



Jubilee 2025



Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

10 – 11 May 2025

This weekend, we joyfully celebrate the Jubilee of the Eastern Churches, honouring their vital role within the universal Church. Just as Jesus, the Good Shepherd, unites His diverse flock, the Eastern Churches, with their rich liturgical traditions and cultural expressions, contribute uniquely to the life of the Church. Rooted in the early Church's mission to spread the Gospel to all peoples, the Eastern Churches continue to embrace diversity within unity, showcasing the global nature of our faith.

Together, we recognise the beauty of our shared journey, enriched by the distinct gifts and heritage of the East, in communion with the universal Church.

Prayers

Example prayers of the faithful

Lord, you have called your Church to breathe with two lungs, East and West. Help us to celebrate the rich diversity of the Eastern Catholic Churches and their unique traditions. May we find unity in the gifts of the Spirit and work together to reveal the beauty of the universal Church.

E te Ariki ...

God of all nations, we give thanks for the Eastern Catholic Churches and their commitment to preserving their sacred traditions. May they continue to be a light of faith in the world, inspiring all Christians with their devotion, liturgical beauty, and cultural richness. **E te Ariki ...**

Merciful Lord, we lift up the Eastern Catholic Churches, especially those enduring suffering and persecution. May your peace and protection be with them, and may they find strength in the Good Shepherd, who never abandons His flock. **E te Ariki ...**

Reflection on the Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

Read the following reflection out during Mass/within your faith communities over the weekend of 10 – 11 May 2025, or distribute for personal reflection.





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In the Gospel of John (10:22-30), Jesus declares Himself as the Good Shepherd, emphasising the intimate relationship between Him and His followers. He assures His flock of eternal life and divine protection, as they hear His voice and follow Him.

The reading from Acts of the Apostles (11:19-26) describes the spread of the Gospel to Antioch, where believers were first called Christians. Antioch became a hub of missionary work and theological development, illustrating the early Church's mission to include Gentiles and showcasing the universality of the Christian message.

The Eastern Catholic Churches, with their rich liturgical traditions and cultural diversity, are in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. They share the same faith and sacraments while maintaining unique rites, languages, and customs. Saint John Paul II said, "The Church must breathe with her two lungs," meaning both Eastern and Western traditions are vital to the life of the Church.

Just as Jesus, the Good Shepherd, protects His flock, the Eastern Catholic Churches play a key role in the Church's mission, united through communion with the Pope. Pope Francis reminds us, "Unity does not imply uniformity; it involves the joyful recognition of the gifts the Holy Spirit gives each one." The Eastern Catholic Churches contribute to the universal Church by making the Gospel accessible to diverse cultures.

In summary, the readings remind us of the importance of staying connected to Christ and spreading the Gospel. St. Basil the Great said, "The Spirit of God distributes His grace to each according to His will, and in this diversity, there is unity." The Eastern Catholic Churches exemplify this unity in diversity, enriching the Church and showcasing how different traditions can coexist harmoniously within the Body of Christ.

Vipin Thomas

Member of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in New Zealand

Suggestions for celebrating this Jubilee in your communities

- **Use the Provided Prayers of the Faithful or Write Your Own**
Include prayers that celebrate the diversity and spiritual richness of the Eastern Churches, asking for unity among all Christians.
- **Organise an Eastern Christian Prayer Service**
Host a Divine Liturgy or a prayer service in the style of an Eastern Church tradition, such as Byzantine, Syro-Malabar, or Syro-Malankara, to experience and honour the prayer forms of the Eastern Churches.





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- **Share a Reflection on Eastern Church History and Tradition**
Offer a reflection during Mass or a community gathering on the contributions, challenges, and unique traditions of the Eastern Churches.
- **Invite an Eastern Church Priest or Deacon to Speak**
Arrange for a guest from an Eastern Church to speak on their faith tradition, spiritual practices, and experiences of faith in the modern world.
- **Celebrate an Eastern Church-Themed Cultural Event**
Organise a gathering that includes traditional music, dance, or cuisine from Eastern Christian cultures, creating a festive opportunity to honour the diversity of the Church.
- **Pray for the Eastern Churches**
Dedicate a day to pray for Eastern Christian communities around the world, especially those experiencing hardship, persecution, or displacement.

