



Pilgrims of hope



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

JUBILEE 2025
RESOURCE PACK
FOR PARISHES



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
 may the *faith* you have given us
 in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
 and the flame of *charity* enkindled
 in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
 reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
 for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
 into tireless cultivators of the
 seeds of the Gospel.
 May those seeds transform from within
 both humanity and the whole cosmos
 in the sure expectation
 of a new heaven and a new earth,
 when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
 your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
 reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
 a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
 the joy and peace of our Redeemer
 throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
 be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

Franciscus



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Introduction

What you will find inside

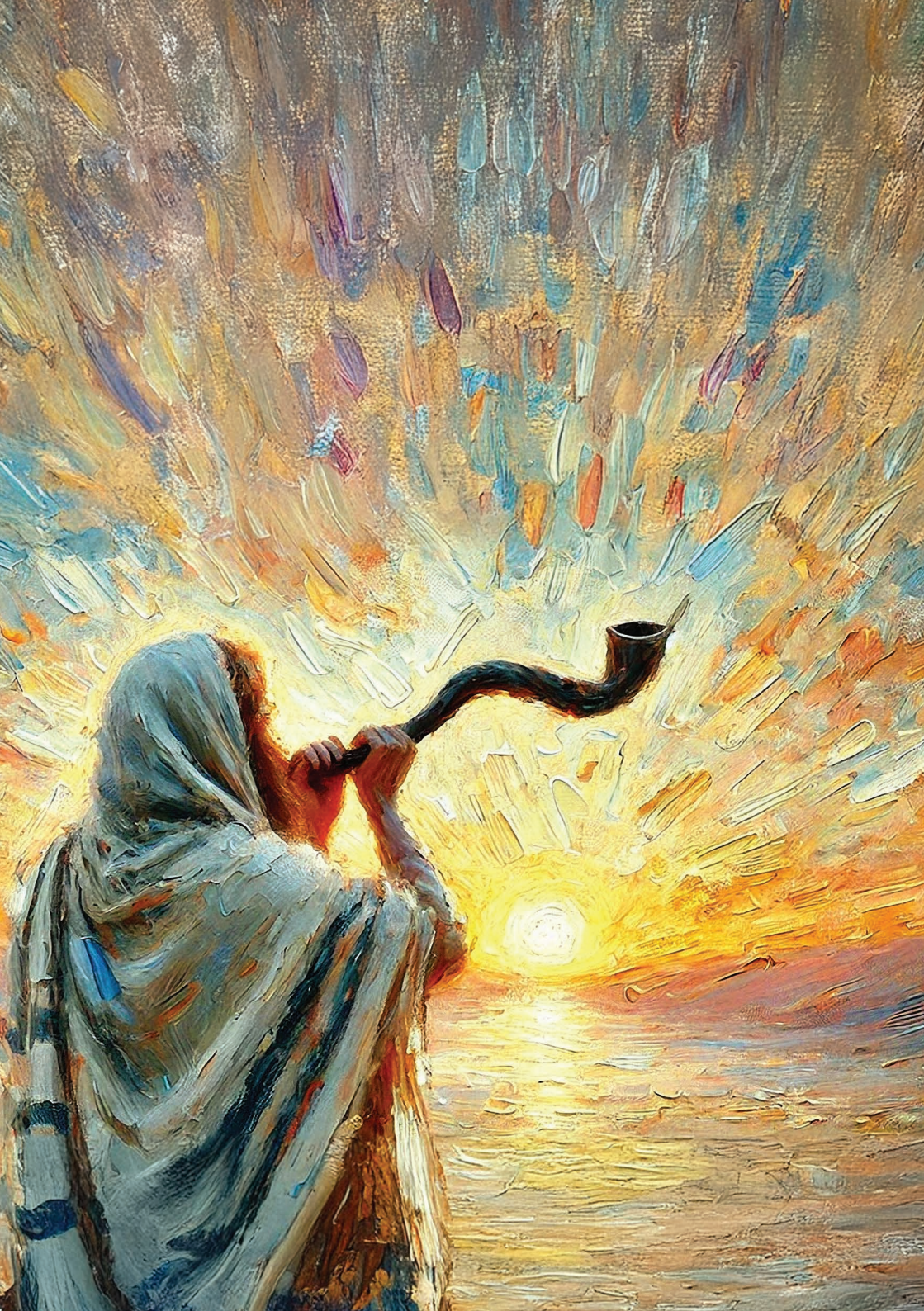
- Formation in what a jubilee year is, their chief hallmarks, and why they are so important to the life of faith.
- Practical tools and resources for celebrating the jubilee year in a meaningful and local way.
- Ideas and tools to foster community engagement, spiritual growth, outreach and evangelisation, and deeper connections with the parish, all aligning to the great 'themes' of the jubilee year.
- Encouragement to build a sense of unity and shared mission within the parish and beyond, especially to the global Church as we seek to renew our vocation as 'pilgrims of hope'.

How to use

This Parish Pack is not intended to be read in one go. It is a resource or companion tool that you can dip in and out of throughout Jubilee 2025. We invite you:

- To share this with key leaders in your parish or school context
- To be inspired and discern together what ideas might best suit your local context and community
- To use the resources inside (templates, prayer prompts, books and video resources) to form your people, build community, and allow the spirit of the jubilee year to animate everything you do.

Jubilee years are a time of abundant grace and blessing, and we pray this Jubilee Parish Pack can be a way for every parishioner to not only experience the mercy and blessings of God anew, but find ways to share that with others.



Understanding Jubilee 2025

What is a jubilee?

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years.

Beginning with the blowing of a ram's horn—the yobel, from which the word jubilee comes—on the Day of Atonement, it was meant to be a kind of 'reset' or 'refresh' for their relationship with God and with each other. Debts would be forgiven, misappropriated land returned, slaves freed, and the land given rest. It was a stark and dramatic reminder for the ancient Israelites that nothing was absolutely theirs—not even the Promised Land.

'... the land belongs to me,'
God told them,
'and you are only strangers
and guests of mine'

LEV 25:23

The Israelites were to live as if everything was a grace and blessing from the God who brought them out of Egypt.



The jubilee of Jesus

Jesus consciously used the language of jubilee when beginning his ministry. In the synagogue at Nazareth, he stood before the people and read from the prophet Isaiah:

‘The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, **to proclaim a year of the Lord’s favour**’ (Lk 4:18-19).

Through his life, death, and resurrection, what Jesus brought about was a kind of ‘ultimate jubilee’: a time of newness and ‘new creation’ (2 Cor 5:17), a time of abundant mercy for his people until his return in glory. The apostles saw their task as continuing this work of Christ’s jubilee: ‘See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation’ (2 Cor 6:2).

Jubilee in the Church

The first jubilee was celebrated in 1300 AD at the initiative of Pope Boniface VIII. They are celebrated every 25 years in the Church—though the pope may mark ‘extraordinary jubilees’ outside of that—and bear the hallmarks of the ancient spirit of jubilee.

In the tradition of the Church, a Jubilee is proclaimed by a Papal Bull of Indiction. This publication explores the particular themes and focus of the Jubilee. The Bull for Jubilee 2025 is titled [Spes non confundit](#) or ‘Hope does not disappoint’ (Rom 5:5)

Pope Francis notes that we, as a pilgrim people, need ‘moments of greater intensity to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps’ (*Spes non confundit* §5).

Jubilee years offer those moments of ‘greater intensity’, opportunities to reorient, refresh, and renew our relationship with the Lord and with our neighbours.

One of the important hallmarks of Catholic jubilee years is the availability of the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence.

Pope Francis reminds us that indulgences are ‘a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God’s mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms “mercy” and “indulgence” were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God’s forgiveness, which knows no bounds’ (SNC 23).

God lavishes us with mercy. He gives us every means of receiving that mercy, and the granting of indulgences by the Church is just one of these. For Jubilee 2025, the conditions of receiving the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence [have been greatly expanded](#) to include a number of different prayer, formation, and charitable initiatives.

These include:

- Formation activities based upon the Catechism and documents of the Second Vatican Council.
- Pilgrimages to Rome or other sacred Jubilee sites.
- Corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
- Various penitential practices, such as almsgiving, fasting and abstinence, and volunteering in the community.

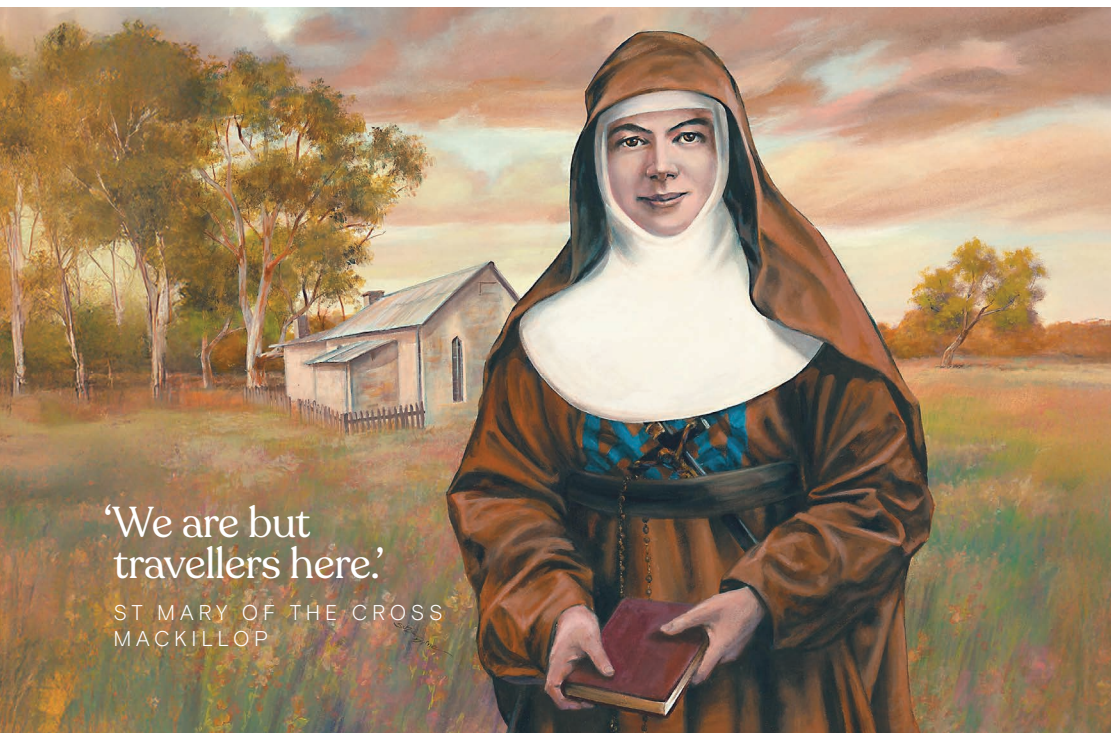
Being pilgrims of hope in the world

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be *pilgrims of hope*: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believes that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wants everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35–39)—can breathe life back into weary souls.

This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5).

ST MARY MACKILLOP BY SUZIE BYRNE



'We are but
travellers here.'

ST MARY OF THE CROSS
MACKILLOP



The Jubilee 2025 logo

For this reason, the most striking part of the logo for this jubilee is the cross: bending towards humanity and forming an anchor, it depicts the cross as something to cling to, especially in rough seas. It is a contemporary 'riff' on an old biblical image. The epistle to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in Christ as 'an anchor of the soul, as sure as it is firm' (6:19).

The cross is not a dead symbol from the past. It is a living sign of God's unfathomable love, and one that carries us together in pilgrimage towards heaven.



Celebrating Jubilee 2025

How do we, as individuals, families, and communities of faith, celebrate Jubilee 2025? What follows are some ideas, based around the most important ‘themes’ of Jubilee 2025, to help us be *pilgrims of hope*.

Host a Jubilee 2025 celebration

To celebrate the jubilee year as a community, why not host a special event to mark what is a truly extraordinary year in the life of the universal Church? This celebration could feature:

- A special Mass to welcome Jubilee 2025.
- A family-friendly picnic or pot-luck lunch (with special invitations going out to those who normally can't make such events, such as the elderly in your community or a family member who doesn't usually attend. You may want to include the local schools).
- Activities: face-painting, bouncy castles, food trucks, competitions and talent shows, sporting activities and other games for youth and young adults.
- Opportunities for prayer: perhaps creating space for parents and grandparents to pray for their children, and children to likewise pray for their parents and grandparents. [Praying the official Jubilee 2025 prayer](#) as a community is another way to enter the spirit of the year.



Make Jubilee 2025 resolutions

Much like 'New Year resolutions', a good idea, either as a community or individuals, is to commit to some 'jubilee resolutions' for 2025. This could include:

- Being intentional about using the official Jubilee 2025 [song](#) and [prayer](#).
- Visiting some of the Archdiocese of Melbourne's different pilgrimage sites and shrines, especially our jubilee 'Pilgrim Places'. (Details to be announced in due course.)
- Consider joining one of the Archdiocesan pilgrimages to Rome that will take place throughout 2025. Information about the Pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Families, Grandparents and the Elderly can be found [here](#). Information about the Pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth (open to 18 to 30 years old) can be found [here](#).
- Committing to additional prayer and/or fasting for the sake of our loved ones, and those in our community, who have drifted away from faith.
- Gift a candle: have a special Jubilee 2025 candle made that your community can gift to someone in their life, symbolically passing on 'the light of Christ'.
- Committing to additional formation activities, especially those focussed upon the Catechism of the Catholic Church or documents of the Second Vatican Council.
- Creatively nurturing the three 'attitudes' that [Pope Francis encouraged us to have as pilgrims during Jubilee 2025](#): thanksgiving, intentionally seeking to encounter the Lord, and penance.
- As a community, creating more opportunities for evangelisation and outreach.



Sharing our hope through outreach, service, and evangelisation

In the Old Testament, jubilee years are strongly linked with the ongoing works of mercy, charity, forgiveness, and justice. They remain so today, and parishes can make use of this 'favoured time' to renew the ways we answer 'the cry of the poor' and 'the cry of the earth'.

Since the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence is also available for undertaking corporal and spiritual works of mercy, here are some ideas for how we, as communities or individuals, can deepen our service to 'the least of these' and be tangible signs of hope (Mt 25:40).

- **See, Judge, Act:** famously developed by Belgian Cardinal Joseph Cardijn (1882-1967) and promoted by Catholic popes since, the See-Judge-Act method is an easy and practical way for us to implement the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and contribute to building God's kingdom on earth. (See Appendix A at the end of this parish pack to see how you can use the See-Judge-Act method in your community.)
- **Service pilgrimages:** offer opportunities for parishioners to volunteer in charitable works, such as visiting the elderly, feeding the homeless, or assisting in other community service projects.

- **Hope bags:** get the community involved in creating and distributing these gift bags to people in need, which can be filled with inspirational items such as Scripture verses, prayer cards, other small tokens of faith. They can be distributed especially to the homebound or sick in the community.
- **Testimonies of hope:** invite parishioners or guest speakers to come and share their personal testimonies for the community, especially stories about how faith and hope that helped people overcome or endure serious and difficult challenges.
- **Saints of hope:** in your parish newsletter, regularly highlight a saint who exemplifies Christian hope in the face of adversity, figures such as St Oscar Romero, Blessed Carlo Acutis, or Pope St John Paul II.
- **Pray for five friends:** promote a commitment to identifying five people in your life you can pray for every day throughout Advent and Jubilee 2025.
- **Invite a friend:** the Advent season, with its warmth and joy, is a perfect entry point for those who may not have come to church in a while. Be intentional about inviting somebody you know either to a Christmas carols event, Mass, or some other community gathering that can help them build relationships.
- **Follow-up for seekers:** Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are times where many people come to Mass for perhaps the only time that year. Being intentional about how to follow up on distant parishioners is important! Offer programs such as Alpha or Sycamore and be sure to advertise while you have everyone gathered at Mass.
 - » Perhaps consider 'farewell teams' that can hand out leaflets or cards while people are leaving. These might have a simple message, such as 'We'd love to see you in the new year', or a QR code to sign up to your email list, or even a list of events and programs that are running in 2025 people can come to.





PILGRIMAGE

Jubilee years are a time of pilgrimage. The word pilgrimage denotes a deeply transformational and spiritual journey, a setting out into strange territory in response to a call. Abraham is the Old Testament's archetypal pilgrim, described as the 'wandering Aramean' because he heard God's call, left his familiar homeland and set out in the hope of receiving God's promises (Deut 26:5).

Throughout 2025, Rome is anticipating a steady stream of pilgrims to come from around the world and step through the Holy Doors in Rome's most significant cathedrals. Information about the Pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Families, Grandparents and the Elderly can be found [here](#). Information about the Pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth (open to 18 to 30 years old) can be found [here](#).

The Archdiocese will also have its own 'Pilgrim Places' for people to visit throughout the Jubilee year, and you will be invited to go on a local pilgrimage in 2025.

Sacramental and formation initiatives

Jubilee years are characterised by many 'themes', including pilgrimage, Reconciliation, formation, and prayer. Here are some ideas for you as a community or personally to commit to for Jubilee 2025.

MERCY NIGHT

Throughout jubilee years there is an increased focus on the sacrament of Reconciliation, because it is only God's mercy that can make a fallen world new again. In this beautiful sacrament, the grace of Calvary and Easter touches us anew and sets us on the pilgrimage to heaven once more.

Invite people to take part in a 'Mercy Night'. During a Mercy Night, there are often readings from Scripture, music, prayerful reflections, and opportunities to visit the sacrament of Reconciliation and experience the joy of God's mercy.

See Appendix B at the end of this parish pack for an adaptable Mercy Night template.





BOOK CLUBS AND SMALL GROUPS

Consider starting a group dedicated to diving deeper into some topics that are pertinent to this jubilee year. They could be around the Creed, the Catechism, or the documents of Vatican II. Some books and other resources to consider are:

Mercy in the City, by Kerry Weber (Loyola Press, 2014): a practical guide to living the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in our modern context.

Prayer for Beginners, by Peter Kreeft (Ignatius Press, 2000): with his trademark gift for writing accessibly and profoundly, this classic book is a perfect entry-point for those wanting to reignite or go deeper in their personal prayer lives.

Time for God, by Jacques Philippe (Scepter, 2010): Fr Jacques Philippe is a much-loved spiritual writer who has reawakened a desire and love for prayer in many. With this (very) short book, he writes encouragingly about mental prayer, inviting us anew into the truth that, regardless of how adept or prepared we are, God is always present, loving us and inviting us to dwell in his presence.

The Creed in Slow Motion, by Martin Kochanski (Hodder & Stoughton, 2022): from the creator of *Universalis*, the beloved app for the Liturgy of the Hours, comes a journey through the creed that is both thought-provoking and fascinating. This is not a historical book: it unpacks the personal and spiritual significance of each line of the Creed for believers today. The language is easy and perfect for newcomers to the Creed.

Light from Light, by Bishop Robert Barron (Word on Fire Academic, 2021): A little heavier than Kochanski's book, Bishop Barron engages in a more theological, but no less interesting, journey through the Creed. Perfect for a deeper, and more philosophical, approach to the Creed.

The Word on Fire Vatican II Collection (Word on Fire Academic, 2021): this two-volume collection contains not only the documents of Vatican II, but commentary by Bishop Robert Barron and postconciliar popes throughout. It seeks to re-engage people with these important and magisterial texts.

Real+True: this highly engaging exploration of the Catechism is a project of OSV under the patronage of the Holy See. Vibrant and informative, it uses high-quality video-based content to break open the different parts of the Catechism in surprising and fascinating ways. Best of all, its content is entirely free! Suitable for both individual and group use, get a taste by [watching this video from their first segment](#): exploring what earth would be like without maps.

Catechism in a Year Podcast: hosted by Fr Mike Schmitz, after the phenomenal success of *The Bible in a Year* podcast, Fr Mike takes us through the Catechism in daily podcasts only 20 minutes long. Fr Mike's engaging style is great for adults, but perfect for youth and young adults.

Prayer initiatives

The most significant way people can celebrate Jubilee 2025 is *prayer*.

‘According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays’ (CCC §2562).

Authentic prayer, no matter what form it takes, is an overflow of the heart. Whether it is an experience of deep need, abundant gratitude, or intense love, it is our hearts that move us towards God in prayer. Prayer is, in some sense, a pilgrimage of the heart.

Here are some ideas for entering more deeply into the jubilee spirit of prayer:

- **Take part in Fiat:** The annual prayer event *Fiat*, where parishes from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne host evenings of prayer across the weekend of the feast of the Annunciation, is a perfect way to grow as a people of prayer this jubilee year. Here are the details:
 - » *Fiat* will be taking place from 28-30 March 2025.
 - » It will coincide with the universal Church’s 24 Hours of the Lord on 28 March, Pope Francis’ initiative to call for a period of intentional prayer and reconciliation.
 - » Parishes across the Archdiocese of Melbourne are invited by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli to enter a period of prayer as we meditate on Mary’s ‘fiat’—her total ‘yes’—to the Lord. In their own circumstances, parishes, religious communities, chaplaincies, movements and groups are invited to hold at least an hour of prayer over that weekend. Closer to the time, a regularly updated schedule will become available.





- **Jubilee prayer:** Praying this together as a community is a way to reflect on what it means to be *pilgrims of hope*:

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

- **Exploring the ‘symphony of prayer’:** the Catholic tradition is rich with different styles of prayer, and the Scriptures show Jesus praying in a variety of ways. Consider how these examples invite us to enrich our own prayer life, both personally and as a community, by exploring our ‘Symphony of Prayer’ resource. See Appendix C.
- **The Mass:** the liturgy is the prayer par excellence of the Church, because it is Christ himself who prays through the Church. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, in the Eucharist Christ comes alongside his pilgrim people to open our eyes and set our hearts burning within us (Lk 24:13-35). Consider some formation initiatives to deepen your community’s celebration of the Eucharist.
 - » **Jesus and the Eucharist:** this 7-week small-group course was created by the Augustine Institute for the United States National Eucharistic Congress, with downloadable videos, participant guides, training for leaders, and bulletin and promotional materials. [This would be a great first step!](#)
 - » Other free resources can be found here: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/revival-resources>





- **Lectio divina:** a revered form of prayer in the Catholic tradition is *lectio divina* (or, *sacred reading*). Whether we are going on pilgrimage overseas or visiting some of Melbourne’s sacred sites, entering into the Scriptures using *lectio divina* is a great way to immerse ourselves in the biblical theme of *pilgrimage*.

For some ideas of which passages to choose, we invite you to consider the following (for use in groups or as individuals):

- » **Genesis 12:1-7:** the calling of Abraham. Abraham is a pilgrim, called by God and told: ‘Leave your country, your kindred and your father’s house for a country that I shall show you’ (12:1). With these words, Abraham’s adventure begins, a journey to the Promised Land (Heb 11:8-11).
- » **Leviticus 25:8-17:** the instruction for the Old Testament Jubilee. Honouring its Jewish roots, the Catholic Church continues this custom of celebrating the Jubilee as a year of renewal. This passage is an opportunity to reflect on what the Jubilee meant to the ancestors of our faith.

- » **Isaiah 40:31:** as *pilgrims of hope*, the prophet Isaiah lets us reflect on what it means to put our hope in the Lord so that we can ‘run and not grow weary, walk but never tire’ on life’s pilgrimage (40:31).
- » **Matthew 2:13-15:** the Gospel account of the Holy Family’s escape from Bethlehem to Egypt highlights the importance of listening deeply to the voice of God on our journey.
- » **Luke 4:16-20:** Jesus begins his ministry by announcing ‘a year of the Lord’s favour’, which is explicitly the language of Jubilee (4:19). To live under the Lordship of Christ is to live a ‘spirituality of Jubilee’, to live the mercy that sets captives free.
- » **Luke 24:13-35:** the road to Emmaus reveals how Jesus comes to us on pilgrimage, even in our confusion and doubt, and that the Eucharist—Jesus revealed in ‘the breaking of bread’ (24:35)—is spiritual food for our journey.

For a practical example of how to run a *lectio* with one of these verses, please see Appendix D.



Prompts for Households

The Year of Jubilee is a special time for households to grow closer, deepen their faith, and embrace renewal.

Appendix E offers simple, meaningful ways to celebrate together at home, which could be printed as a handout in the bulletin.

Other prompts for personal prayer

Reflections by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli from the Year of Prayer are on the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be are also a great way to stop and reflect during personal prayer. Follow these links to explore further:

[The Our Father](#)

‘The invitation is indeed a journey back to the merciful Father, to experience his embrace. Jesus taught us this when he taught us how to pray. The Lord’s Prayer, as we know, is both a personal and a communal prayer. It is to God and with others.’

[The Hail Mary](#)

‘We take up this particular devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary, who comes under so many different titles: Our Mother, Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Help of Christians, and so on ...’

[The Glory Be](#)

‘The “Glory Be”, we sometimes call in English, which is simply the glorying, the giving praise, to God in the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, three persons, one God. We believe in the one true God, who comes to us in the Blessed Trinity.’

Apostles’ Creed

How often do we take the Apostles’ Creed to prayer? Scripture encourages Christians to always be ready to give ‘a reason for your hope’ (1 Peter 3:15). During this year reflecting on our lives as *pilgrims of hope*, taking these ancient words to prayer, these treasured words, is a beautiful way of building ourselves up in faith, hope, and love.

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

Appendix A: See, Judge, Act

This is not the 'definitive' approach to the See-Judge-Act methodology. Rather, inspired by those three steps, we offer it as a way of helping discern the needs, and how you can respond, of your context.

Before beginning, it might be good to start in prayer, with this prayer from the 2024-25 Australian bishops' [Social Justice Statement](#):

O God, Trinity of love,
from the profound communion of your divine life,
pour out upon us a torrent of sisterly and brotherly love.

Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,
in his family of Nazareth,
and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,
discovering Christ in each human being,
recognising him crucified
in the sufferings of the abandoned
and forgotten of our world,
and risen in each sister or brother
who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.

Amen.

Then, consider the following:

SEE

The first step, See, is about taking stock of the situation in our local community, considering what the common issues and hard realities are that people face. It is about identifying the needs that can be responded to.

Here are some questions to guide you:

- Are there people in need of food, housing, or friendship? What about newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers?
- Where are the places where peace, healing, and truth may need to be fostered?
- Where have we not been wise stewards of God's creation?
- What might people need immediate support with?
- What data can help you learn more about your local community? Your local council might guide you here.
- Where are people already serving in your community? What ministries and organisations exist that you can connect with to find out more?

JUDGE

The second step, *Judge*, is about allowing the Word of God and the teachings of Christ's Church to illuminate *how* we see the situation and *what* our response might be.

Some Scripture passages for reflection include:

- Matthew 22:8-10; 25:34-46
- Luke 4:17-19; 6:37-38; 10:25-37

Some relevant quotes from Catholic Social Teaching to contemplate:

- 'With the word "person" we express the fact that every human being has an inviolable dignity. Man was created in God's image (Gen 1:27). So he is the one creature of God that represents the Creator himself in creation ... As a person created by God, a human being is not something, but rather someone and hence uniquely valuable. As a person, a human being is capable of self-knowledge and reflection on himself, of making free decisions and entering into community with others ... The fact that he is made in God's image and likeness therefore means also that a human being always remains related to God and can develop his full personal potential only in God' (DOCAT *What to do? The Social Teaching of the Catholic Church* §47).

- ‘Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan in answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? The word “neighbour”, in the society of Jesus’ time, usually meant those nearest us. It was felt that help should be given primarily to those of one’s own group and race. For some Jews of that time, Samaritans were looked down upon, considered impure. They were not among those to be helped. Jesus, himself a Jew, completely transforms this approach. He asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbour, but rather that we ourselves become neighbours to all’ (*Fratelli Tutti* §80).
- ‘During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind ... May the Christian community always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future’ (*Spes non confundit*, §10-13). Note: In sections 10 -13, Pope Francis focuses on prisoners, the sick, those with disabilities, the young, the displaced, migrants and refugees as focuses for our outreach.
- ‘The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Here I want to recognize, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world’s poorest. Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded’ (*Laudato Si* §13).
- For more on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, see the [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#).

ACT

The third step, *Act*, is about how we respond. Here are some things to consider:

- What actions will you commit to, as an individual or a community?
- In the recent [Social Justice Statement](#) from the bishops of Australia, they invite us to ‘give priority to encounter rather than taking action on a computer’ (p11). Page 11 also has some practical actions for parishes to consider.
- Check out the [CSSV website](#) for local organisations to connect with.
- Check in with your Safeguarding Committee. If you are volunteering as a community, what will you need? Be clear of any safeguarding requirements!
- Be sure to follow up:
 - » The works of mercy can be challenging and confronting. Spending time with others in your community to talk about it, or just with your parish priest, is a good idea.
 - » Pray for those you encounter. Bring their needs to prayer with your community. Perhaps consider adding a prayer of the faithful to Sunday Mass, or speaking about your experiences at the end of Mass.
 - » What is your next action? Is it to continue serving within that organisation or on that issue? Is it to invite others to meet as a group? Is it advocacy and social action? Is it connecting with schools or interfaith communities? Or is it simply to continue serving as you have done? Whatever the case, be sure to plan this out!

Appendix B: Template for Mercy Night

MERCY NIGHT

'COME AND BE HEALED'

SONG

Be still in the presence of the Lord (CWBII 454) or
Loving & Forgiving by Scott Soper

INTRODUCTION

As pilgrims of hope in this Year of Jubilee, we turn our minds and hearts to you Lord. We seek to travel with you along the path of love, the path that alone leads to eternal life. It is not an easy journey, yet by your grace you never abandon us.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we gather here in hope and trust, that your abundant mercy will lighten the burdens we carry, heal our hearts and minds, transform and liberate us for the work of your kingdom.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PENITENTIAL RITE

Almighty God, the power of your love changes our lives.
Lord, have mercy.

Redeeming Son, your mercy draws us closer.
Christ, have Mercy.

Sanctifying Spirit, your peace heals us.
Lord, have mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Joel 2: 12-13

“So now—declares the Lord—come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning.” Tear your hearts and not your clothes and come back to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in faithful love, and he relents from inflicting disaster.’

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 121 (sung) *God is holding your life*
by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

GOSPEL

Matthew 28: 16-20

‘Now the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him they worshipped him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe everything I have commanded you. And look, I am with you always till the end of time.”’

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Response: **Forgive us Lord.**

For the times we have neglected nurturing our relationship with you through prayer. **Forgive us Lord.**

For the times we have failed to openly witness and testify to your presence in our lives. **Forgive us Lord.**

For the times we have resisted your invitation to love others, through our thoughts, words and actions. **Forgive us Lord.**

For the times we have been reluctant or passive in our efforts to connect with those outside the Church. **Forgive us Lord.**

For the times we have overlooked the marginalised within our sphere of influence. **Forgive us Lord.**

For the times we have forgotten to trust that you are with us always. **Forgive us Lord.**

PRAYER OF INVITATION

Music: *Breathe* instrumental by Michael W Smith

TIME OF SILENCE

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

SONG

How great thou art (CWBII 577) or
Build my life by Pat Barrett

Appendix C: Symphony of Prayer

In preparation for Jubilee 2025, Pope Francis invited the Church to a great 'symphony of prayer' that expresses the many rich dimensions of Catholic faith and life.

There are many spiritual traditions, charisms, and ways of praying in the Church. The jubilee year is an opportunity to continue this 'symphony of prayer' in our personal lives, reflecting on our habits and pushing ourselves to 'pray constantly' by saturating every part of life in prayer (1 Thess 5:17). St Paul often encourages us to lift every aspect of life to God:

'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Teach and advise one another in all wisdom. With gratitude, sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God in your hearts; and whatever you say or do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him' (Col 3:16-17).

In the Gospels, we see Jesus praying in a variety of ways and circumstances. Consider some of these examples and how they might connect with you. This can be used either personally or communally to take stock of our prayer life.

Read the scripture, reflect on the questions and pray seeking God's guidance on how to apply into your own life.

- **The upper room** (Mark 14:22-26).
 - » How do we pray during Mass, or during times of celebration and remembrance?
 - » Mark also notes how they 'sung the psalms' together (v26). How familiar are we with the psalms? Do we pray or sing them often?
- **The Garden of Gethsemane** (Matt 26:36-45).
 - » How do we pray in times of anguish and suffering? Like Jesus, is our prayer 'not as I want, but as you want'? (v39)
- **Jesus would often 'withdraw to deserted places and pray'** (Luke 5:16).
 - » Do we seek out spaces of solitude and retreat?
 - » He would also go to the mountaintops to spend 'the whole night in prayer to God' (Luke 6:12).

- » Are lengthy periods of prayer a test for us? How can we grow in our capacity to pray? What environments might help us do that?
- **In the desert** (Matt 4:1-11).
 - » Do we pray or read Scripture during times of temptation and trial?
- **At the table** (Luke 5:29-32).
 - » How often do we pray in community, with friends, or during mealtimes?
- **On the cross** (Matt 27:46, Mark 15:34, Luke 23:46).
 - » Do we pray when facing death or loss? Do we pour our hearts out to him?
- **The Our Father** (Matt 6:9-13; John 17).
 - » This is the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. How often do we pray it slowly, with intention? The prayer of Jesus in John 17 is a rich prayer that journeys through the themes of the Our Father.
- **In the synagogue before others** (Luke 4: 16-22).
 - » Are we comfortable or confident praying in formal prayer settings or when somebody invites us to?

Reflect on your prayer life. What is your preferred style or routine or place to pray? Reflect also on why you pray, and whether it is only in time of need, as opposed to desiring to spend time with God in prayer, as Jesus did.

What could you add to your current routine to enhance and deepen your prayer life during this Jubilee Year?

Appendix D: Example of *lectio divina* on the theme of pilgrimage

In this parish pack, we looked at some verses of Scripture you may want to use, as individuals or a community, as part of a *lectio divina* on the theme of pilgrimage. Here is a practical example of how you might want to run that.

This example uses Genesis 12:1-7 as the example.

PREPARE (SILENCIO)

Take a moment to quiet yourself. Find a comfortable position and become aware of God's presence. Invite the Holy Spirit into this time, perhaps by praying, 'Come, Holy Spirit, come.' Take a few deep breaths, letting go of distractions and opening your heart to God's word.

READ (LECTIO)

Read Genesis 12:1-7 slowly and aloud if possible:

'The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your kindred and your father's house for a country that I shall show you; and I shall make you into a great nation, I shall bless you and make your name famous; you are to be a blessing!

I shall bless those who bless you,
and curse those who curse you,
and all clans on earth
will bless themselves by you."

So Abram went as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had amassed and the people they had acquired in Haran. They set off for the land of Canaan, and arrived there. Abram passed through the country as far as the holy place at Shechem, the Oak of Moreh. The Canaanites were in the country at the time. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I shall give this country to our descendants." And there Abram built an altar to the Lord who had appeared to him.'

Allow the words to sink in. What stands out to you in this passage? Is there a word, phrase, or image that catches your attention? Notice the character of Abram, his journey, or perhaps the promise God makes to him.

MEDITATE (MEDITATIO)

Re-read the passage again, focusing on the word, phrase, or character that caught your attention. Use your imagination to enter into the story. What do you see and hear around Abram as he embarks on this journey? Imagine leaving everything behind at God's call. What feelings does that evoke—fear, excitement, uncertainty, hope?

Reflect on Abram's trust in God. Are there areas of your own life where God may be calling you to leave behind something comfortable, familiar, or safe? What is the 'land' God is inviting you to journey toward? Spend a moment reflecting on this and inviting God to show you how it connects with your life.

PRAY (ORATIO)

Read the passage once more, and let it guide you into prayer. Speak to God about what surfaced. If Abram's call resonates with you, perhaps pray for courage and faith like Abram. If there's a particular fear, resistance, or longing that arose, offer it up to God. If you feel moved to praise God for His promises, express that. Let this be a heartfelt conversation, sharing everything that emerged in your meditation.

CONTEMPLATE (CONTEMPLATIO):

Take a few moments to rest in God's presence. Simply be still, knowing that you are with the one who called Abram and leads you today. If your mind wanders, gently return to the awareness of God's presence. There's no need to force anything—just relax and be with God, allowing his love to wash over you. Let this be a time of peaceful, wordless communion.

THANKING GOD

End your time in prayer by thanking God for this moment, for the call he has placed on your life, and for any clarity or insight he has given. Commit to any steps he is asking of you, and trust in his guidance.

Appendix E: Prompts for Households

A Year of Jubilee provides a beautiful opportunity for families to grow closer together and deepen their faith. Here are some meaningful ways households can celebrate at home:

1. HOUSEHOLD PRAYER TIME

Dedicate a special time each day or week for household prayer, thanking God for the blessings received, and the challenges faced, and praying for renewal in your family life.

Pray the Jubilee Prayer together as a household.

2. FORGIVENESS AND MERCY

Set aside a moment to ask for and offer forgiveness within the household.

Go together as a family to the sacrament of Reconciliation.

3. JUBILEE FEAST

Prepare a special meal where everyone contributes, to represent unity and shared blessings. Use the occasion to talk about faith, gratitude, and generosity, and maybe even the significance of jubilee years in the Church.

Share stories of faith, family traditions, or memories; remember those special moments and be sure to celebrate important milestones together.

Invite a neighbour, elderly person, or someone who doesn't have others to celebrate with.

4. OUTREACH & SERVICE

Engage in acts of service as a household. This could involve helping a neighbour, volunteering at a local charity, or donating items to those in need.

Create a 'Year of Jubilee Kindness Jar' where each member places written acts of kindness they commit to do during the year.

5. MEMORY WALL OR GRATITUDE TREE

Create a wall or a tree that reflects your family's journey over the years—photos, written memories, or drawings that showcase special family moments, challenges overcome, or blessings received.

Regularly add leaves or notes of gratitude throughout the year.

6. GENEROSITY

As a household, sacrifice little luxuries together (like takeaways) and put that money to a charity everyone is happy with.

Create a 'hope bag' as a household: go shopping and prepare together.

7. FAMILY JUBILEE RESOLUTION

As a household, choose one or more resolutions for the Year of Jubilee that reflect the themes of renewal, forgiveness, and faith. This could be a promise to spend more quality time together, develop a new family tradition, or deepen your prayer.





‘We are but travellers here.’

ST MARY OF THE CROSS
MACKILLOP



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE