



At a glance

What is it?

The Pope John Paul II Award is a faith achievement award for young people between the age of 16 and 18. It is non-competitive, inclusive, flexible and voluntary. This award enables young people to be more visible in church, the community and society.

Who is it for?

Young people in year 11 - 13 (age 15 - 18 years)

How does it work?

Awards are earned by taking part in parish and social activities – 1 hour per week over 8, 14 or 20 weeks. There are 3 Award levels – Gold, Silver & Bronze.

The Award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church – in the life of their community and society.

It enables young people become more aware of the teaching and role of the Catholic Church in the world and to engage at a deep level with Christ.

An example of commitment required: Bronze Award

Bronze Award Activities Requirements

- Parish Involvement: 1 hour per week x 8 weeks
- Social Awareness: 1 hour per week x 8 weeks
- Personal Reflection: The reflection is to include:
 - An answer to the question – What does it mean to be a baptised member of the Church?
 - A personal reflection and evaluation on your parish involvement and social awareness work
 - Your reflection on how the teachings of Christ are relevant to your chosen activities
 - Conclusion

Through the personal 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.

- Top-Ups: A max. of three hours can be earned towards Social Awareness if the young person serves for example as a handmaid or Branc. on the pilgrimage to Lourdes. More examples of this in the guidance notes.

Diocesan Award Structure

- Award Patron – Bishop William
- Award Making Body – Pope John Paul II Award Committee - BCYS
- Promoters – KYT, Clergy, Head Teachers, School Governors.
- Award Leaders – Parish Coordinators, School Coordinators.
- Facilitators – Those who will facilitate the Award to fulfil individual tasks/activities.
- Administrative Centre – BCYS

Pope John Paul II Award leaders play a key role in supporting and assisting participants in achieving their Awards. We have outlined below the role of an Award leader.

The Role of an Award leader

- Meet with the Diocesan Coordinator/Development Worker
- Introduce the Award each academic year to their school or parish
- Help participants to enrol including collection of the application fee £10
- Forward application fee with completed application form to the Diocesan Award Office BCYS
- Agree participants' parish and social awareness activities, help PPT to complete the parish and social action form
- Safeguarding form
- Download and print relevant record cards
- Coordinate facilitators
- Guide and continually review participants

- Participants are required to record each session of their activity so that it can be reviewed by the Award Leader. Without the Award Leader continued support it could be easy for a participant to get discouraged and they might give up.
- The Award Leader should verify that the participant has been showing regular commitment in their activities over at least the minimum time requirement, and to assess whether the activities that were initially set have been achieved.
- Support ppt in submitting their record card and personal reflection to the Administrative Centre
- Attend the Award Ceremony

Help for Award Leaders

All Award Leaders should be in regular contact with their Diocesan Coordinator/ Development Worker.

We can offer Introduction to the course, training, support with social action projects

Launching the Award for the new academic year

In school

School Assemblies, personal invite , presentation to the chaplaincy team, school website, social media for parents, newsletter

In the parish

Invitation from the PP during masses over one weekend, stand at the back of church with sign up sheets, than and coffee after mass, website, social media, newsletter, personal invite, talk to altar servers, readers and those already in ministry.