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Pope John Paul II Award Handbook **(COVID-19 Edition)**  
Archdiocese of Armagh



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Pope John Paul II Award

## Foreword from Archbishop Eamon Martin

“Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive, and he wants you to be alive!” With these words Pope Francis opens *Christus Vivit* his post-synodal exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God.

They remind us how vital you our young people are, and how we must value your contribution to the life of our Church. The Covid-19 pandemic has been difficult for us all and particularly difficult for you. We have witnessed the disruption to your lives, education and to your future plans yet we remain heartened by your willingness to reach out to the most marginalized in society.

Your generosity of spirit, practical endeavors, and expressions of hope represent an authentic witness to our Catholic faith amidst the greatest of challenges. Pope Francis suggests, the more we share our faith with one another, the brighter the flame of faith glows.

The Pope St. John Paul II Award is one of the most successful youth ministry initiatives to come from Ireland to the world. The Award was created to commemorate St. John Paul II who was so committed to young people and who had such belief and confidence in each one of you.

During the current pandemic we reaffirm our commitment to you our young people in the Archdiocese of Armagh, continuing our efforts to enable you to play an active part in the life of our Church, and in the life of your communities. I especially invite our parishes and our schools to continue their accompaniment of you throughout this youth ministry project.

Most of all I invite you, the young people of the Archdiocese of Armagh to hold onto hope and to respond to the challenge that this Award and these times present. Together we are called to journey together on the great adventure of faith seeking to do the best for ourselves and for others.

**Every blessing on you all.**



+ Eamon Martin

+ Eamon Martin  
Archbishop of Armagh

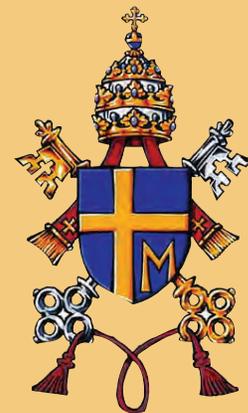


## Pope John Paul II Award

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 Archdiocese of Armagh 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 Year 13 and 14 in Northern Ireland
- Students in 4th Year in the Republic of Ireland
- Students in Transition Year
- Students in full-time education who have completed GCSEs or Junior Certificate
- 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 - Archbishop Eamon Martin.
- Award Marking Body - Armagh Diocesan Faith Awards Committee
- Award Leaders - Teachers, Parish Youth Representatives, Clergy, Community and centre based Youth Leaders
- Facilitators - Those persons who will facilitate the parish to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Administrative Centre - Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry Office





Dope John Paul II Award

## 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?

12 ~ 15 months beginning in Autumn time.

### How do I earn an Award?

You earn your Award by:

- Taking part in activities through Parish Involvement and Social Awareness
- Completion of 4 Personal Reflections

### Each Award requires the following:

- ▼ **The Papal Cross Award** *(only available after completion of Gold)*
  - 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\*
  - Reflective Journal

(\*Minimum of 4 Activities in both Parish and Social Initiatives)
- ▼ **Silver Award**
  - Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks\*
  - Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 14 weeks\*
  - Reflective Journal

(\*Minimum of 3 Activities in both Parish and Social Initiatives)
- ▼ **Bronze Award**
  - Parish Involvement: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks\*
  - Social Awareness: 1 hr per week for 8 weeks\*
  - Reflective Journal

(\*Minimum of 2 Activities in both Parish and Social Initiatives)

\* More active in church life.  
- Minimum of 4/3/2 approved activities in **both** Parish Involvement and Social Awareness.



# Enrolling in the Pope John Paul II Award

## ENROLMENT

October ~ November

- The Faith Award Leader launches the Award.
- The Faith Award Leader distributes application forms.
- The Faith Award Leader will collect application forms and forward with a fee to the Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry Office\*.
- The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office will forward copies of the record card and letter of welcome to all Faith Award Leaders for distribution to their Award Participants.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Award should be completed over a 12 ~ 15 month period. See below a timeline that Faith Award Leaders should follow.

### November ~ December

- The Faith Award Leader will discuss with the participants what parish involvement and social awareness projects they will undertake to achieve their award.  
(Please see pages 7 & 8 for a list of approved initiatives)

- Session One and Personal Reflection to be completed.

### January ~ March

- Session Two and Personal Reflection to be completed.

### September ~ November

- Session Three and Personal Reflection to be completed.

### November ~ January

- Submission of Record Card and Personal Reflection Journal to the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office

### March

- Award Participants must attend the annual Faith Award Ceremony to receive their award.



\* Fee - £15 / €20 Cheques made payable to ADYC

Faith Award Leaders are encouraged to meet regularly with Award Participants throughout this process.

Parish and Social initiatives should be carried out from September to the following November.



# Foundational Learning Series

Award Top-Ups are normally given in recognition of the extra activities that young people engaged in during the award programme. The opportunity for participation in these activities is impossible because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The programme has therefore been modified this year.

A foundational learning series focused on a number of areas related to Catholic faith and engagement in the world around us has been prepared to accompany the participants.

## Foundational Learning Series Areas:

### The Creed - 1.5 hours

(All participants to complete)

### Fratelli Tutti/Catholic Social Justice - 3 hours

(Bronze Award participants)

### Ludato Si, Care for Our Common Home - 6 hours

(Silver Award participants complete Fratelli Tutti and Ludato Si)

### Christus Vivit, Digital Media & Communications for Parishes - 9 hours

(All three learning series count towards Gold Award & Papal Cross)

Each programme element is designed to give the knowledge and skills required to participate fully in the *Parish Involvement* and *Social Awareness* elements of the Award.

It is suggested that these programmes be utilised at the beginning of the Faith Awards as they involve minimal personal contact with others. Each learning area is designed to give participants the opportunity to reflect more fully on their activities in *Parish Involvement* and the area of *Social Awareness*.

All programme resources developed by the Archdiocese of Armagh will be made available to Faith Award Leaders in December 2020 and it is hoped that all Award Participants will be supported by a series of online events and gathering during the course of participation.



# Parish Involvement

## List of Approved Initiatives

- Minister of the Word  
(Subject to Covid-19 Restrictions)
- Composing and/or reading Prayers of the Faithful
- Preparing and leading a virtual prayer service over web-cam
- Cleaning parish spaces and Church Stewarding.
- Church preparation for Christmas/Easter Services
- Preparation of liturgically themed prayer spaces inside or outside the Church
- Parish Communications/Media
  - Create prayer resources for your community e.g. video & audio prayer resources;
  - Preparing articles for parish bulletin/newsletter/website/social media;
  - Creating and preparing virtual prayer/reflection cards;
  - Creating a parish or pastoral area newsletter;
  - Maintaining a youth notice board in Church.
- Member of Parish Youth Faith Group  
(facilitate or participate in online faith based activities/gatherings with Faith Award Leader)

### IMPORTANT!

Award Participants are encouraged to complete their Parish Involvement hours by taking part in any of the listed activities. If you wish to record hours for an initiative that is not on the approved list, you/your award leader should contact the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office. Hours may be discounted if prior approval is not sought.

Tel: (028)/(048) 3752 3084

Email: [armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk)

**\*\* Please note hours will not be counted for attending Mass or Adoration.**



# Social Awareness

## List of Approved Initiatives

- Active member of a charity or voluntary organisation  
e.g. St. Vincent de Paul, Trócaire, Order of Malta, St. John's Ambulance, Scouts/Girl Guides
- Become a Parish Charity Champion
  - Advent Giving Tree for St. Vincent de Paul
  - Trócaire Lenten Campaign
  - Aid to the Church in Need
  - Cuan Mhuire
  - NI Hospice & Children's Hospice
  - MacMillian
  - Simon Community
  - Mental Health Charities

Raise social awareness of Catholic charities and other worthy charitable organisations.

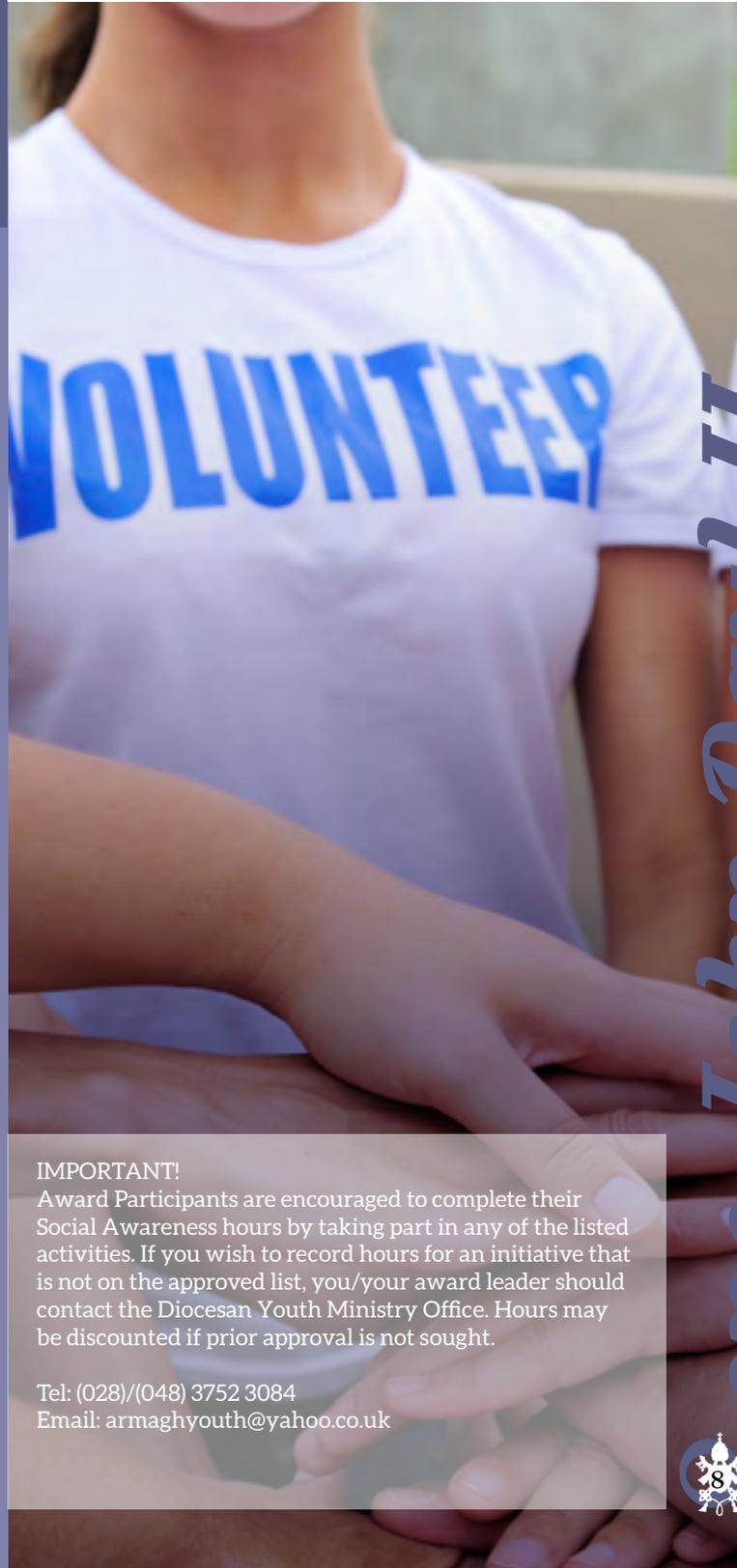
- Become a Parish Companion  
e. g. to a grandparent, elderly or sick family member/neighbour
  - Routine phone call
  - Socially distanced visit
  - Routine shopping or errands
  - Provide IT support for those people to enable access to Mass and wider community services.

### IMPORTANT!

Award Participants are encouraged to complete their Social Awareness hours by taking part in any of the listed activities. If you wish to record hours for an initiative that is not on the approved list, you/your award leader should contact the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office. Hours may be discounted if prior approval is not sought.

Tel: (028)/(048) 3752 3084

Email: [armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk)



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# Personal Reflections

## Journeying with Saint John Paul II

The Armagh Diocesan Faith Awards Committee have developed 3 catechesis sessions. These are designed for the Faith Award Leader to help enhance the faith journey of the participants.

These sessions will support Faith Award Leaders & young people as they journey onwards in the development and knowledge of their Catholic Faith.

~ After each session each participant must complete part of their personal reflection.

~ Further details can be found in the Reflective Catechesis Sessions Resource Booklet.



Pope John Paul II Awards



## Participant 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.
- Treat people charitably and 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.

### Participants will:

- Respect a person's right to privacy.
- Act with care and consideration 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.
- Refrain from alcohol smoking or illegal substances whilst participating in the Award.

# Essential Criteria for Faith Award Leaders

As a Faith Award Leader it is your responsibility to ensure that the following essential criteria are followed in order for your award participants to receive their Pope John Paul II Award.

- Schools/Parishes will undertake to promote the Award for the purposes of increasing awareness about Pope Saint John Paul;
- All participants must attend the Awards Ceremony to obtain the Award Medal (date will be given in advance);
- All participants will be required to participate in 3 Catechises Sessions which involve group questions, viewing of videos, and completing 4 personal reflections. This is to be carried out with the guidance and supervision of the Faith Award Leader;
- Journal submissions must reflect personal interpretation of the 3 Catechises Sessions;
- Journal submissions are required to reflect personal faith development;
- Record Cards must be completed correctly and in their entirety by the Participant and Faith Award Leader, and all hours recorded must be on the approved activities list;
- There will be a clear demarcation between the different grades of the Award.
- Faith Award Leaders are encouraged to meet regularly with Award Participants.



Pope John Paul II Award



## Contact Details

Armagh Diocesan Youth Ministry Office  
Archdiocese of Armagh  
Ara Coeli  
Cathedral Road  
Armagh  
BT61 7QY

Tel: 028/048 3752 3084

Email: [armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk)

Web: [www.armagharchdiocese.org](http://www.armagharchdiocese.org)



[@armaghyouth](https://twitter.com/armaghyouth)



[facebook.com/adycinspired01](https://facebook.com/adycinspired01)



[instagram.com/adyc\\_be\\_inspired](https://instagram.com/adyc_be_inspired)

*Dear Lord,  
You raised servant Karol to succeed St. Peter,  
As Shepherd of your worldwide flock as our Holy Father John Paul II.*

*In memory of his enthusiastic and courageous work and dedication,  
I pledge myself to follow his faithfulness and loyalty  
to the Gospel message.*

*By promising to be truly a disciple I pray,  
That I may be loving and generous to all I meet,  
May my efforts to build your kingdom be truly blessed by you.*

*I pray also for all others who like me have decided  
to take on this task through pursuit of the Pope John Paul II Award  
and I trust You will surround us always with your compassion,  
care and love.  
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*

