# Preparation through prayer

Pope Francis called for a 'Year of Prayer' leading up to the 2025 Jubilee Year, referring to it as a time for 'rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world'.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli encouraged members of the local Church community in Melbourne to spend time reading the gospels and psalms, and to pray for their neighbours. He suggested three simple prayers to assist people in prayerful preparation:

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... three simple prayers that can open up our lives. Just to say those three prayers each day would be a lovely thing.

The Vatican Dicastery for Evangelization created a prayer resource called '<u>Teach Us to Pray</u>'. It contains sections dedicated to prayer in the parish community, prayer in the family, young people's prayer, retreats on prayer, catechesis on prayer, prayer of the cloistered and prayer in sanctuaries.

### Good works

Traditionally, Jubilee years are strongly linked with ongoing works of mercy, charity, forgiveness and justice. A Jubilee plenary indulgence is available for undertaking corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which offers further incentive to share hope through outreach and service in your community. This can be achieved by:

- extending forgiveness to those who need it
- using the 'See, Judge, Act' model to improve your world
- volunteering for charitable works, such as visiting the elderly, feeding the homeless or assisting in other community service projects
- committing to prayer and fasting for the sake of loved ones and those in need in the community
- highlighting saints of hope in your school bulletin or newsletter. Some examples of saints who
  have held onto hope in the face of adversity are Saint Oscar Romero, Saint Pope John Paul II
  and Blessed Carlo Acutis
- creating 'hope bags' for anyone who needs hope and filling them with practical items, as well as scripture verses and inspirational quotes
- nurturing the three attitudes that Pope Francis encouraged pilgrims to have during Jubilee 2025: thanksgiving, intentionally seeking to encounter the Lord and penance.

#### In the classroom

A collection of 'learning journey' modules has been developed for use in classrooms from Foundation to Year 10. These modules are designed to fit alongside existing curriculum and can be used throughout the whole Jubilee Year. The purpose of these resources is to explore and deepen a Catholic understanding of hope, which is the theme for the Jubilee Year – 'Pilgrims of Hope' – with each module addressing a different aspect of hope:

- Word of hope
- Journey of hope
- Signs of hope
- Appeals for hope
- Anchored in hope.

All modules and associated resources can be found on the MACS <u>Jubilee Year website</u>.

# Pilgrimage

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. Under the right conditions, undertaking a pilgrimage in a Jubilee Year attracts a plenary indulgence. The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is offering a <u>Jubilee of Youth Pilgrimage</u> to Italy for Catholics aged between 18 and 30 years. For students and those who want to stay local, there are plenty of opportunities for pilgrimage in Melbourne. The <u>Catholic Precinct Walking Tour app</u> is free to download and is an excellent resource for those planning a pilgrimage in Melbourne. A resource called '2025 Jubilee of Hope – A Melbourne Pilgrimage' has also been developed to assist with pilgrimage understanding and planning.

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people (Year 9 – 25 years old), providing the opportunity to come together to connect, deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to live their faith in the world and experience the breadth of the Church in Australia. In 2025, the festival will be hosted by Melbourne, where thousands of young people from across Australia are expected to attend to engage with other young people, school and youth groups, bishops, musicians and speakers. All schools are welcome and encouraged to bring students to ACYF to experience the wide range of activities on offer, including prayer, Mass, workshops, talks, live concerts, games, justice issues and an interactive expo.

ACYF will take place from **Sunday 30 November** until **Tuesday 2 November 2025**. For event information as it becomes available, visit <a href="https://acyf.org.au">https://acyf.org.au</a>.

