



Jubilee 2025



Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

8 – 9 March 2025

This weekend, we gather in gratitude to celebrate the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering, honouring the selfless dedication of those who give their time, talents, and hearts to serve others. We recognise and thank the volunteers who breathe life into ministries, charities, and organisations within our community, supporting the Church's mission of compassion, hope, and service. Through their countless acts of kindness and generosity, they embody the spirit of faith in action, uplifting the lives of others and inspiring us all.

Today, we celebrate their invaluable contributions and the joy of giving that transforms lives and strengthens our shared journey.

Prayers

Example prayer of the faithful

For volunteers who donate their time and resources for the life of the Church and the world. May God reward their generosity with grace and blessing. May their act of selfless service inspire others to follow their examples. **E te Ariki ...**

For those called to serve as volunteers in the Church and the world, may the Holy Spirit move their hearts to embrace the joy of service. May they respond to God's invitation with open hands and a willing spirit, bringing hope and light to those in need. **E te Ariki...**

Other prayers for Volunteers

Volunteer Appreciation Prayer

Leader:

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he said, "God has given revelation through the Spirit, for the Spirit explores the depths of everything, even the depths of God... The spirit we have received is... God's own Spirit, so that we may understand the lavish gifts God has given us."

Let us take a moment in silence to honour the unique talents and gifts given to each of our volunteers and all who dedicate themselves to serving others, embodying the spirit of





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compassion and care. [pause] For all these gifts, shared from hearts of generosity, we thank you, God of all goodness.

All:

We thank you, God of all goodness.

Leader:

As the spirit moves among us, may we be inspired to recognize the extraordinary service of our volunteers, who bring light and care to those in need.

All:

We thank you, God of all goodness.

Leader:

We pray for all who volunteer in our community. May their commitment to helping others be a source of strength and healing.

All:

We thank you, God of all goodness.

Leader:

Renew within us a heart and spirit of service, dedicated to bringing hope and healing to those we meet.

All:

We thank you, God of all goodness.

Leader:

Lord, as we gather here, we remember that every good thing we share in this world begins as a gift from you, cultivated through human hands. Thank you for all who offer their time, skills, and compassion, joining in our work to bring comfort, hope, and support to all who seek it.

We ask this in your name. Amen.

Adapted from [the Catholic Health Association of the United States](#)

Scripture Versus about Volunteering and Service

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)





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“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)

“Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.” (Isaiah 58:10)

“The greatest among you will be your servant.” (Matthew 23:11)

Reflection on the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

Read the following reflection out during Mass/within your faith communities over the weekend of 8 – 9 March 2025, or distribute for personal reflection.

The functioning of our parishes wouldn’t be possible without so many different people giving of their time and various talents to help foster a more vibrant faith family in Christ. Sharing what we have is part of what keeps us engaged with each other and makes life together as Church possible. Each of us has been blessed with some sort of gift—however small or great it may be—and all that we are and have is a gift itself from God, our Creator. We are merely stewards of these gifts.

A couple of things stood out from a reflection based on this Sunday’s Gospel from Luke 4:1–13: the questions, “What kind of claim am I allowing God to have over my time and talents?” and “Is God calling me to use more of my time and talents in any area of my life?” Parishes are meant to be communities, and in any community, there is always some need. We are called to recognise the needs of others and have hearts that reach out to fill those needs. When many of the communal aspects of our parishes’ activities were curtailed during the lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, ministries such as the pastoral telephone tree and Catholic Radio took on even greater meaning in helping us find new ways to be like Christ to each other.

Being a small part of the behind-the-scenes activities in our parishes has also brought a deeper appreciation of what others have done and are doing. The attitudes of Saints Teresa of Calcutta





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and Thérèse of Lisieux come to mind: not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.

Suggestions for celebrating this Jubilee in your communities

- **Use the Provided Prayers of the Faithful or Write Your Own**
Tailor prayers to reflect the unique contributions of volunteers within your community, highlighting their impact on specific ministries or projects.
- **Share a Reflection During Mass or in Faith Communities, with Options for Private Reflection**
Read the reflection aloud or make printed copies available for personal reflection. Consider placing these reflections in common areas like foyers or bulletin boards as reminders of gratitude.
- **Host a Morning Tea, Lunch, or Evening Gathering for Volunteers**
Organise a special event, such as a tea, luncheon, or evening social, to honour all volunteers. Include a short blessing or toast acknowledging their commitment.
- **Encourage More People to Volunteer with Sign-Up Opportunities**
After Mass or gatherings, offer volunteer sign-up sheets and information about various ministries or community needs. Consider having experienced volunteers on hand to share their experiences and answer questions.
- **Recognise Long-Time Volunteers Publicly and Privately**
Acknowledge those who have dedicated years of service. Present them with a small gift or certificate, share stories of their contributions, or offer a blessing over them during a service. A personal thank-you letter from leaders can also be a touching gesture.
- **Create a Volunteer Appreciation Display**
Set up a bulletin board or display area with photos, quotes, or stories from volunteers. This can inspire others and celebrate the work being done across your community.
- **Feature Volunteers in Community Newsletters or Bulletins**
Share stories and highlights of individual volunteers or teams in community newsletters or bulletins to recognize their contributions and inspire others.
- **Give a Token of Appreciation**
Present volunteers with small keepsakes, such as pins, prayer cards, or a bookmark with a meaningful scripture. It's a simple way to remind them they are valued.
- **Share a Group Blessing or Benediction for Volunteers**
At the end of Mass or a community event, lead a prayer or blessing over all volunteers, asking for renewal, strength, and continued joy in their service.

