

Pope John Paul II Award



Award Handbook

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Message from the Bishop

I wholeheartedly welcome the introduction of the Pope John Paul II Award in our diocese. This Award calls our young people to deepen their relationship with Christ and to live out their faith in generous service to others. The young people of our diocese are a great blessing and we need their unique gifts in our communities. Pope Francis reminded us of how much their contribution is valued at World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro when he gave this message to the young people of the world: *"The Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you.... You can be joyful witnesses of His love, courageous witnesses of His Gospel, carrying to this world a ray of His light."*

Pope Francis was following in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II who inaugurated the World Youth Days many years earlier to express his love for young people and his confidence in them. In 1995 at World Youth Day in Manila, Pope John Paul II directed a personal question at each young person: *"Are you capable of giving of yourself, your time, your energies, your talents, for the good of others? Are you capable of love? If you are, the Church and society can expect great things from each one of you."*

The Pope John Paul II Award will give an opportunity to our young people to respond to that same question by reflecting on their faith and putting that faith into action. I invite our parishes and our schools to accompany young people in this endeavour and I thank all who will be involved in supporting this initiative.

Most of all I invite you, the young people of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese, to respond to the challenge that this Award offers you and to participate in the life and mission of our diocese. You are vitally important to the Church of Hexham and Newcastle. Together we are called to travel with hope on the great adventure of faith and to seek to be witnesses to the Gospel building God's kingdom of truth, justice and love in our world.

+ Seamus Cunningham
Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle



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 Hexham and Newcastle 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?

- Anyone between the age of 16 and 18 (post year 11)
- The award is non-competitive, inclusive, flexible and voluntary and requires an ongoing commitment

Who organises and is responsible for the Award in our Diocese?

- Award Patron - The Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle
- Award Making Body - Pope John Paul II Award Committee
- Award Leaders - Parish Co-ordinators, School Co-ordinators
- Facilitators - Those who will facilitate the Award to fulfil individual tasks/activities
- Promoters - Clergy, Head Teachers, School Governors
- Administrative Centre - Hexham and Newcastle Youth Ministry Trust, Emmaus Youth Village



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?

Between one and two academic years.

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 (18 years plus), 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 to download the application form and parental consent form. You should then return the completed forms with the enrolment fee to your Award Leader in your school/parish.

Enrolment Fee

To enrol in the Award costs £15. The Award Leader will collect the fee and payment will be sent to the Youth Ministry Trust.

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.



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 forwarded to the Pope John Paul II Award Committee at the Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan Youth Service.

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 your Award in the parish are:

- Reading at Mass
- Altar Server
- Eucharistic Minister
- Member of choir/music group
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Composing prayers of the faithful
- Welcomer at Mass
- Helping with sacramental preparation
- Preparing articles for the parish bulletin
- Church decoration/flower arranging/church cleaning



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 through your Parish or School Co-ordinator, 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, which 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
- Young leader for CAFOD
- Young leader at parish youth group
- Running a fair trade stall
- Fundraising for a charity
- Regular visitation of residential homes
- Supporting a residential retreat for young people
- Working with the homeless
- Raising awareness of the needs of others
- Volunteering on a parish or community project to support the vulnerable, e.g. Justice and Peace



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 through your Parish or School Co-ordinator, for approval.

Presentation

Preparing the Presentation

When the participant completes the Parish Involvement and the Social Awareness sections of the Award she/he prepares a presentation. This presentation may be written (approx 1500 words) or presented through multi-media or a portfolio. 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:

Papal Cross	7.5 hours
Gold	6 hours
Silver	4.5 hours
Bronze	3 hours

Lourdes Youth

Each year many people from Hexham and Newcastle Diocese travel to Lourdes to care for people with illness and disability. The Lourdes Youth are essential to provide the level of care required. Working in Lourdes can be part of this Award.

There are other voluntary Diocesan and school pilgrimages which involve volunteering. These pilgrimages can also be considered as Award Top-Ups.



Humanitarian Trips

Trips lasting four days or more to work on specific projects such as the Peru Mission or projects in Africa can also be considered as Award Top-Ups.

Youth Council

Youth Council activities can also be considered for Top-Ups.

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 through your Parish or School Co-ordinator, 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 all people with courtesy 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 appropriate care and respect when visiting or working with vulnerable people
- 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 Award Leader or designated Child Protection Person for the Hexham and Newcastle 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 School Head Teacher or the Award Committee.

Offices

Hexham and Newcastle Diocese:

Youth Ministry Trust
Emmaus Youth Village
Pemberton Road
Allensford
Consett
DH8 9BA



Tel: 01207 592244

Email: jp2award@ymt.org
www.ymt.org

Central Office:

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

Tel: 028 7126 4087
Fax: 028 7126 9090

Email: admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com
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.