

# Pope John Paul II Award Commissioning Ceremony

## Feast of Christ the King

**The Global Celebration of Young People**, which takes place every year on the **Solemnity of Christ the King**, is an annual celebration of youth and young adults that is undertaken at the local levels of the Church, such as dioceses, parishes, schools, and chaplaincies.

Encourage Award participants to be involved in the following areas of the Liturgy:

- ❖ Welcome (sample included)
- ❖ Readings (of the day)
- ❖ Commissioning Ceremony (sample outline included)
- ❖ Prayer of the Faithful (sample included)
- ❖ Presentation of the Gifts
- ❖ Ministers of Holy Communion (if any Award participants have been commissioned)
- ❖ Communion Reflection (samples included)

## Welcome

*(Read by a Pope John Paul II Award participant)*

Good morning/Good evening and welcome to our Mass. As part of the liturgy today, we will have a short commissioning ceremony for the young people in our parish that have enrolled this year to participate in Pope John Paul II Award.

The Pope John Paul II Award is for young people aged between 16 and 18. The aim of the Award is to enable young people to play an active role in their parish and local community. Through the Award, young people are encouraged to get involved in different aspects of parish ministry and support local charities and projects in their society. This is the [enter number] year the Award has been running in our diocese. We are looking forward to participating in it over the weeks and months ahead in our parish. We hope you will support us in this initiative. Some of the John Paul II students will be involved in the Liturgy today.

I invite everyone to please stand for ..... (Opening hymn or Entrance procession)

## Readings

(For the Day)

The readings are available from: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/readings/>

## **Commissioning Ceremony** (Post Gospel/Homily) (Read by Diocesan Award Coordinator/Parish Leader)

Dear Friends

Today is the Feast of Christ the King, on which the Church celebrates World Youth Day. To mark this, we welcome the young people who are participating in the Pope John Paul II Award in our parish this year.

Pope Francis often encourages young people to make themselves known in their parishes, and to create a fuss. He said 'The Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you...Christ is counting on you! The Church is counting on you.' By saying Yes to participate in this faith-based award they are keeping open that door of faith, bringing hope and enriching the church with their youthful energy.

We welcome the joy and enthusiasm these young people will bring as they volunteer and put themselves forward to work in our Church and local community.

Today in our Church Community we commission these young people in the Pope John Paul II Award.

*Celebrant:*

I invite those who have chosen to participate in the Pope John Paul II Award to come forward / stand up (together with their Award leader if possible).

On behalf of this parish community I welcome your enrolment in the John Paul II Award. I wish to commend you for your generous participation and your youthful idealism.

When you were baptised you became a follower of Jesus Christ. This means you were called to be the presence of Christ in your community. By taking part in this Award you will have the opportunity to serve others as Christ asks each of us to do.

*Celebrant:* Have you taken on this role freely and of your own choice?

*Award Participants:* We have

*Celebrant:* Do you promise to play an active part in your parish?

*Award Participants:* We do

*Celebrant:* Do you promise to serve others in your school and local community?

*Award Participants:* We do

*Celebrant:*

God our Father, send your Holy Spirit upon these young people. Be their helper and guide, and grant them the spirit of wisdom, generosity and courage. Enable them to complete their chosen tasks with faith, honesty and dedication. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Prayer of the Faithful

*Celebrant:*

Brothers and sisters, as we celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King, we proclaim His sovereignty and seek his help in our need. On this World Youth Day, we pray especially for our young people and those who work with them; that all may realise Christ's love for them.

For the Church and her leaders. That they will be guided in their decisions by your Holy Spirit making the Kingdom of God a reality on earth. We ask that you strengthen them in their leadership and faith, particularly in their work with young people.

**Lord Hear Us**

For peace in the world, especially for those who suffer persecution because of their faith. May they know the constancy of God's love for them, especially in times of war and conflict. **Lord Hear Us**

For world leaders. That they may be guided by the wisdom of God and His Divine Law.

**Lord Hear Us**

For young people, especially those in our parish. That they experience Christ's love for them in all that they do and come to know more deeply that they are valued members of our community. **Lord Hear Us**

For those who work with our young people and the work our diocesan Youth Service – Clogher don Óige. That God will strengthen them in their faith and bless them abundantly in their ministry as they support young people in seeking God's call in their lives. **Lord Hear Us**

For ourselves. That our lives may be a witness that Christ is the ruler of our hearts.

**Lord Hear Us**

For those who are sick. That they experience Christ the King's healing and comfort in their time of need. **Lord Hear Us**

*Celebrant:*

May Christ the King bring to eternal life in His Kingdom those who have died.

Especially those who have died recently ..... and ..... whose anniversary occurs at this time. **Lord Hear Us**

Lord our God and Universal King, listen to our prayer which we make in trust and in humility as we commend our young people to your care, bring us all to eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Post Communion Reflections

Lord, you are love,  
Teach us to become loving.  
Lord, you are compassion,  
Teach us to become compassionate.  
Lord, you are gentleness,  
Teach us to become gentle.  
Lord, you are divine,  
Draw us into your divinity.

*(Prayer for parish groups J Kavanagh & D Harrington)*

### MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*(Attributed to St Francis of Assisi)*

### PATHS

I weave into my life this day  
The presence of God upon my way,  
I weave into my life this hour  
The mighty God and all his power.  
I weave into my sore distress  
His peace and calm and no less.  
I weave into my step so lame  
Heaving and helping of His name.  
I weave into the darkest night  
Strands of God shining bright,  
I weave into each deed done  
Joy and hope of the Risen Son.

*(David Adam, Tides and Seasons)*

*If possible, you might like to have a social time for the young people and their families after Mass, perhaps tea and biscuits!*