

# Newsletter

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgetown

Celebrates Jubilee 2025



CATHOLICS CELEBRATE

Jubilee  
2025



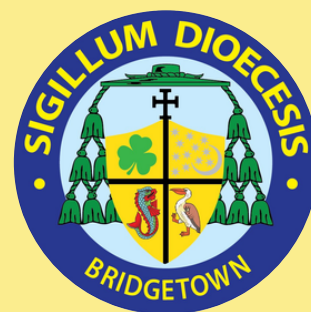
HOPE  
does not  
disappoint



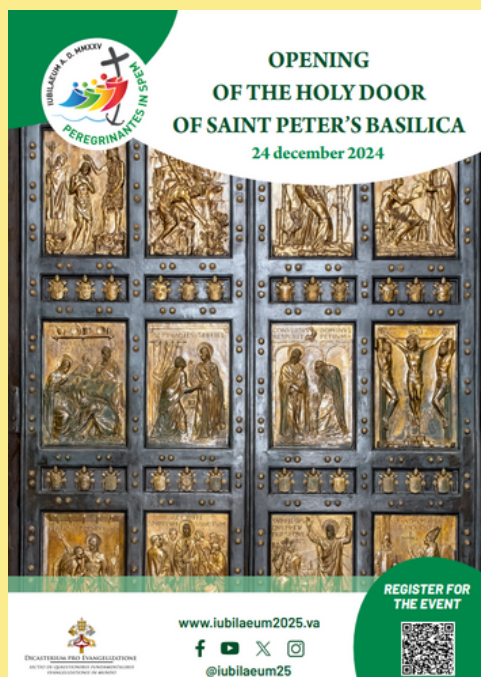
## Barbados Pilgrims of Hope

*Jubilee Opening Ceremony and Mass  
Sunday 29th December 2024 (Feast of the Holy Family)*

The Church entered its Jubilee year as "*Pilgrims of Hope*", with a procession beginning at the Golden Square Freedom Park in Bridgetown. Led by Bishop Neil Scantlebury, parishioners singing in chorus, processed to St. Patrick's R.C. Cathedral to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and the Opening Mass of the Jubilee.



## The Holy Door



On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, officially inaugurating the 2025 Jubilee. After the first 50 pilgrims, who made the pilgrimage at the opening rite, following the Pope, approximately 35,000 pilgrims passed through the Holy Door on Christmas Day. From 8am on December 25, the pilgrimage to the Door of St. Peter was open to everyone.

From a symbolic viewpoint, the Holy Door takes on a special significance: it is the most powerful sign of the Jubilee, since the ultimate aim of the pilgrim is to pass through it. The opening of the door by the Pope constitutes the official beginning of the Holy Year.

Passing through the Holy Door expresses the decision to follow and be guided by Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd. The door is a passageway that ushers the pilgrim into the interior of a church. For the Christian community, a church is not only a sacred space, to be approached with respect, with appropriate behavior and dress code, but it is a symbol of the communion that binds every believer to Christ: it is a place of encounter and dialogue, of reconciliation and peace which awaits every pilgrim, the Church is essentially the place of the community of the faithful.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A JUBILEE

Why is the jubilee such an important event for Catholics? The answer is simple: It offers an extraordinary opportunity to attain salvation and experience that God's holiness can transform us. Ultimately, it is a gift that helps us reach heaven. Why? Because it makes available to the faithful all the easy means to obtain benefits from the "treasury" of the Church, for example, a plenary indulgence, which returns the soul to the state it was in when it received baptism.



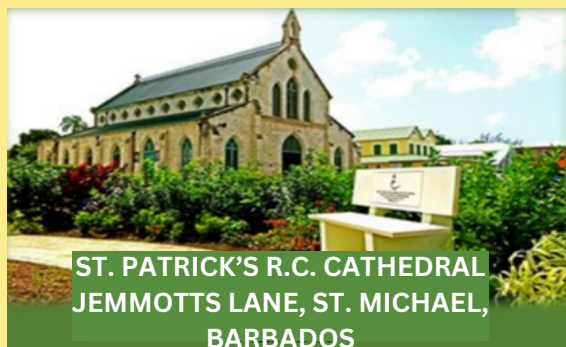
### Requirements to obtain the Jubilee plenary indulgence

To obtain the Jubilee indulgence it is important to know the requirements of how the indulgences are granted and where they are granted. With the arrival of the Jubilee of Hope, the Vatican noted the three usual conditions:

*"All the faithful, who are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin, who are moved by a spirit of charity and who, during the holy year, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the supreme pontiff, will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, which can be applied in suffrage to the souls in purgatory," the document states.*



## Sacred Sites



The Bishop chooses the sacred sites according to the Code of Canon Law. The blessing of churches is reserved to the Diocesan Bishop. The Bishop can delegate another priest for this purpose.



Can. 1205 Sacred places are those which are designated for divine worship or for the burial of the faithful by a dedication or a blessing which the liturgical books prescribe for this purpose.

Can. 1206 The dedication of any place belongs to the diocesan bishop and to those equivalent to him by law; they can entrust the function of carrying out a dedication in their territory to any bishop or, in exceptional cases, to a presbyter.

Can. 1207 Sacred places are blessed by the ordinary; the blessing of churches, however, is reserved to the diocesan bishop. Either of them, moreover, can delegate another priest for this purpose.

### *Visit a Sacred Site and Gain a Plenary Indulgence*

Bishop Neil Scantlebury, Roman Catholic Bishop of Bridgetown announced that the Year of the Jubilee Sacred Sites chosen would be St. Patrick's R.C. Cathedral, in the Parish of St. Michael and Our Lady of Sorrows, in the Parish of St. Peter.

**2**

**HOW TO OBTAIN:**  
**The Plenary Indulgence:**

- Go to Confession
- Receive Communion
- Pray for the Pope's intentions.

If the Indulgence is attached to a special Feast Day or Church celebration, there are often additional conditions, usually involving special prayers or works.

### HOW DO YOU GAIN YOUR INDULGENCES DURING THE YEAR OF THE JUBILEE

To gain indulgences during the Year of the Jubilee 2025, you can do the following:

- Make a pilgrimage.
- Perform Works of Mercy.
- Visit any of the two Sacred Sites.
- During the Year of the Jubilee 2025, the faithful can obtain up to two plenary indulgences per day for the souls of the faithful departed.

## BARBADOS JUBILEE CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025



**TALK TO US, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

### Diocesan Jubilee Planning Committee

Fr Charles Dominique - (246) 243-6374  
 Frances Okosi - +225 0555449479 (whatsapp)  
 Denise Mongerie-Rogers - (246) 230-6671  
 Elizabeth Cave-Ferdinand - (246) 825-6067  
 Francilia Greaves - 1(954) 471-5932 (whatsapp)  
 Liz Kelly - (246) 243-3783  
 Christopher Williams - (246) 851-2301  
 Sue Branker - 1(781) 430-0382 (whatsapp)  
 Anne Fergusson - (246) 245-3866  
 Gillian Hassell (246) 262-6726

Drawing on the themes shared by Pope Francis in The Bull and the Vatican's Jubilee calendar, the Diocese has developed this Jubilee calendar; every month of the Jubilee year, selected themes will be the focus of prayer, events and activities with the goal of helping each of us grow in our faith, bringing us together across the various parishes and also to creating spaces for the Catholic Church to engage, influence and impact communities across Barbados with the message of HOPE. There will be lots of opportunities for parishioners to participate - including in the planning of activities. If you would like to help, please contact any member of the Diocese Jubilee Planning Committee.

Thank you and God bless you on your journey through the Year of the Jubilee.

*Barbados Pilgrims of Hope present*  
**WORLD OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**JOIN US FOR EVENT NO: 1**

PILGRIMS OF HOPE  
WHAT it MEANS to ME

COME LET US **COMMUNICATE**

**St.Dominic's  
RC Church**

**SATURDAY 25TH  
JANUARY 2025  
10 AM - 12 :30 PM**

Get ready for  
 presentations, interactions,  
 sharing, fellowship and  
 excitement as we gather to  
 communicate.



**Be a Pilgrim of Hope**

# UPCOMING Events

**FEBRUARY - ARMED  
FORCES, POLICE,  
SECURITY  
PERSONNEL - Panel  
Discussion**

**MARCH - FAMILIES -  
Healing of Families  
programme;  
VOLUNTEERING -  
Recognition of  
Volunteer  
organisations**

## Jubilee theme song

*Original text: Pierangelo Sequeri*

*English translation: Andrew*

*Wadsworth*

Like a flame my hope is burning,  
may my song arise to you:  
Source of life that has no ending,  
on life's path I trust in you.

Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people  
find a light within your Word.  
Scattered fragile sons and  
daughters  
find a home in your dear Son.

### Chorus

God, so tender and so patient,  
dawn of hope, you care for all.  
Heav'n and earth are recreated  
by the Spirit of Life set free.

### Chorus

Raise your eyes, the wind is  
blowing,  
for our God is born in time.  
Son made man for you and many  
who will find the way in him.

### Chorus

Click on the link :

## 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, yearning for the  
treasures of heaven. May that  
same grace spread joy and peace of  
our Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To You, our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise forever.  
Amen

[https://youtu.be/43rlcvvlfEE?  
si=sXcqRsb15GrDlu8m](https://youtu.be/43rlcvvlfEE?si=sXcqRsb15GrDlu8m)



Tuesday Prayer Sessions (Online 5:30pm)  
Wednesday - Healing & Deliverance

St. Patrick's R.C. Cathedral  
9:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.



Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament  
OPEN EVERYDAY  
6:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.





## THIS & THAT JUBILEE PEARLS

### Did You Know?

That during the Year of the Jubilee all debts were forgiven. During this Year of the Jubilee, let us examine our hearts to see who we need to forgive and with whom we need to be reconciled. Remember, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available.



The theological language of indulgences and its relationship to confession can be both intimidating and heavy to unpack and so here is a good everyday analogy by Fr. Andrew Hart is a priest of the Diocese of Little Rock, explained in his own words.

*"If you lend me your car so I can go to work, but I go joy-riding instead and bust up the fender, then I need to do two things as a result. I have to ask first for your forgiveness. But even after you forgive me, I still need to make up for the damage to your car that I have caused. In a somewhat analogous way, we could say that the temporal punishment is what we still have to make up in our relationship to God for the sins for which he's forgiven us. An indulgence is a special spiritual favor from the Church that helps us atone for that in this life rather than after death."*

### THE CROSS AND THE ANCHOR

The creative genius behind the construction of the Cross and Anchor is the Diocese's very own Christopher Williams. Kudos to Chris and his team who produced something very worthy, in one day! Constructed from pvc, sand and plastic - innovation at its best!

Thanks Chris!

### WHAT DOES JUBILEE MEAN TO ME

- **EXCITEMENT**
- **RE-ENERGIZED FAITH**
- **OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE**
- **CREATIVITY**
- **SYNODALITY**
- **HOPE FOR A POSITIVE FUTURE**
- **CELEBRATION OF LOVE**

### Pope Francis: 'Be Messengers of Hope' With a 'Yes to Life' in the Year of the Jubilee'

Reflecting on the Prologue of John's Gospel, the Pope reminded the faithful that Jesus, the Word Incarnate, is 'the light that shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

Let us ask Almighty God to direct our path as we journey through this Jubilee year to become Pilgrims of Hope.