

Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, and the theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”. It will be a year of pilgrimage, prayer, celebration and reconciliation to open on Christmas Eve. Our Diocese will open the Jubilee with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass and opening the Holy Door at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.30am and at St. Joseph’s Hartlepool at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. There’s more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025. Pope Francis’ prayer intention for the month of December invites Christians to pray that each of us may become pilgrims of hope as a result of the 2025 Jubilee and is as follows: **“Let us pray that this upcoming Jubilee may strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.”** He lamented the suffering afflicting our world, saying humanity has great need of hope. “Christian hope is a gift from God that fills our lives with joy,” said the Pope, calling hope an anchor for our lives. “We have to hold onto the rope of hope – hold on tight,” he urged. Pope Francis went on to invite Christians to allow God to fill our lives with hope, so that we may become gifts of hope for everyone around us. **“Let us help each other discover this encounter with Christ who gives us life, and let us set out on a journey as pilgrims of hope to celebrate that life,”** he said. “And entering into the upcoming Jubilee is the next stage within that life.” As Church prepares for the Jubilee, Catholics are called to become pilgrims of hope, which forms the theme for the 2025 Holy Year. “Don’t forget,” said the Pope, “hope never disappoints.” As he walked alone during the *Statio Orbis* in St. Peter’s Square on March 27, 2020, Pope Francis drew on the Gospel metaphor of a boat tossed by the waves to recall the fragility of humanity in the midst of great trials.

Now, as the world faces conflict and war in various countries, the Church has the task of strengthening her own hope and sharing it with the world. **“In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future will bring.”** Pope Francis.