

ABOUT THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

On May 9, 2024, Pope Francis released a Papal Bull of Indiction which formally announced the Jubilee Year of Hope. The document was entitled *Spes non confundit* --“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). In it, Pope Francis writes on the reasons for this theme for the Jubilee Year:

In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years.... For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. *Jn 10:7,9*) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (*1 Tim 1:1*).

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. ... (1).

IMPORTANT VATICAN DATES

December 24, 2024	(Christmas Eve) Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at the Basilica of St Peter, thus inaugurating the Ordinary Jubilee.
December 29, 2024	(Feast of the Holy Family) Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of his cathedral, Saint John Lateran, which on November 9, 2024 celebrated the 1700 th anniversary of its dedication.
January 1, 2025	(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major.
January 5, 2025	(Epiphany) The Holy Father will open the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. These last three Holy Doors will be closed on Sunday, December 28, 2025.
January 6, 2026	The Ordinary Jubilee will conclude with the closing of the Holy Door in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

DIOCESAN DATES

2024	A Year of Prayer, in preparation for the Jubilee Year
December 29, 2024	(Feast of the Holy Family) Diocesan Bishops around the world are to celebrate Holy Mass at their cathedral (and co-cathedral) as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year in their own diocese. A special rite has already been sent to all the Bishops [and their diocesan Offices of Worship]; it includes processing with a Cross, from a suitable place to the cathedral. The cross will reside in the cathedral for a full year. This rite is for the cathedral only. Please note that a “holy door” is not envisioned.

December 30, ff. A diocesan “pilgrimage that sets out from a church chosen for the *collectio* and then proceeds to the cathedral can serve to symbolize the journey of hope that, illumined by the word of God, unites all the faithful. In the course of this pilgrimage, passages from the present document can be read, along with the announcement of the Jubilee Indulgence to be gained in accordance with the prescriptions” (*Spes non confundit*, 6).

December 28, 2025 The Holy Year will conclude in the particular Churches. In the course of the year, every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God’s grace and in the signs that attest to its efficacy.

“During the Holy Year, may the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God’s love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!” (*Spes non confundit*, 6).

ABOUT THE LOGO FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR



The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life’s pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That’s why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the ‘anchor of hope’ refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency maneuvers to stabilize the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim’s journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Pilgrims of Hope*, represented in green letters.

HELPFUL LINKS

Vatican Website <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

USCCB Website: <https://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025>

Full text of the Papal Bull : https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

Hymn for the Jubilee Year – text and music <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/search.html?q=hymn>