

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

JUBILEE YEAR 2025



What is a Jubilee Year?

In the old Testament, a Jubilee year was held every fifty years. The year was a time of universal pardon where slaves were freed and debts were forgiven. The Jubilee was seen as an opportunity to re-establish relationship with God, with each other, and creation. It In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII instituted the first Christian Jubilee. Since its establishment the church has designated each Jubilee year as a special year of grace and forgiveness with the opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence.

The Jubilee year of 2025 is entitled "Pilgrims of Hope." At a time where many countries suffer from war, climate change, and financial hardship, Pope Francis hopes that the year ahead is an opportunity to restore hope, a time for renewal and rebirth. The year begins on the eve of Christmas, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door in the basilica of St Peter's, Rome, and will close on the feast of Epiphany in 2026.

The Jubilee Year is also a great time to make pilgrimage. The following churches in our diocese have been designated as shrines: Sacred Heart, Bournemouth, St Edmund's, Southampton, St James Reading, St Thomas, Jersey and St Joseph's, Guernsey.

I hope the year ahead brings many blessing to both you and your family, the universal church and our diocese of Portsmouth.

Philip, Bishop of Portsmouth



Prayers for the Jubilee Year

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.

Apostles Creed

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.



Prayer of Patron Saint of Shrine (e.g. St John)

O Glorious St. John, beloved disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, I turn to you in my time of need. You who were so close to Jesus and witnessed His great works and heard His divine teachings, I ask you to intercede for me and present my petitions to our Lord. Help me to imitate your example of love and devotion to Jesus, and to always keep Him at the centre of my life. Amen.

ChristianApostles.com | [St John the Apostle](#)

Prayer of Hope

Heavenly Father, in times of darkness and uncertainty, I turn to You for hope. You are the source of all hope and the light that shines in the darkness. Fill my heart with hope, Lord, and help me trust in Your plan, even when I cannot see the way. Renew my faith and grant me the strength to persevere through the challenges I face. Amen.

Christianity.com | [7 Prayers for Hope](#)

Prayer to Our Lady of Peace

O Loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world to do your Will and leave us His Peace. Through the intercession and example of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, grant us the wisdom and humility to reflect that peace to the world. Inspire our thoughts, words and deeds to bear witness to your presence in our hearts. May your Holy Spirit fill us with every grace and blessing so that we may pursue what leads to peace for all humanity. Amen.

www.wucwo.org | [Mary Queen of Peace Prayer](#)



Plenary Indulgences

Throughout a Jubilee year the church offers the faithful the possibility of receiving the gift of a plenary indulgence, a remission of temporal punishment due to sins applicable either to themselves or to those who have died. A Plenary indulgence is an opportunity for us to receive the mercy of the Lord, to draw closer to God and experience the joy of forgiveness.

In order to obtain a plenary indulgence, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

The penitent must visit one of the shrine churches, receive Sacramental confession and Holy Communion. They must also pray for the intentions of the pope and make a profession of faith by praying the creed. A plenary indulgence may be obtained once a day. At the same time, the pilgrim must exclude all attachment to sin, including venial sin. These conditions must all be completed within several days of the shrine visit.

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

NRSV Catholic edition of the Bible



Please visit our Jubilee Webpage

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/

