



Jubilee 2025



As we begin the celebration of the Year of Jubilee, parishes are invited to mark this sacred occasion in a way that reflects the grace and renewal that the Jubilee represents.

While the official opening of the Jubilee Year will be held at the Cathedral, the following ideas are offered to help parishes celebrate this significant moment within their own communities. These suggestions are designed to inspire a sense of pilgrimage, healing, and spiritual renewal as we journey together in faith during this blessed year.

1. Incorporating the Official Year of Jubilee Hymn: "Pilgrims of Hope"

- **Opening Hymn:** Begin the Mass with the official Jubilee hymn "Pilgrims of Hope," to set the tone for the celebration and to focus the congregation's minds on the journey of faith, renewal, and hope that the Year of Jubilee represents.
 - Lyrics and score for musicians can be found at www.pndiocese.org.nz/YearofJubilee2025.
- **During Mass:** You could also use the hymn at other times, such as after the homily or before the final blessing, to reinforce the theme of the pilgrimage toward spiritual freedom and renewal.

2. Year of Jubilee Prayer

- Include the **Year of Jubilee Prayer** during Mass
 - For English and Te Reo translations of the prayer, [click here](#).
 - For the Samoan translation, [click here](#).
 - For the Tongan translation, [click here](#).
- **Prayers of the Faithful:** include some prayers focusing on the Year of Jubilee in the Prayers of the Faithful. Examples below:
 - **For the Church:** Let us pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, that it may be a beacon of hope and mercy to the world. May this Year of Jubilee inspire all members of the Church to embrace the call to reconciliation, healing, and renewal. **E te Ariki...**
 - **For the Holy Father and Church Leaders:** Let us pray for Pope Francis, our bishops, priests, and all church leaders, that they may continue to lead the faithful with wisdom and compassion, guiding them to live out the message of the Jubilee Year. **E te Ariki...**





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- **For the People of God:** Let us pray for all the people of God, that they may open their hearts to the grace of this Jubilee Year and allow God's mercy to heal their wounds, renew their faith, and deepen their commitment to the Gospel. **E te Ariki...**
- **For Healing and Reconciliation:** Let us pray for all those who are broken in body or spirit, especially those who have experienced division, hurt, or betrayal. May this Year of Jubilee bring healing, reconciliation, and a renewed sense of peace to all people. **E te Ariki...**
- **For the Poor and Marginalised:** Let us pray for the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, and all who are suffering. May the message of mercy and liberation that comes with the Jubilee Year inspire us to act with compassion and work for justice for those in need. **E te Ariki...**
- **For Peace in the World:** Let us pray for peace in the world, that the Jubilee Year may inspire hearts to work toward the restoration of peace, unity, and harmony among all nations. May all people come to experience the freedom and hope that comes from God's mercy. **E te Ariki...**
- **For Our Local Parish Community:** Let us pray for our parish family, that during this Year of Jubilee, we may be united in prayer and service, sharing God's love with one another and our broader community. May our parish be a place of healing, renewal, and joy for all who come to it. **E te Ariki...**
- **For Families:** Let us pray for all families, especially those experiencing difficulties or separation. May the love of God restore peace and unity in their homes and strengthen them in their commitment to each other. **E te Ariki...**
- **For the Elderly and Those in Need of Care:** Let us pray for the elderly and those who are sick or suffering, that they may find comfort and hope in the Lord's presence and experience the healing power of God's mercy. **E te Ariki...**
- **For the Youth of the Church:** Let us pray for the young people of our parish, that they may be inspired by the Year of Jubilee to deepen their faith and live lives of service to God and others. May they grow in wisdom and grace as they embark on their own journeys of faith. **E te Ariki...**
- **For the Gift of Mercy:** Let us pray for the grace of mercy, that all people may experience the forgiveness of God and be empowered to forgive others. May this Year of Jubilee be a time of reconciliation and restoration in our lives and in the world. **E te Ariki...**
- **For the Souls of the Departed:** Let us pray for all the faithful departed, that through God's mercy and the grace of this Jubilee Year, they may be brought into the fullness of eternal life. **E te Ariki...**





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3. Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling of Water

- **Renewal of Baptismal Promises:** Invite the congregation to **renew their baptismal promises** at the appropriate point in the Mass. This connects the renewal of their faith with the themes of the Jubilee Year and the opportunity for spiritual renewal.
- **Sprinkling with Holy Water:** After the renewal of baptismal promises, the **sprinkling of water** could follow, symbolising the purification and renewal associated with baptism. The priest could say something like:
 - *“As we celebrate the grace of this Jubilee Year, let us remember our baptismal covenant with the Lord, who purifies us and renews our spirits.”*
 - This can also tie into the sense of pilgrimage—each person is on their own journey of faith, with baptism as the beginning.

4. Homily Reflection on Isaiah 61 and the Pope’s Papal Bull

- **Isaiah 61:** Have the homily reflect on the **themes of Isaiah 61**—liberation, healing, and hope—as these are the core messages of the Jubilee Year. The homily can emphasise how the Spirit of the Lord brings freedom to the captives, healing to the broken-hearted, and joy to the afflicted.
- **The Pope’s Papal Bull:** The priest can also reference the **Pope’s Apostolic Letter** (Papal Bull), explaining how it calls the faithful to embrace the themes of mercy, reconciliation, and healing. The Papal Bull can be found [here](#).
- A key point in the homily could encourage the congregation to look at their own lives and reflect on areas where they might seek liberation—whether from sin, from broken relationships, or from personal struggles—and to trust in God’s mercy during this special year.

5. Special Blessing After Mass

- **Closing Blessing:** After Mass, the priest can offer a special **blessing** that reflects the themes of the Jubilee Year. For example:
 - *“As we conclude this special observance of the Year of Jubilee, may God, who has shown us his great mercy, continue to renew our hearts, heal our wounds, and set us free. May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.”*





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- You could also have a **blessing of families** or **individuals** who are particularly in need of God's healing or renewal, which could be an optional part of the final blessing.

6. Jubilee Year Visuals and Focus

- Consider incorporating **visual symbols** of the Jubilee Year into the church.
 - If you ordered a **Jubilee banner** from the National Liturgy Office, have it displayed in a prominent place where it can remain for the year.
 - Incorporate a **candle or light display** to symbolise hope and the presence of Christ – this ties in with the Candlemas ceremony on 2 Feb.
 - Have a **Jubilee focus area** in the church foyer that displays the calendar of events for the year, the Jubilee Prayer, a list of pilgrimage sites for the Diocese, and other material pertinent to the Year of Jubilee.

7. Hospitality After Mass

- Following the liturgical celebration, offer hospitality to all gathered. Go beyond the usual by providing a special gathering to mark the significance of the occasion, allowing the community to share in fellowship and celebrate the renewal of faith during the Year of Jubilee.

Other things to consider:

Bishop John encourages all parishes and communities in the Diocese to use this Year of Jubilee as an opportunity to grow in their usage of te reo Māori. In particular, he invites parishes to learn and incorporate the introductory and concluding rites of the Mass.

The parts of the Mass in te reo Māori can be found at www.pndiocese.org.nz/maori/resources.

Appropriate Use of Tikanga Māori:

- **Te Reo in the Liturgy:** Use te reo Māori for parts of the Mass, such as Te Meatanga o te Ripenetātanga (Penitential Act), Korōria (Gloria), Ko te Patere (The Lord's Prayer), or final blessings.
- **Waiata:** Incorporate meaningful waiata during the entrance, offertory, or recessional to honour Māori spirituality and the connection to hope and renewal.
- **Karanga:** Begin with a karanga to invite people into the sacred space.





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Representation of Deaneries & Cultural Groups:

- Have representatives from various deaneries or cultural groups bring forward symbols of hope during the offertory (e.g., candles, plants, woven items, or cultural artefacts).
- Include prayers of the faithful in multiple languages to reflect the diversity of the diocese.

Combined Choir/Musicians from Local Parishes:

- Form a Jubilee Choir by inviting singers and musicians from nearby parishes to collaborate. This joint effort not only enriches the music but also builds a strong sense of unity and shared celebration.
- Focus on songs that reflect the themes of pilgrimage, light, and hope.

A Role for Children & Youth:

- Include children or youth in the entrance procession, carrying banners, candles, or other symbolic items.
- Have them proclaim a reading, lead the Prayers of the Faithful, or join the combined choir to sing a Jubilee hymn.
- For a symbolic act, consider involving youth in lighting candles or presenting small stones/footprints at the altar to represent the pilgrimage theme.

Special Care for the Elderly & Disabled:

- Reserve accessible seating near the front and ensure communion is brought to those who cannot approach the altar.
- Offer transport assistance or designated helpers to guide those with mobility needs.
- Highlight the role of kaumatua (elders) by having them offer blessings, reflections, or assist in presenting symbols of hope.

Good Communication Between Ministries and Groups:

- Assign a liaison from each ministry or group to ensure everyone knows their role in the liturgy.
- Share a clear order of service well in advance and hold a practice or rehearsal for key participants.

