



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

2025 Jubilee Newsletter

Spes non Confundit

“Hope does not disappoint” (Romans 5:5)

Dear People of the Archdiocese of St. John's:

As we begin a new liturgical year this weekend with the celebration of the First Sunday of Advent, I am reminded that the 2025 Jubilee Year is quickly coming to a close. It has been an eventful year for both the Universal Church and for our Archdiocese. Along with the celebration of many Jubilee Year events at both the diocesan and international level, we have mourned the death of Pope Francis and rejoiced in the election of Pope Leo.

As “Pilgrims of Hope”, we have been invited to make this Jubilee Year a time of genuine personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, and many of us have done so through participation in pilgrimages and Jubilee Year celebrations. Here in the Archdiocese of St. John's, we began the Jubilee Year with a pilgrimage walk in procession behind our Archdiocesan Jubilee Year Cross, a cross created for use during Pope John Paul II's visit to our Archdiocese in 1984 that, throughout this Jubilee Year, has been positioned in “Pontifical splendor” next to the main altar in our Cathedral-Basilica.

During the Jubilee Year, we have been invited to participate in Archdiocesan events celebrating Consecrated Life, Ordained Priesthood, Marriage and the Family, and Youth. As well we have been invited to journey to, and join in celebrations at Archdiocesan pilgrimage sites in Flatrock, Renewals and Marystown, and to attend an evening of praise, worship and witness at our Cathedral-Basilica.

As an Archdiocese, we will celebrate the closing of the Jubilee Year with a Mass in the Cathedral-Basilica of St. John the Baptist on Sunday December 28, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. As on the day of the opening of the Jubilee Year, we will be celebrating the Mass of the Feast of the Holy Family. Everyone is invited to come and participate in this beautiful and fitting closing Mass of the Jubilee Year. For those who are unable to attend, the Mass will be live streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@BasilicaHeritageFoundation>.

I am most grateful to all those individuals and groups who have worked to make our Jubilee Year celebrations and pilgrimages possible, and to all who have participated as “Pilgrims of Hope” in these Jubilee Year events and celebrations. It is my hope that our celebration of this Jubilee Year has brought us closer to the Lord Jesus and to each other, and has renewed our sense of God's presence and grace at work within our Archdiocese.

As we begin this new Advent season, please join with me, both in thanking God for the graces and blessings of the 2025 Jubilee Year, and in asking Him to help all of us to continue to journey as Pilgrims of Hope, “preparing the way of the Lord” in all we say and do.

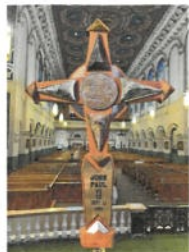
Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Peter Hundt
Archbishop of St. John's

Introduction

The Jubilee of 2025 has been an invitation to set out on a pilgrimage of hope. In the uncertainty of our times, Pope Francis invited us to recenter ourselves on Christian hope, which is grounded in the certainty of God's love that can persevere through any trial. The Jubilee Year has been an opportunity to renew this hope. This newsletter offers a way to look back upon the Jubilee Year, both to recount some of the major events and to look to the future with renewed hope, as we live our faith in Jesus Christ here in the Archdiocese of St. John's.

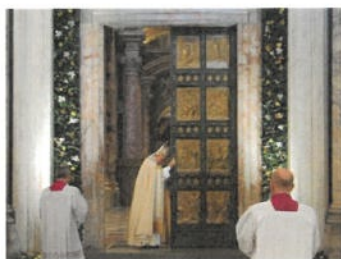
The Jubilee Cross



For the opening of the Jubilee, each diocese was invited to choose a Cross that is of significance for the diocesan church to serve as the Jubilee Cross for the year. The Jubilee Cross chosen for the Archdiocese of St. John's was the one used for the visit of Pope St. John Paul II to St. John's in 1984. It is a cross adorned with minerals from the four directions of the Province: North - Labradorite from Tabor Island, Labrador; South - Fluorspar from St. Lawrence, Burin Peninsula; East - Virginite from Baie Verte; and West - Anhydrite from St. George's.

The Opening of the Jubilee Year in Rome, December 24th, 2024

On Christmas Eve, 2024, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, officially beginning the Jubilee Year of Hope.

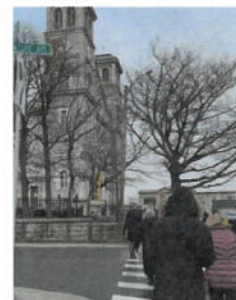


"For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the 'door' of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere, and to all as 'our hope'."

(Pope Francis, *Spes Non Confundit*, 1)

The Opening of the Jubilee Year Locally, December 29th, 2024

On Sunday December 29th, the Feast of the Holy Family, dioceses throughout the world celebrated the opening of the Jubilee Year. In the Archdiocese of St. John's, this celebration began with an Introductory Rite ("*collectio*") at the Knights of Columbus Hall on St. Clare Avenue and a pilgrimage walk to the Basilica. The Jubilee Cross was carried in procession and, upon reaching the Basilica, it was placed near the altar and the Mass was celebrated with people from many parts of the diocese.



Jubilee Celebration of Consecrated Life, February 2nd

February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation, is also celebrated in the Church as the World Day for Consecrated Life. We are blessed to have in our Archdiocese members of the following Religious Orders: The Presentation Sisters, Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers, Jesuits, Redemptorists, and Vocationists. A special Mass was offered at the Basilica on this day at 2:00 p.m. with members of these congregations, and other members of the faithful, to celebrate consecrated life as a way of being "Pilgrims of Hope". We look forward to celebrating the World Day for Consecrated Life each year and pray that young people today will consider a vocation to this way of life in the Church.



"The Church entrusts you with the task of being living witnesses to God's primacy in your lives." (Pope Leo XIV, Homily for Jubilee of Consecrated Life)

Chrism Mass and Jubilee Celebration of Ordained Priesthood, April 8th

The Mass of Chrism is one of the most solemn and important diocesan celebrations of the liturgical year. The Mass takes its name from the blessing of holy oils used in the sacraments, which are blessed at this Mass. It is also a celebration of the institution of the ministerial priesthood. The Mass of Chrism was held on Tuesday April 8th and was also a Jubilee celebration for the gift of the ordained priesthood and the ministry of the priests in our Archdiocese. The Chrism Mass is open every year for the faithful to attend, and we pray with hope that young men will answer the call to serve God's people as ordained priests.



“We now invoke this same Spirit upon our priesthood. We have received that Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, and He continues to be the silent protagonist of our service.” (Pope Francis, Homily for 2025 Chrism Mass)

Jubilee Celebration of Marriage and Family Life, June 22nd



Photo from the Mass marking the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

On Sunday, June 22nd, at 2pm a special Jubilee Mass was held at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. John the Baptist to celebrate marriage and family life. All individuals and families were invited to attend and couples celebrating special anniversaries of 25 years or more were given a special anniversary blessing. This was the first time such a celebration was held in our Cathedral-Basilica, and the event was well attended. We hope to make this an annual event and pray that many will respond to the vocation of marriage and family life, upon which the well-being of our society depends.

“Let us not forget: families are the cradle of the future of humanity.”

(Pope Leo XIV Homily on Jubilee for Families, Children, Grandparents, and the Elderly)

Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites

While Pope Francis had designated Jubilee pilgrimage sites in Rome and the Holy Land, he also invited local bishops to designate pilgrimage sites for their own dioceses. Accordingly, Archbishop Hundt designated three sites in the Archdiocese of St. John's as 2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage sites: Marymount, Marystown; Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Flatrock; Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto/Mass Rock, Renews. A special Jubilee plenary indulgence could be gained by making a pilgrimage to these sites, and the following three events were held as special Jubilee celebrations.

Outdoor Rosary, Flatrock, August 10th

An outdoor Rosary was held at 2:30pm on Sunday August 10th at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Flatrock, organized by the Legion of Mary. Archbishop Hundt gave a sermon on devotion to Mary, and refreshments followed in the Community Centre. The Flatrock Grotto is inspired by the Grotto in France where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette. Each Summer, on a Sunday near the Feast of the Assumption (August 15th), the Legion of Mary organizes an outdoor Rosary here, and all are welcome to attend.



Outdoor Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto/Mass Rock, Renew's, August 15th

Mass Rock in Renew's commemorates the place where Catholics secretly celebrated Mass when the practice of Catholicism was restricted in Newfoundland in the 1700s. Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto was later added to this site. On Friday August 15th a Jubilee Mass was offered on this site, presided by Fr. Cecil Critch. Each summer on this same date an outdoor Mass is offered here.



Outdoor Mass on Marymount, Marystown, August 15th



The statue of Mary at Marymount is the largest Marian statue in Newfoundland and overlooks the town of Marystown. A pilgrimage walk to Marymount and an outdoor Mass was scheduled for August 15th, but these had to be postponed on account of weather. These events took place on September 15th (Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows). Each year Sacred Heart Parish in Marystown organizes an outdoor Mass at this site on August 15th.

Jubilee Concert and Youth Retreat

On October 9th, the Cathedral-Basilica Parish of St. John the Baptist hosted an evening of praise, worship and witness with Catholic musician Matt Maher. Matt Maher is originally from Newfoundland and a well-known contemporary Christian Music artist. As well, Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) held a Jubilee Retreat for Young Adults on October 3rd-4th.



“It is truly beautiful, especially at a young age, to open wide your hearts, to allow Him [Jesus] to enter, and to set out on this adventure with Him towards eternity.” (Pope Leo XIV, Greeting to Young People, Jubilee of Youth)



Closing Mass of the Jubilee Year, December 28th

The closing Mass for the 2025 Jubilee Year will take place on Sunday December 28th, 2025 (The Feast of the Holy Family) at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. John the Baptist. While the Jubilee Year of Hope concludes with this celebration, let us pray that this renewal of hope in Jesus Christ remains with us into the future. A number of the events in this newsletter take place annually and offer us opportunities every year to continue living as Pilgrims of Hope.