



## **Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope**

The Diocese will officially launch the Jubilee Year with a special event on **Sunday 2 March**.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved as we celebrate Pope Francis' theme - Pilgrims of Hope.

### **Details of the event are:**

**8:00am** – Pilgrim Prayer at Nobbys Beach (Foreshore Park)

**8:15am** – Pilgrimage along the Harbourfront (Honeysuckle)

**10:00am** – Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral

**11:00am** – Festival in the Cathedral Precinct with the 2025 Launch of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Lenten Appeal.

There will be **NO Sunday morning Mass** in Muswellbrook or Aberdeen on this day to allow Fr Victor to attend the event. It would be wonderful if all our parishioners could also attend and proudly walk behind our banner. If you are unable to walk, please still come along and join us for Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10am.

If you are interested in attending, could you please put your name and contact number on the sheet at the back of the church. We will try to organise some carpooling where possible, if there is enough interest we will investigate the possibility of hiring a bus.

### **What is a Jubilee Year?**

Jubilees are wonderful celebrations of significant milestones. You probably hear it most when people are talking about years of marriage. Catholic Jubilee Years encompass many practices and rituals. Pilgrims undertake journeys, often travelling to significant holy sites. The ritual opening of the Holy Door by the Pope. The focus on reconciliation allows forgiveness and healing. Liturgy and prayer offer moments of reflection, devotion communal worship, and strengthening of faith and beliefs that reinforce renewal and transformation that are central themes to the Jubilee Year.

### **Why does the Catholic Church celebrate Jubilee Years?**

The establishment of the first jubilee or "Holy Year" by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300 was a significant moment in history and continues to be so for the Catholic Church. The jubilee signifies a period of special grace and celebration. The fundamental idea remains the same as it does for the Jewish people – remission, renewal, and reconciliation. It also encompasses broader themes of solidarity, hope, and justice. It's a call to serve with joy and to live in peace with one another, and the opportunity for a deeper connection with God's grace.

### **How is it launched?**

Within the Catholic Church, it is the opening of this Holy Door that is a threshold moment that holds deep symbolic meaning within the context of the Jubilee. The act of the Pope opening the door is a powerful moment, marking the start of the Holy Year and inviting the faithful to partake in the blessings and graces associated with it. It is a beautiful expression of the transformative power of faith and the hope it brings to millions worldwide.

### **Where are our local pilgrimage sites?**

Bishop Michael particularly wishes to highlight parish communities who have offered their Churches as sites of pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year. The official sites are as follows: Sacred Heart Cathedral-Newcastle West, St Mary Star of the Sea-Newcastle, St John the Baptist Shrine-Maitland, St Joseph's-East Maitland, St Joseph's-Murrurundi, Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace-Scone, Our Lady of the Rosary Church-Taree and Saints Patrick & Brigid-Cooranbong (you could make this last one part of your support to the Camino pilgrims). Keep watching for more events to follow as the year goes on.