

2025 Jubilee of Hope – A Melbourne Pilgrimage



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

At MACS, the Jubilee Year of Hope is directed towards nurturing Catholic faith and spirituality in our schools.

Importance of pilgrimage in a Jubilee Year

To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe (Pope Benedict XVI).

The Jubilee presents a call to us to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. When we travel, we do not only change place physically, but we also change ourselves. Hence, it is important to prepare ourselves well, to plan the route and learn about the destination. In this sense, the Jubilee pilgrimage begins before the start of the journey itself: the starting point is the decision to set out. Pilgrimage is present at many key moments within the Bible. Abraham is described as a person on a journey: 'Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father's house' (Genesis 12: 1). With these words, Abraham begins his adventure, which ends in the Promised Land, where he is remembered as a 'wandering Aramean' (Deuteronomy 26: 5).

Jesus' ministry can also be seen as a journey, from Galilee to the Holy City of Jerusalem. 'As the time drew near when Jesus would be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind and set out on his way to Jerusalem' (Luke 9: 51). Christ calls his disciples to walk this road and, even today, Christians are those who follow him.

The journey of pilgrimage takes place gradually: there are various routes to choose from and places to discover. Pilgrimage is made up of particular sets of circumstances, moments of catechesis, sacred rites and liturgies. Along the way, our travelling companions enrich us with new ways of understanding and fresh perspectives.

Contemplation of creation is also part of the journey and helps us to realise that 'care for creation is an essential expression of our faith in God and our obedience to his will' (Pope Francis, [Letter for the Jubilee 2025](#)).

Pilgrimage is an experience of conversion, of transforming one's very being to conform it to the holiness of God.

Who is pilgrimage for?

Remember we are but travellers here (Saint Mary MacKillop).

Pilgrimage is for everyone and is particularly important within a Jubilee Year. Pope Francis has chosen the motto 'Pilgrims of Hope' for the Jubilee Year, and has invited all those who cannot make a pilgrimage to Rome to become pilgrims within their local area and to their local churches. He promotes physical pilgrimage as 'a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life' ([Spes Non Confundit](#), n. 5).

It is hoped that this resource can be used among staff and students within schools and, where appropriate, within the wider community in which they exist. Some examples of locations for pilgrimage can be found below, but the main prerequisite is that pilgrims work towards cultivation of the three 'attitudes' outlined by Pope Francis:



1. thanksgiving
2. intentionally seeking to encounter the Lord
3. penance.

Undertaking a pilgrimage

Pilgrimage in a Jubilee Year attracts a plenary indulgence. A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ to remove the temporal punishment due to sin. Catholics can gain a plenary indulgence by making a pious pilgrimage to their cathedral, or to another church or shrine selected by the local bishop. In order to obtain a plenary indulgence, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- detachment from all sin, even venial
- sacramental confession, holy Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Pope.
These three conditions can be fulfilled a few days before or after performing the works to gain the indulgence, but it is appropriate that Communion and the prayer take place on the same day that the work is completed.

A single sacramental confession is sufficient for several plenary indulgences, but frequent sacramental confession is encouraged in order to obtain the grace of deeper conversion and purity of heart. A separate holy Communion and a separate prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father are required, however, for each plenary indulgence that is sought.

The prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father is left up to the choice of the individual, but an Our Father and Hail Mary are suggested.

Once the above conditions have been met, the pilgrimage can be planned, with specific attention to:

- selection of pilgrimage sites
- opportunities for prayer and reflection
- inclusion of reconciliation and Mass.

Designated pilgrim places for the Jubilee Year are:

Pilgrim place	Website
St Patrick's Cathedral 1 Cathedral Place East Melbourne	https://melbournecatholic.org/st-patricks-cathedral
St Mary Star of the Sea (Archdiocese Shrine of the Holy Family) 33 Howard Street West Melbourne	www.stmaryswestmelbourne.org
St Mary MacKillop Catholic Church 152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs	www.stmaryoftheassumption.org.au
St Luke's Catholic Church 1A David Street Lalor	www.stlukesparishlalor.com



Pilgrim place	Website
St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church 1 Bridge Street Trentham	www.melbcatholic.org/s/kyneton-trentham
Polish Marian Shrine 6/8 Aberfeldie Street Aberfeldie	
St Dominic's Catholic Church 816 Riversdale Road Camberwell	www.stdominics.org.au
St Francis Xavier Catholic Church 54 Hunter Street Mansfield	www.melbcatholic.org/s/mansfield
Sacred Heart Catholic Church 50 Monastery Drive Croydon	https://sacredheartcroydon.org
Divine Mercy Shrine 337–343 Greens Road Keysborough	https://dms.org.au
Our Lady of La Vang Shrine 225 Hutton Road Keysborough	
St Patrick's Catholic Church 10 Rogers Street Mentone	www.sspjv.org
St Macartan's Catholic Church 4 Drake Street Mornington	www.melbcatholic.org/s/mornington

Catholic Precinct Walking Tour app

This is an excellent resource to support your staff or student Jubilee of Hope pilgrimage in East Melbourne. The app contains historical information, reflections for students and audio guides under the following tabs:

- Catholic precinct
- Precinct map
- Walking tour
- Primary students
- Secondary students
- Statues and features
- Significant people.

