# Faith in Action Award Scheme 2018



**Faith in Action (Year 2) launches on Saturday 27th January 2018 at 10.30am, St Joseph’s Church, Plaistow lane, Bromley.**

**“An important challenge (in life) is found in a personal and committed relationship with God which at the same time commits us to serving others” Pope Francis, 2014**

‘Faith in Action’, the CYMFed National Catholic Award Scheme, allows youth ministers in the Church to celebrate, recognise and reward all that young people of faith already give to the Church.  It also challenges young people to do more to form themselves, deepen their relationship with God and change the world in which they live

The scheme recognises young people as the experts of their own lives, giving them a sense of responsibility and valuing them as having something unique to offer.  It helps them connect their life and faith in a tangible manner.

**Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR**

**Liaison bishop for young people**

**Catholic Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales.**

The CYM Project will be organising the Faith in Action for Bromley Deanery and the achievements of the young people involved in the scheme will be formally recognised and celebrated at an awards ceremony held annually in Southwark diocese. Faith in Action (FIA) has an annual cycle, with the launch in Bromley parishes taking place in January, and final ceremony the following November. It is open to young people of all faiths.

The four key elements of the award are outlined below. They are all equally important to the award.

**Service**

The award has 4 stages. Pin for year 6 youngsters. The non-age-related Bronze, Silver and Gold levels are for those in secondary years. One or all levels can be completed.  A participant can move up or into the stages as they demonstrate greater independence, leadership in and commitment to their chosen service(s). The service element can be carried out through one organisation or activity, or built from many different service activities in various organisations. Each organisation verifies that the young person has carried out their service activities.

**Spiritual Journal**

The young person briefly records their personal reflections throughout their FIA journey. They record what they have learned about themselves through being an active, serving disciple for others. It can be kept in any or all mediums – written, filmed, drawn, sung etc. It is not a diary of what they did with related dates!

**Four Reflection Points**

These four gatherings are at the heart and soul of the award. They are spread over the year. Participants use their journals to share their service experiences, thoughts, feelings and future steps. They reflect on these in discussion in the light of provided readings from scripture, church teaching, saints’ lives and questions. The time together ends with prayer and liturgy.

**Final Piece**

Using the journal, the participant constructs a short final piece (double sided A4) in any medium. It demonstrates the journey of the participant, reflecting on what they have experienced and learnt; and on how they have grown in skills and understanding of themselves, others and in their relationship with God. Future steps may be contemplated. The piece is submitted for moderation.

A word about verification, moderation and the award ceremony

The service organisations verify that the participants have completed the requisite hours and tasks.

The moderation is carried out by a panel of diocesan approved appropriately skilled adults external to the school, parish or organisation where the service took place. Their role is not to ‘mark’ the journal and final piece, but to understand, celebrate and affirm the journey that the young person has taken. They may want to hear more about that journey or final piece. They also verify that the participant has attended the reflection points. They recommend the participants to the awarding authority.

An award ceremony takes place in the diocese annually.