

Year of Jubilee pack

Background

Every 25 years, the Catholic Church celebrates a special event known as the 'Year of Jubilee,' and 2025 marks one of those years!

The tradition of Jubilee dates back to the time of Moses. Every 50 years, God's people would dedicate an entire year to Him. During this year, they made a special effort to spend time with

God, forgive debts, return what belonged to others, and let their fields rest from planting. Even slaves were set free. In this way, a year of Jubilee gave everyone a fresh start with God, with each other and with Creation. The word "Jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word for a ram's horn, which was blown to announce the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible.



The idea of Jubilee is also found in the Gospel of Luke, when Jesus stood up in the synagogue and read from the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Isaiah 61:1-2). Of course, Jesus lived and breathed these words in everything he did and said!

Even though some things have changed over the centuries, like the timing and some of the practices, the important things have remained the same. The year of Jubilee is a time to make a new beginning with God, with each other and with all Creation.

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The theme for this years Jubilee is **Pilgrims of Hope**. According to the Vatican, the characteristics that will mark the celebration include:

Pilgrimage - a 'journey' to a sacred place marked by prayer, celebrations, learning, nature and friends along the way.

Holy Door - usually the end point of a Year of Jubilee pilgrimage. The Holy Door reminds us that Jesus is the door, he is the one who makes a way for us to experience life in all its fullness.

Reconciliation - forgiving and being forgiven!

Prayer - spending time with God every day, learning to listen to him as well.

Liturgy - special celebrations when we come together to pray such a Mass and Children Liturgy of the Word.

Profession of Faith - when we declare what we believe as baptised Christians. The most recognised professions of faith are the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed.

Resources for kids

Of course, we want our youngest to join in!

This pack contains a number of resources to help the children in your parish, community or school engage in the Year of Jubilee, 2025. Each activity is designed to connect with the characteristics of Jubilee so that the kids in our midst can make new beginning with God, with each other and with all Creation too!

- Pilgrim shell - Decorate a shell which can then be used in lots of ways to pray, give and spend time with God. There are two options to choose from: a painted shell or a paper shell.
- 'I am the door' - Design a door knob sign to remember that Jesus is the door to love and life with God!
- Finger labyrinth - Use a finger labyrinth to spend time 'walking' with Jesus.
- Profession of faith - Apostles Creed strips. Sort, learn and pray this beautiful Profession of faith.
- 'Hope' prayerful colouring pages - Spend some time colouring and reflecting on the hope that comes from God and how we are called to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'
- Mini-pilgrimage - can't get to Rome? Make your own mini pilgrimage!
- Jubilee poster - Pilgrims of Hope footprints.
- Saints who will be canonised this year - Find out more about Carlos Acutis
- Saints who will be canonised this year - Find out more about Pier Giorgio Frassati
- Jubilee party - Plan a party to celebrate the year of Jubilee with your family and friends.
- Reconciliation - Learn about the Act of Contrition and reflect on it by writing your own.