



JUBILEE 2025  
**PILGRIMS  
OF HOPE**

**YOUR GUIDE TO CELEBRATING  
THE JUBILEE OF HOPE**

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLEGE

## **When is the Jubilee?**

The Year will run from the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica on Tuesday 24th December 2024 to the Solemnity of the Epiphany 2026.

Archbishop Bernard will celebrate Mass for the Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year at St Chad's Cathedral on Sunday 29th December 2024. A calendar of dates and events can be found on the diocesan website.

## **What is a Jubilee?**

Jubilee Years - also known as Holy Years - began in 1300AD, and occur every 25 years. Jubilee Years can be called at other times, such as the Year of Mercy in 2016. These Years, the Church explains, are years "of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, [...] and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters."

## **How will we at St.Francis celebrate the Jubilee?**

There are many ways Catholics are celebrating the Jubilee Year in their schools and parishes. On the following page is a summary of some of the ways we will be taking part.

**"For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope".**

Pope Francis

# 2025 - SFA Jubilee Year

"REBUILD MY CHURCH"

JESUS' WORDS TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (1181-1226)



"Only the best is good enough."

## What is the Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The theme of this Jubilee Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope, and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world. Here at St. Francis we are celebrating this special year in a number of ways.

## Jubilee 2025 Launch

Our students experienced the Birmingham Diocese launch, joining in prayer with our wider diocese family.



### Newsletter

Our newsletter celebrates and promotes the beauty and opportunity provided by the Jubilee Year.



### Reconciliation Services

In the Jubilee Year, marked by the theme of Hope, Pope Francis has emphasized the transformative power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Here at SFA we have created opportunities for our students and staff to experience the power of the sacrament through Reconciliation Days led by Bishop Timothy Meneses and many other priests from our diocese.



### Easter Mass

Whole school mass using the Jubilee Mass liturgy and prayers will take place throughout the year, beginning with our Easter mass.



## "Pilgrims of Hope"

### Stations of the Cross

A series of the Stations of the Cross is being built in our reflection garden. Here the students will be able to experience journeying with Jesus from Calvary to the Resurrection. The most important pilgrimage of hope.



### Almsgiving

In light of Pope Francis' call to arms to care for those most in immediate need we have established a Lenten initiative to support our local community (supporting our local food bank) and global community (Shoebbox appeal).



### Instructional Masses

Year group masses educating the students on the beauty of the mass will use the Jubilee Year mass settings. Journeying through the year with the liturgy of the Church.



### Jars of Hope

Our "Jars of Hope" prayer ministry for our staff community is led by our Chaplaincy team. Reminding us of the importance of intercessory prayer for those around us.



## Weekly Collective Worship

Collective worship within form time actively celebrates and lies in key liturgical themes with the 2025 Year of Jubilee.



### Saint of the Week

Students now learn about a 'Saint' every week, celebrating the call to holiness and reminding us that we are all on an earthly pilgrimage, striving for eternity with God.



### Flame 2025

We are excited for a group of our students to join 10,000 young people celebrating the national prayer congress at the OVO Wembley Arena.



### Lourdes

A group of our students will pilgrimage to Lourdes. Involving a daily Blessed Sacrament Procession, nightly Torchlight Processions, and twice weekly International Masses. Representing our school community at one of the most awe-inspiring places of pilgrimage in the world.



PILGRIMS OF HOPE



"THE DEEDS YOU DO MAY  
BE THE ONLY SERMON SOME  
PERSONS WILL HEAR TODAY."

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

# The 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.

Franciscus



## Celebrating the Jubilee Year 2025

Pope Francis has chosen the theme for the Jubilee Year to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The Jubilee Year recalls the 'jubilee' of Israel: a year for land to be rested and debts to be cancelled, when God called people to be reconciled with one another and, most importantly, with Him.

Echoing this ancient call, the Church takes up the announcement of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the Year of the Lord's favour."*

This proclamation encapsulates the Church's mission to announce the Good News in both word and action, and is captured in our Diocesan Vision:

*"Our Vision is to be a Catholic diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour."*

In this Jubilee, our diocesan family is focused on a radical renewal of love for God and neighbour. There are many ways we can celebrate and proclaim the 'year of the Lord's favour' in our homes, parishes and schools. This leaflet, and our diocesan website, point to a growing number of resources you can use to spread the wonderful message of hope in this Holy Year.

With every blessing,

+ Bernard

+ Bernard Longley  
Archbishop of Birmingham



To find out more about the Year of Jubilee please read on.  
For any questions related to what we are doing at  
St.Francis to celebrate please email our PICCL:

[pthomas@stfrancis.cc](mailto:pthomas@stfrancis.cc).

**“I have come so they may have life, and have it to  
the full”.**

John 10:10



## Some Useful Links:



**Archdiocese of Birmingham Jubilee Page**

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year)

**Bishops' Conference of England & Wales**

[www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025)

**Official Jubilee Website**

[www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html)

**Kenelm Youth Trust**

[www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/rome-2025](http://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/rome-2025)

**CAFOD**

[www.cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-2025](http://www.cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-2025)

**Hearts in Search of God: Walking Pilgrimages**

[www.pilgrimways.org.uk](http://www.pilgrimways.org.uk)