



Pope John Paul II Awards

Holy Redeemer Parish

Herbert Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

“The Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin needs the contribution of young people. The Church in Dublin welcomes the contribution of young people. The Church in Dublin will be enriched the more it welcomes the idealism and the generosity that are characteristic of the younger generation. The Pope John Paul II Award offers young people the chance to learn the way of service and to develop the skills of Christian leadership. Christian service gives them the opportunity to think beyond themselves and their own needs and to reach out to others. The way of leadership based on knowing the person and the teachings of Jesus gives them the skills to use their talents with enthusiasm and energy for the benefit of all.

This award is dedicated to the memory of Pope John Paul II. He showed a great love of and confidence in young people. At the World Youth Day in Rome in the year 2000, he told over a million young people ‘If you are what you should be, you can set the world on fire’ ”.

(Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin)

Through the Pope John Paul II Award, young people 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 is not just for learning, nor is it a list of rules, but that it is for living.

We in the parish of Holy Redeemer pray that many young people will be touched through this programme by the love of Christ.

What exactly do I do to earn an Award?

You earn your Award by taking part in activities through each of these key areas:

1. Parish Involvement
2. Social Awareness
3. Preparation of a final Presentation.

Each of these areas is outlined in detail on the next page.

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.

Activities in the parish that can be done for the Award are:

- Reading at Mass
- Altar Server
- Eucharistic Minister
- Member of one of the parish choirs
- Collector at Mass
- Composing prayers of the faithful for Sunday Mass
- Preparing articles for the weekly parish bulletin
- Helping in the Coffee Dock after Mass
- There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Parish for approval.

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
- Working in a youth club
- On-going fundraising
- Regular visitation of residential homes and / or day centres.
- Being a '*Faith Friend*' in the Confirmation Sacramental 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 Parish for approval.

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) or through an interview (interview conducted by the Award leader, recorded, then transcribed).

The Presentation 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 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.

The parish will have a small team available to help you if you would like any help in putting together the presentation for the award.

Suitability and the Next Step...

Who is the Award for?

- Students in 4th Year
- Students in full-time education who have completed Junior Certificate
- Students in Transition Year
- Anyone between the age of 16 and 18, not in post-primary education
- The award is non-competitive, flexible and voluntary and requires an ongoing commitment.

How many Awards are there?

There are four Awards: The Papal Cross, Gold, Silver and Bronze. (see table below)

How do I enrol in the Award?

Download an application form from the website (<http://www.thepopejohnpauliiaward.com>) or pick one up at the Parish Office. You should then return the completed form with the enrolment fee to the Parish Office.

Is there an enrolment fee?

Yes, there is an enrolment fee. Please refer to the Parish Office.

What is the completion time?

16 months beginning in September.

What happens next?

When your enrolment is processed you will receive your Record Card from your Parish. You will decide with your Award leader in the Parish 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.

How do I claim my Award?

On completion of the hours and the Presentation, you should return your Record Card and presentation to the Parish Office. These are confirmed by the Priest in Charge and forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Committee.

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, for example - helping with the sick pilgrims at Lourdes or working on behalf of Children in Crossfire, etc. These activities will gain participants Award Top-Ups as follows...

Papal Cross: 7.5 hours

Gold: 6 hours

Silver: 4.5 hours

Bronze: 3 hours

There may be other activities that you are involved in that are not included here but may be relevant, if so please contact the Parish for approval.

John Paul II Award Requirements

AWARD	REQUIREMENTS
Bronze	Parish Involvement: 1 hour per week x 8 weeks Social Awareness: 1 hour per week x 8 weeks Presentation: Yes Top-Ups: 3 hours
Silver	Parish Involvement: 1 hour per week x 14 weeks Social Awareness: 1 hour per week x 14 weeks Presentation: Yes Top-Ups: 4.5 hours
Gold	Parish Involvement: 1 hour per week x 20 weeks Social Awareness: 1 hour per week x 20 weeks Presentation: Yes Top-Ups: 6 hours
Papal Cross	Parish Involvement: 1 hour per week x 26 weeks Social Awareness: 1 hour per week x 26 weeks Presentation: Yes Top-Ups: 7.5 hours