http://www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com)

Collect Prayer from the Optional Memorial of Pope Saint John Paul II

*O God, who are rich in mercy,  
who willed that the Saint John Paul II  
should preside as Pope over your universal Church,  
grant, we pray, that instructed by his teaching,  
we may open our hearts to the saving grace of Christ,  
the sole Redeemer of mankind.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.*

*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