

The Word

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The Year of Jubilee

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Year of Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has called for a Year of Jubilee under the motto *Spes non confundit* ("Hope does not disappoint" Rom 5:5), which begins with the opening of the Holy Doors in Rome in December 2024. This Jubilee will be a time of spiritual renewal and hope, in a world marked by violence, poverty, injustice and ecological crisis. The Pope proposes this Jubilee as an opportunity for Christians to live active hope and share the salvation of Christ, which is offered to all, without distinction.

This Jubilee of 2025 coincides with the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (325), which was fundamental in defining the Christian doctrine on the divinity of Christ and his consubstantiality with the Father. This ecclesiastical event is considered a historic milestone, as it was key to consolidating the unity of the Church and defining essential aspects of the Christian faith. Furthermore, the Jubilee of 2025 will serve as a preview of the celebration of the two thousand years of Redemption, scheduled for 2033, marking a cycle of profound reflection and renewal for believers.

The Pope begins his Bull by recalling that, throughout recent times, people have been plunged into pessimism and skepticism, moving away from hope in God. Francis sees in this Jubilee an opportunity to rekindle hope among Christians, encouraging them to have a living and active faith in Christ as "our hope." He stresses that Christian hope is not just an individual hope, but a collective witness that must be visible in daily actions, promoting justice, harmony and peace.

The Pope also emphasizes the urgent need for a

"social alliance for hope," which supports life and birth. He notes with concern the low birth rate in many countries, and denounces how consumerism and the pursuit of economic gain have unleashed a social crisis that affects families. In this context, Francis calls on governments to implement public policies that favour life and social well-being, and on civil society to support young people in their desire to form families.

On a global level, the Pope advocates a profound transformation in the way resources are prioritized. Instead of allocating them to military expenses, Francis proposes creating a global fund to eradicate hunger and promote development in the poorest countries. This call is especially pertinent in a context of armed conflicts and humanitarian crises, where millions of people suffer violence and poverty, while resources destined for weapons could save many lives and alleviate food shortages.

In addition to the call for peace, the Pope emphasizes the importance of prayer in preparation for this Jubilee Year. During the period leading up to the Jubilee, he has called for a "Year of Prayer," inviting the faithful to intensify their life of prayer and to reflect on the profound meaning of Christian hope. This prayer will be key to living the Jubilee as a spiritual pilgrimage, which will not only be celebrated in Rome, but also in local Churches around the world, where Holy Doors will be opened in the main Basilicas.

Finally, the Pope invites all Christians to live the Jubilee 2025 as a time of encounter with the Lord, renewing their commitment to peace, justice, solidarity and hope. The Jubilee is not only a rite of forgiveness, but an opportunity to transform the world and work for a better, more inclusive and fairer future for all. **Fr Barto**

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Main dates of the Jubilee

In the Bull, the Holy Father also announced the main dates of the Ordinary Jubilee 2025:

24 December 2024: opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica.

29 December 2024: Francis will open the Holy Door of St. John Lateran, which on 9 November 2024 will celebrate the 1,700th anniversary of its dedication. It will be closed on 28 December 2025.

29 December 2024: the diocesan bishops will celebrate the Holy Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee year.

1 January 2025: opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Mary Major. It will be closed on 28 December 2025.

5 January 2025: opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. It will be closed on December 28, 2025.

January 6, 2025: closure of the Jubilee Year.

Fr Barto

Parish Day of Recollection

On Saturday 23 November I was privileged to attend the Parish Day of Recollection facilitated by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal from Canning Town. It was a truly wonderful experience.

The day began with Mass followed by refreshments in the parish hall. The programme consisted of talks given by the friars punctuated by opportunities for quiet personal reflection and discussion groups. The theme of the day was 'Hope does not disappoint' (Romans, 5:5) with an exploration of the theological virtue of hope, and how it differs from mere wishful thinking. We considered the forthcoming Jubilee Year with Holy Father's call for practical expressions of hope in a world that seems to be filled with fear and despair.

After a convivial lunch, the highlight of the day for me was the Service of Adoration with Healing Prayers conducted by the friars. Each of us was invited to approach the sanctuary individually where a priest bearing the monstrance silently prayed over us and with us. During this service the church was in half-darkness, the principal light emanating from the Benediction candles on the altar. The effect was both dramatic and reverential as sacred music was played and filled the church. Confessions were available from the friars throughout the afternoon, and the day ended with Benediction.

I would like to thank the friars for this spiritually uplifting and thought-provoking day. This time of reflection was for me particularly effective just prior to Advent and to the events of the Jubilee Year. I would also like to thank Fr Barto for organising this gift for us.

Michael Murphy

Post Synod Meeting

On 20th November, I was able to attend the post Synod meeting at St Margaret's church, Canning Town. Attending this meeting enabled me to reflect and to understand a little more about the Synod and how it will guide us forward in the future. The evening began with one hour's adoration, which culminated in Benediction. Then we were provided with refreshments. This gave the opportunity to meet with other people that we knew and to connect with people we did not know. This in itself reflected the Synod. After this the meeting proper began. It was ecumenical in style. This reminded us of Pope Francis' words that the Synod is Ecumenical.

Although there were a number of clergy present, there were also many lay men and women. Again this was a reflection of the Synod. Speakers emphasised that we need to reach out into the community. We need to connect with all people, to share our stories and take action wherever possible, no matter how small our actions may seem. We were also encouraged to listen to all. By listening we can encourage the gifts of the community. The Synod itself was about listening to the community, and of course, the Holy Spirit.

Also the Synod was about managing diversity, recognising that we are a universal church called to witness and to give hope, to proclaim the Gospel by the way that we are.

The Synod Final Document focuses especially on a greater participation of lay men and women. So we have a responsibility to continue this work that was started in the Synod, by listening, discerning and making changes to bring hope to all people in this Year of the Jubilee.

Mike Eggleton

Papal Documents and App

<https://saintaneline.com/year-of-jubilee-pilgrims-of-hope/> (Jubilee Year App)

<https://saintaneline.com/synod-2024-final-document/> (Synod Final Document)

<https://saintaneline.com/faith-in-action/spes-non-confundit-hope-does-not-disappoint/> (Hope Does Not Disappoint)

<https://saintaneline.com/dilexit-nos-he-loved-us/> (He Loved Us)