



Preparing for The Jubilee

*Diocese of Prince Albert
Liturgy Office*



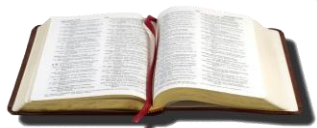
When did Jubilee Years Begin?

Initially Jubilee Years began in bible times and are mentioned at various times.

According to the Roman Catholic Church's history, the first Jubilee Year in the Church was instituted by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. During the celebration of the first Jubilee Year, the message of the need for people to confess their sins by fulfilling certain conditions was declared. The first condition was to be repentant and confess their sins, and the second condition was to visit either St. Peter or St. Paul in Rome and pass through the "Holy Doors", within the specified time of the celebration.

Looking at the timeline from the first Jubilee year, the Jubilee Year's were to be celebrated every hundred years. However, this was amended in the fourteenth century by Pope Clement VI. The argument behind the amendment was that the average lifespan of human beings was too short and that some people could not live to see any Jubilee Year.

The number of years between Jubilee years continued to be changed a couple more times, Pope Urban VI proposed that the Jubilee Year be celebrated after every thirty-three years (to represent the period of Christ on earth). However, Pope Paul II amended the Jubilee Year to be celebrated after every twenty-five years and that is still the time span we see today.



What is a Holy Year?

In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Jubilee, or Holy Year is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins, it is a year 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. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity.

The Jubilee is called Holy Year, not only because it begins, is marked, and ends with solemn holy acts, but also because its purpose is to encourage holiness of life. It was actually convoked to strengthen faith, encourage works of charity and brotherly communion within the Church and in society and to call Christians to be more sincere and coherent in their faith in Christ, the only Saviour.

A Jubilee can be "ordinary" if it falls after the set period of years, and "extraordinary" when it is proclaimed for some outstanding event. The custom of calling "extraordinary" Jubilees began in the 16th century and they can vary in length from a few days to a year. Our most recent "extraordinary" Jubilee being the Year of Mercy in 2015.

**Information on this page taken from
<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

How do we Celebrate A Jubilee Year Today?

There are specific criteria when it comes to a Jubilee year. On the Vatican website for this Jubilee Year of Hope they highlight 7 different aspects of celebrating the Holy Year. These include:

Pilgrimage

Holy Door

Reconciliation

Indulgences

Prayer

Liturgy

Profession of Faith

To learn more about what each of these mean for a Jubilee Year check out the Liturgy Page of the Diocesan website: They will also be sent out to the parishes in the weeks before the Jubilee begins.



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