

JUBILEE  
YEAR 2025



# PILGRIMS OF

Hope





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## What is a Jubilee year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with each other and with all of creation.

## How often does a Jubilee year happen?

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years.

A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

## When will the Jubilee start and finish?

The Jubilee year begins on 24th December 2024, with the opening of 'Holy doors', including one at St Peter's Basilica. It ends on 6th January, with the closing of the same 'Holy door'.

## What is the theme of the Jubilee?

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

## What is the Biblical background for a Jubilee?

The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word yobel, which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9).

In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour:

"The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Luke 4:18-19)



## What is a Papal Bull of indication?

The term 'bull' originates from the lead seal, known as bulla in Latin. It refers to a Papal decree which outlines the purpose and spirit of the Holy Year.

## What does the Papal Bull for the 2025 Jubilee year tell us?

The Bull is titled "Spes non confundit" (Hope does not disappoint) and urges us to look for signs of hope in the world around us and work for peace and justice. In the document Pope Francis writes:

"If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry." (#16)

## Summary of the key points

"Since we are justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing in the glory of God... Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:1-2.5)

### Summary

Pope Francis has proclaimed an Ordinary Jubilee for the year 2025, with the central message of hope. The Jubilee will be a moment of personal encounter with Jesus for pilgrims who visit Rome, as well as for those who celebrate in their local Churches. The Pope emphasizes the importance of faith and love and highlights the need for peace in a world filled with war and violence. He also calls for openness to life and responsible parenthood. The Pope urges showing signs of hope to the sick, the young, migrants, the elderly, and the poor. The Holy Year will conclude with the closing of the Holy Door in the Vatican and will guide us towards the celebration of the two thousandth anniversary of Jesus' redemption in 2033.



## Summary of the key points

### Key Insights

- The Pope proclaims an Ordinary Jubilee for 2025 with the central message of hope.
- Importance of patience, one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Patience to be present in the now, appreciate the world around us, the seasons, the animals and creation, see creation as a great family, like St Francis.
- Journey's of hope – pilgrimages and journeys to rediscover the value of silence and simplicity of life. Chance to discover the beauty of creation, art and the richness of other cultures.
- 'Holy door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God which awakens in hearts in the sure hope of salvation in Christ.'
- Holy doors opened to start the Jubilee on 24th December 2024 (see section 6) and Jubilee end on 6th Jan 2026 with the closing of the holy door at the vatican.
- 'A pilgrimage that sets out from a church chosen for the collectio and then proceeds to the cathedral can serve to symbolize the journey of hope that, illumined by the word of God, unites all the faithful. In the course of this pilgrimage, passages from the present Document can be read'
- Called to find hope in the signs of the times that the Lord gives us – recognise the goodness in the world.
- An encouragement for people to not be denied the opportunity for God's forgiveness in reconciliation.
- Call for Marian shrines to be places of welcome and a rebirth of hope during the jubilee (section 24)
- The Jubilee will provide a personal encounter with Jesus for pilgrims in Rome and local Churches.
- Faith, love, peace, and openness to life are emphasized by the Pope.
- Showing signs of hope to marginalized groups is crucial.
- The Holy Year will conclude with the closing of the Holy Door and lead to the celebration of Jesus' redemption anniversary in 2033.



## Signs of Hope

Pope Francis calls for us to bring 'Signs of Hope' to the members of our communities who can often be on the margins. Here are the groups and elements he has highlighted for us:

- Desire for peace in the world – peacemakers will be called children of God (section 8)
- Looking to the future with hope (section 9)
- Tangible signs of hope for those experiencing hardship (section 10) – particular focus given to prisoners. Enable them to find hope of redemption, forgiveness and rehabilitation.
- Signs of hope shown to the sick – at home or in hospital (section 11)
- Signs of hope for the young – their dreams and aspirations are often frustrated – need to reach out to them to help them to find hope in their future and what they can achieve. (section 12)
- Hope for migrants – a spirit of welcome (section 13)
- The elderly – who feel lonely and abandoned. Special focus given to grandparents who pass on the faith to their children and grandchildren. (section 14)
- Hope for the poor (section 15)

## Appeals of Hope

Pope Francis has also made some Appeals of Hope; things he wants us to focus on this year.

- Section 16 – 'the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few' – call to forgive the debts of poor countries
- Section 17 – Unity amongst Christians – 'May they all be one'

## Link to the document

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509\\_spes-non-confundit\\_bolla-giubileo2025.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html)



### September 24

Competition for all students to create a 'Pilgrims of Hope' St Thomas Aquinas Jubilee logo. Needs to incorporate elements of trust logo and Pilgrims of Hope logo. This needs to be sent to [tshannon@aquinas-cmat.org](mailto:tshannon@aquinas-cmat.org) by the end of September for a winner to be chosen.



### October 24

Secondary chaplaincy team students to come up with a prayer for the Jubilee on Friday 11th October, at their chaplaincy team formation day. This will then be shared with all schools and should be used during the Jubilee year.

### November 24

Schools and students join others from across the country in a day of preparation for the Jubilee on National Youth Funday - 22nd November 2024.



### December 24

During Advent, all schools will be invited to run a competition for students to design an icon of 'Our Lady of Hope'. It must include the names of all 23 schools in the trust, perhaps on stars. One icon from each geographical area of the trust will be chosen. These to be printed, put in nice frames and then sent out across the Trust on our Feast Day.



### January 25

Each school begins the new year, and return to school, with a 'Pilgrims of Hope' celebration of the word. Your chaplain can help with this.

Students within schools create 'images of hope' and used them to create at least one 'Door of Hope', which will remain in place for the duration of the Jubilee. This Holy door could be the entrance to your Chapel or prayer space, or a door near the entrance to school.



### January 25

Each form group or class could make a 'Door of Hope' poster, or turn their doors into a 'Door of Hope' too.



*Pope Francis opening the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica for the Year of Mercy*

The St Thomas Aquinas Feast day, on the 28th January, will be the big launch for the Jubilee across the trust, with the build up week (week beginning 20th January) starting the preparations for that. More information on this will follow later in this booklet.



### During the Year, following on from the Feast Day

There are a number of events and activities which we'd like to encourage schools to take part in throughout the year. These will build up to and follow on from each school having a 'Pledge day' - more on this later in the booklet.

#### What do you hope for?



Could you plan in times for all members of your community to consider 'what do you hope for?'. What are the changes your community wants to see in the world? What are the needs of the local, national and global community and what can you, collectively, do about it? ***This will also be covered in mini-retreats and can then feed into your pledge.***

#### School mission statement

The pledge your school community will be making will be a long term one, based on what change you are going to try to make to the world. With this in mind, it makes sense for it to be linked to and driven by your school mission.

As a result, this is the perfect time to think about refreshing and revisiting your school mission statement - Tom and your chaplain can help with this.

#### Achievement assemblies

In your weekly achievement assemblies (or perhaps termly awards in secondary schools?) could you please add an award for 'Pilgrim of Hope' each time? This could be one or two people, could be picked by the HT or HOY, or nominated by teachers/form tutors, but is someone who has brought hope to others, or has kept hope and persevered in a tough time etc.

#### 'Our Lady of Hope' icons

These will travel around the Trust, starting their journey after the Feast day. They will spend a month in a primary school and two months in a secondary school, so that prayer of hope can take place in schools - in classrooms, form rooms, chapels, school halls. Photos taken and sent in to TS. A book will accompany the icon which can be added to with prayers or thoughts of hope for the future. A plan for this will follow.



### During the Year, following on from the Feast Day

There are a number of events and activities which we'd like to encourage schools to take part in throughout the year. These will build up to and follow on from each school having a 'Pledge day' - more on this later in the booklet.

#### Pilgrimage pitstops of Hope

Monthly competitions for students, and staff if they want to join in, will take place from the Feast day until the end of the Jubilee. Detailed information on these follows in this booklet, but if you were able to incorporate any of these into your curriculum, that would help the uptake of them massively.

These entries can be displayed on a 'Pilgrims of Hope' display in school, with copies sent in to Tom, for the top five to be selected and awards given out.

#### Appeals of Hope

As you saw in the Papal Bull, there are some 'appeals of hope' to us from Pope Francis. Could you answer those appeals in some of the following ways?

- Signs of hope for the elderly - Pope Francis specifically asks us to reach out to grandparents, who share the faith with their children and grandchildren. **Could you specifically invite grandparents to come to a Mass or celebration of the Word in school and then a social gathering afterwards?** There could be tea and coffee and the grandchildren, and other students, could stay behind to socialise and/or play games with the visitors. Could this become part of the school's yearly calendar?
- Forgiving the debts of poor countries - CAFOD will be doing a campaign on this, could your school support this? Or the work of Action for the Church in Need?



### What is the pledge?

This will be something which your school community promises to do to try to make the world a better place.

### How do we decide what our pledge is?

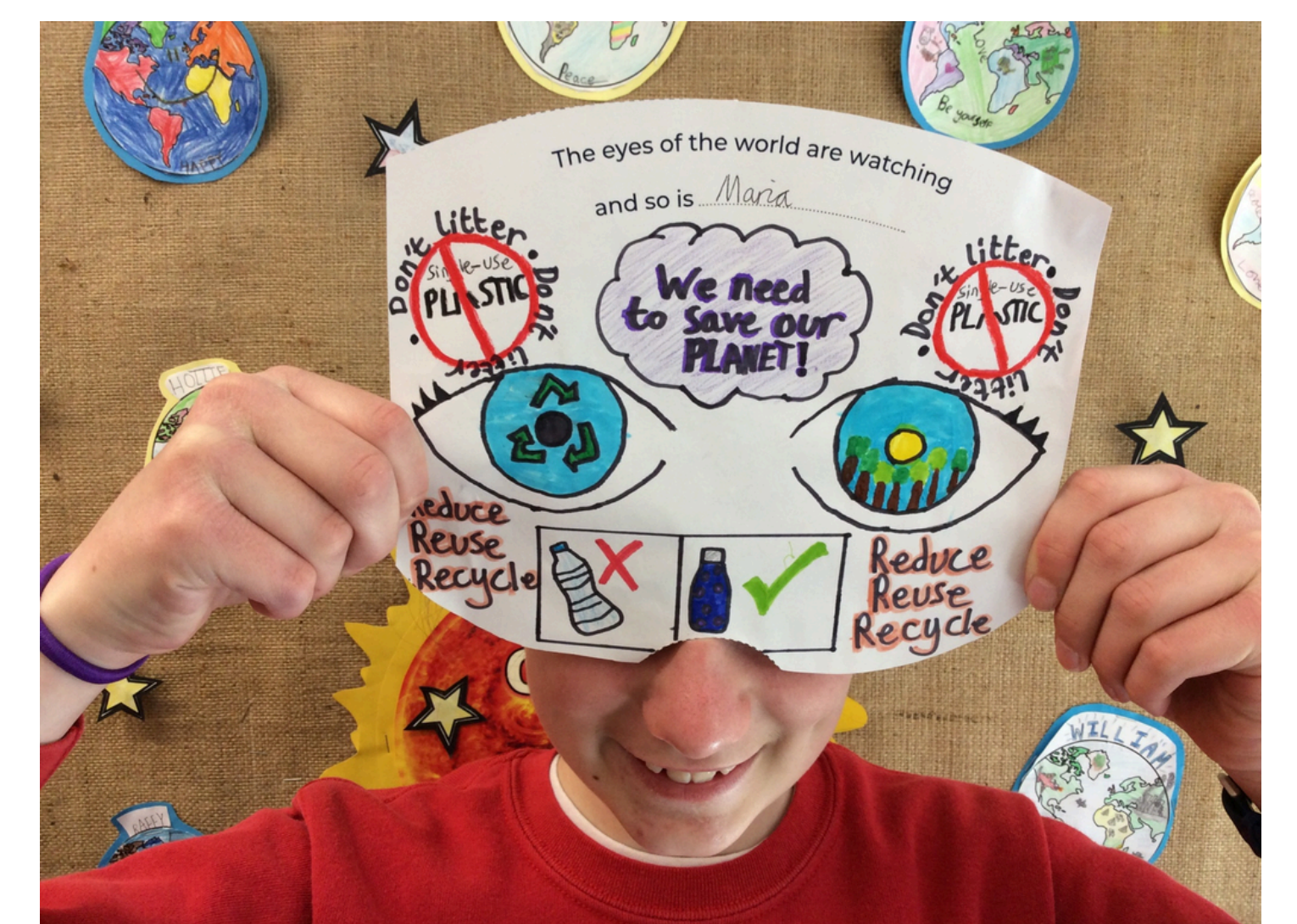
Some of the mini-retreats which your chaplain will lead with your students will help them to think about and contribute to this.

Your chaplaincy team might be able to lead on some of this work too and it would be good to include your staff.

Your school mission should inform and drive your pledge, so that whatever you decide on is achievable and linked to the 'why' of the school anyway.

### When do we do this?

CAFOD will be asking all Catholic schools to have a pledge day in June 2025. They will let us know how they would like us to share this with them, in a similar way to their 'eyes of the world' campaign for COP 23.



### How do we do this?

A 'Jubilee Pledge' mission day will be produced for both primary and secondary schools, which would give you the structure and resources to spend a day exploring this with your students and staff, giving students the chance to think about how they could live out the school mission and contribute towards your pledge.

If you could create some sort of permanent memorial of your 2025 Jubilee pledge too, that would be great. This could be put up in school next to, or near to, your school mission and surrounded by the work the children create on that day, to show how they will contribute towards the pledge. Some of this work could also go onto class/form prayer boards.



### Plans for the Feast day, 2025

Our Feast day celebration, in January 2025, will be the launch of our Trust-wide Jubilee celebrations.

#### Build up week - 20th to 27th January

As in the last two years, differentiated resources will be sent out so students from all schools can engage with the theme of the feast day in the build up to the day itself. There will be a resource to use each day; these can be used in place of the daily prayer each day for that week.

As with last year, Friday 24th January will be designated as a 'Non-uniform day' to raise money for the Catholic Life Hardship Fund, which has been used to support lots of young people over the last few years, in a range of ways. Your support in this is gratefully received. If your school policy is not to do non-uniform days, another fundraising mechanism would be fine.

#### St Thomas Aquinas Feast day - 28th January

On the day itself, we will have Mass at English Martyrs in Leicester. This year it will be celebrated by Bishop Patrick and, as usual, will be live streamed out to all schools at 1pm.

One change this year will be for the children and staff attending in person. This is how plans are shaping up for this (times are approximate at the moment):

- 10 students from each primary school and 15 from each secondary (ideally chaplaincy team students), with transport being via school mini buses and coaches booked by the Trust.
- Students to arrive by 10:15am
- 10:30am - Welcome and opening prayer (differentiated, pre-record opening prayers provided for everyone in schools)
- 10:45 - 11:45 - Students split into Primary and Secondary streams, with input and sessions provided to help the students explore the theme of Hope (resources provided for students in schools to do something similar)
- 11:45am - Hymn practice (Pre-records of all hymns given to schools ahead of time, as usual, for schools to do their own hymn practices)
- 12:15 - Lunch
- 1pm - Mass
- 2pm - Head back to school



### What are 'Pilgrimage pitstops of Hope'?

Pope Francis asked us to share signs of hope with people during the Jubilee. These 'Pitstops' are monthly competitions for students and staff to think about and express what hope means and looks like to them. Their submissions can be sent to Tom to be judged, with the top 5 each month receiving an award.

### Pilgrimage pitstops of Hope

Monthly competitions for students, and staff if they want to join in, will take place from the Feast day until the end of the Jubilee. Detailed information on these follows in this booklet, but if you were able to incorporate any of these into your curriculum, that would help the uptake of them massively.

These entries can be displayed on a 'Pilgrims of Hope' display in school, with copies sent in to Tom, for the top five to be selected and awards given out.

**February:** Artwork – create a piece of artwork which represents hope to you. Could this be sent to someone as a sign of hope afterwards? (migrants, elderly, prisoners, hospitals, hospices)

**March:** Poem of hope – create a poem which fills you with hope, makes you think about something hopeful or explores something you hope for in the future.

**April:** Sound of Hope – could you record a sound which makes you feel hopeful, or record you singing a song which makes you full of hope? Maybe you could make up your own song?

**May:** Letters of hope – write a letter to Pope Francis telling him what you hope for and what change you want to see in the world. Could you tell him what you think you could do to make it happen? (Add copies of some of these to your display and send the originals to Pope Francis)

**June:** People of hope – nominate the people of hope around you. Who makes you feel hopeful, like you can achieve what you want to achieve or makes you feel happy and loved? Nominate them using the Microsoft form supplied.

**September:** Story of hope – can you create a short story, of no longer than 400 words, which explores the theme of hope? Maybe it could be a hopeful story for children and you could read it to some children at a local primary school or in a lower year group?

**October:** Scene of hope – could you take a photo of something which represents hope to you, or makes you feel hopeful?

**November:** Heroes of Hope – design an icon for your favourite Saint, or Saint who represents hope to you and send it in. Maybe you could decorate your classroom or chapel with these?

**December:** Wreath of Hope – using the template provided (or not if you are feeling adventurous!), create an Advent wreath for your classroom/form room with messages of hope on the leaves. Send in photos to TS.



Mini-Retreats

Your chaplain, with support from Tom, can lead a mini-retreat once a half term, so that every child explores each theme once. For secondary schools, it might be necessary to pick one theme per term – Tom can assist with this planning if necessary. These mini-retreats are designed to last around 45 minutes and will add to the CLM provision of your school, while enabling your students to engage with and mark important liturgical moments in the life of the Church and the 2025 Jubilee.

TERM	THEME	DESCRIPTIUON
LENT 1	<b>PILGRIMS OF HOPE</b>	What is hope? What do you hope for? Students will create images of hope to send to those who need it (people in hospice, hospital, centre for asylum seekers etc.
LENT 2	<b>PILGRIMS OF THE CAPTIVES</b>	<i>Pope Francis wants us to bring hope to prisoners, making prayer beads and prayers/pictures, send to local prison.</i>
PENT 1	<b>PILGRIMS TOGETHER</b>	<i>What is the need in your local, national, global community – what can you do about it? What should your school pledge be?</i>
PENT 2	<b>PILGRIMS OF THE EUCHARIST</b>	<i>We end our school year by coming close to Jesus physically in the Blessed Sacrament.</i>
ADVENT 1	<b>PILGRIMS OF CREATION</b>	<i>Exploring the Season of Creation and thinking about God’s plan for the world and our role in that plan.</i>
ADVENT 2	<b>PILGRIMS OF THE NATIVITY</b>	<i>Explore the themes of Advent and how we prepare for the birth of Jesus.</i>