

QUICK GUIDE TO THE ORDINARY JUBILEE 2025

WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR?

According to Judaic tradition, the fields would lie fallow for a 'Sabbath year' after 6 years of labour. Every seventh Sabbath year was followed by a Jubilee (50 years), during which slaves were released, commercial debts were cancelled, and property was returned to its original owners. This became a year of honouring God.

In the Catholic Tradition, Jubilees are now celebrated every 25 years. Jubilees are a year of pilgrimage, thanksgiving, and repentance - it is a year for seeking and giving forgiveness. Each Jubilee is formally announced with a document, known as a Papal Bull. This Jubilee the Papal Bull is Titled: *Spes Non Confundit - Hope does not disappoint.*

KEY THEMES FROM PAPAL BULL, *SPES NON CONFUNDIT*

Forgive debts & give pardons

Pope Francis extends a "heartfelt appeal" to affluent nations, asking them to "acknowledge the gravity of so many of their past decisions and determine to forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them." This includes "ecological debt" as addressed in Laudato Si, and the pardon of prisoners.

Peace for a Suffering World

Calling for a year of hope and patience in the face of much suffering in the world, Pope Francis "dreams that arms may fall silent", encouraging diplomacy to end war and a "global fund" to put an end to hunger, rather than financing weapons.

Pilgrimage

Pope Francis hopes that the itineraries and pilgrimages planned during the Jubilee year are "oases of spirituality and places of rest on the pilgrimage of faith" and that shrines may also be places "for the rebirth of hope."

Pilgrimages including a 'holy door' like that at St Peter's Basilica, may obtain an indulgence.

Hope for the future

Pope Francis highlights his concern for declining birth rates, stating various reasons, including frenetic pace of life, fears about the future, lack of job security and adequate social policies. With this he also mentions his concerns for young people, stating they are the rising generation, and we must not disappoint them.

Christian Unity

Jubilee year is an opportunity to focus on Christian unity and dialogue. 2025 will be the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. Pope Francis calls for continued work in Ecumenical dialogue, in the of hope by agreeing on a common date for Easter for Catholics and Orthodox. Coincidentally Easter will be celebrated on the same day in 2025.



IMPORTANT DATES

24 Dec 2024	Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica Open
29 Dec 2024	Diocesan Opening Mass for the Holy Year
28 Dec 2025	Diocesan Closing of the Jubilee Year
6 Jan 2026	Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica Close



DECREE ON THE GRANTING OF INDULGENCES DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

All the faithful, are eligible to receive a plenary indulgence if they:

- are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin,
- are moved by a spirit of charity and
- are purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion,
- pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.

An indulgence can be obtained in the following ways:



Pilgrimage to Sacred Sites

The faithful, pilgrims of hope, will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they undertake a pious pilgrimage:

- to any Sacred Jubilee Site, and devoutly participating in Mass, or other liturgical rites*
- In Rome, by visiting at least one of the four Major Papal Basilicas.*
- In the Holy Land, by visiting one of three basilicas.*
- In other ecclesiastical areas as designated by a local ordinary.*

Visits to Sacred Places

Likewise, the faithful can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if, individually or in a group, they devoutly visit any Jubilee site, as designated by local Bishop's, and there, for a suitable period of time, engage in prayer, via planned rituals. Each Diocese will nominate Jubilee sites, in the lead up to the opening of Jubilee year.

Those who cannot participate due to serious reasons, can obtain indulgence via a spiritual pilgrimage.

Works of Mercy & Penance

In addition, the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if, with a devout spirit, they participate in popular missions, spiritual exercises, or formation activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, held in a church or other suitable place, according to the mind of the Holy Father.

The faithful are able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, those in need.

**see decree for more details*

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

All priests are encouraged to offer generous availability and self-dedication to allow the greatest possible opportunity for the faithful to benefit from the means of salvation, by making available and publishing time slots for confession, planning penitential celebrations, and making the widest possible use of retired priests who do not have other defined pastoral roles.

A Diocese may choose to appoint Clergy with the special task of promoting and administering the Sacrament of Penance during the Jubilee year.

REFERENCES

Francis. (2024) *Spes non confundit*. Retrieved from https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

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