

## **Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope**

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee, an event celebrated every 25 years, with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. This Holy Year comes as the world grapples with the impacts of war, the lingering effects of the pandemic, and the urgent challenges of the climate crisis. Rooted in the biblical tradition, it will be a time to re-establish right relationships with God, one another, and all creation, inviting the faithful worldwide to embrace hope, renewal and faith through pilgrimages, liturgy, the profession of faith, reconciliation and liberation.

Pope Francis will inaugurate the Jubilee Year by opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024, continuing the cherished tradition that marks this sacred occasion. In the weeks that follow, he will open additional Holy doors at Rebibbia Prison on December 26, at the Basilica of St. John Lateran on December 29, at St. Mary Major on January 1, 2025, and at St. Paul Outside the Walls on January 25.

Our Bishop Chrisitan invites all the faithful to make an inaugural pilgrimage to the Opening Mass for the Jubilee Year at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, December 29 (Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph) at 5:00 pm, with a reception to follow. In the coming weeks, parishes will be contacted with special invitations to make a pilgrimage to the Cathedral on designated First Saturdays throughout the year for the celebration of Mass, Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, veneration of relics, historical tours, and special Jubilee prayers and reflections.

Inspired by Jesus' mission to bring peace and proclaim "a year acceptable to the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19), Jubilee 2025 offers a powerful opportunity to restore trust and unity within the Church and the world. In his February 2024 Letter announcing the Jubilee, Pope Francis encouraged the faithful, saying, "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and a far-sighted vision. Our Bishop has formulated a prayer card for you to pray throughout the Jubilee year in your homes and before or after the Lord's Day Masses in your parishes at least once a month. I invite you to take the prayer card and pray that we become the Pilgrims of hope to be a flame of hope to prisoners, the sick, the young, migrants, the elderly, and the poor.