



BISHOP'S OFFICE

DIOCESE OF PALMERSTON NORTH
TE ROHE PĪHOPA O TE PAPAIOEA

15 November 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

One of the very beautiful pieces of scripture many people are familiar with comes from the Prophet Isaiah chapter 61 - these words may become a heartfelt prayer as we respond to the Lord's invitation to be His disciples;

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour...”

2025 is a year of the Lord's favour - it's a year when the Church asks herself how might she liberate those who have been enslaved by the ephemeral, how might we unblock the ears of those deaf to the good news of the Gospel, how might we set the hearts of the faithful free after they have become bound up sorrow and regret. Each Christian person has been anointed to carry out these tasks.

Traditionally a year of favour was announced by the blast of a trumpet. The word 'jubilee' comes from the Hebrew word for 'rams horn' which when used to issue a trumpet blast was a sign to the people the beginning of a year of jubilee.

Let's each one of us sound the trumpet, let's each one of us discern how we might participate in this great task of liberating the human heart, let's each one of us use our anointed gifts to play our role in this great opportunity to throw open the doors to Christ and the joy of His friendship.

The opening of the Year of Jubilee will be celebrated across the Diocese of Palmerston North on Sunday, 2 February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. A special Mass will be held at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit at 9:30 a.m., and all are welcome to attend. For those who cannot join at the Cathedral, I invite all parishes and faith communities to mark the beginning of this special year in their own way.

Sincerely in Christ

+John Adams
Bishop of Palmerston North

