

Information for Parishes

Resources for the Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

There are 36 events throughout the 2025 Jubilee Year, highlighting special aspects of Church life. For each event, the National Centre for Evangelisation has prepared a brief resource that parishes and individuals can use for personal or group prayer and reflection. The resources include:

- Introduction: a brief explanation of the Jubilee event and personal prayer;
- Teaching: relevant text from Papal or Church documents to assist local reflection and homily notes;
- Reflection: Testimony – a human story of someone with experience in the relevant field; image/artwork – a visual representation highlighting the theme for contemplation;
- Prayers of intercession: two examples that can be used by parishes;
- Additional resources: further resources to assist understanding, promotion or advocacy of the Jubilee theme.

These resources can be accessed from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>.

Laudato Si': Everything is connected

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action. The Diocesan Social Justice Commission, in collaboration with Caritas (Diocese of Ballarat), Earthcare Ballarat and the Pastoral Ministry Office, will provide monthly *Laudato Si'* banners for use on your parish bulletins and correspondence to your community (see March banners attached - choose one that suits your bulletin). The banners include a quote taken directly from the encyclical with the reference number provided for parishioners to look up and read more deeply about that area. You are encouraged to promote the Pope's message by using these banners as they are designed to help reflect and respond to the encyclical and foster faith and action. Also provided along with the banners will be a monthly idea we encourage you to include on your bulletins to help your parish/community to change the world! Please [click here](#) for the Banner 1 resource and [click here](#) for the Banner 2 resource.

Idea/thought and banners for March attached: In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls us to undergo an ecological conversion. But what is an ecological conversion? *Laudato*

Si' Movement defines ecological conversion as the “transformation of hearts and minds toward greater love of God, each other, and creation. It is a process of acknowledging our contribution to the social and ecological crisis and acting in ways that nurture communion: healing and renewing our common home.” At its most basic level, an ecological conversion involves four steps. In March, we look at step 1. Recognising that we have harmed creation - “...we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God’s creation through our actions and our failure to act” (LS 218). How to do this? By reading scientific reports, such as a Living Planet Report - <https://livingplanet.panda.org/>; IPCC Reports on Climate Change - <https://www.ipcc.ch/>; by going through an ecological examen, checking our own carbon footprint - <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/measure.html>, conducting an energy audit, reviewing our consumption habits looking for food/water/energy waste.

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month ‘The Pope Video’ forms part of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

Prayer for March - for families in crisis: *Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences. Lord, hear us.*

Stations of the Cross

Fr Gary Jones has prepared a reflection “Stations of the Cross” and has kindly offered these for use in parishes. It may be appropriate to use with staff and find a suitable image for your context. Please [click here](#) for the Stations of the Cross pdf resource.



Pope Francis’ message for Lent

“Let Us Journey Together in Hope” is Pope Francis’ message for Lent 2025. He reminds us that we cannot stay where it is comfortable, that we must always accompany others, and that we must always do everything with the hope that never disappoints. The Dicastery for Integral Human Development have provided resources for Lent. To read the Pope’s message and access the recourses, scan or click the QR code.

Diocesan Archives Annual Exhibition: Relics & Reliquaries



This year's annual exhibition "Relics and Reliquaries" at the Diocesan Archives and Gallery (5 Lyons Street, Ballarat), will showcase the collection and trace the history of the religious devotional objects. The collection documents the introduction and use at St Patrick's Cathedral and the Diocese from the consecration of the first altar to contemporary *thecas* and *monstrances*. The exhibition will run from February 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026 and will be open Tuesdays – Fridays from 8.00am – 4.30pm. For more information click or scan the QR code.



Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The next Cycle begins March 10. There are 37 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. Scan or click the QR code for more information or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

National Conference for Ecumenical and Interfaith Works 2025, "Walking Together"

The Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue invites all Catholics who are engaged in ecumenical and interfaith activities to attend the National Conference for Ecumenical and Interfaith Works, "Walking Together" on Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 31, 2025 at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney. For more information contact Louise Zavone, Senior Executive Secretary, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, louise.zavone@catholic.org.au



Vinnies Back To School Appeal 2025

Over one million Victorian students began the 2025 school year recently, but many families are struggling to keep them at school. Vinnie's Back to School Appeal aims to ensure every family has the resources for learning and growth so that children can start their academic year well-equipped with the necessary supplies and nutritious meals. To donate click or scan the QR code.

Encounter Tour with Palms International Volunteering

Palms International Volunteering (formerly known as Palms Australia) invites you to join an intimate group of just 8-12 travellers for an extraordinary journey that goes far beyond typical tourism. The Encounter programs are Timor-Leste from July 8-19, 2025 and Samoa from September 27 - October 4, 2025. The Encounter includes accommodation, meals, activities, expert guides, visas, and in-country transportation for \$3,500.00 per person. Spaces are limited to ensure an intimate experience. Reserve your place today at <https://palms.org.au/encounters/> or ph. (02) 9560 5333.

Mission One Heart Many Voices Conference 2025

The MOHMOV 2025 conference will be informed and enlivened by and contribute to the ongoing journey of the Plenary Council, the Synod on Synodality and the celebration of the Jubilee Year with “deep faith, lively hope and active charity”. Inspired by Jesus and mindful of this time of critical choices, this conference will focus on themes of encounter, inclusion, reconciliation, ecology, governance, justice, formation, celebration, synodality and challenge participants to consider, discern and choose a path to be agents of hope and mission. The conference will be held in Sydney from May 19-21, 2025. More information available at <https://2025.mohmv.com.au/>



ACU Short Course: Faith, Hope and Love

Explore the theological virtues at the heart of Christian faith and theology through the “Faith, Hope & Love” short course. Held over four Wednesday nights, this course will examine the concept of virtue, delving deeply into the meaning and character of faith, hope and love/charity. Scan or click the QR code for more information.

Ireland and Rome Pilgrimage & Study Tour

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd invites you to a pilgrimage and study tour in Ireland and Rome to reconnect with the rich spiritual legacy that has inspired countless pilgrims through the ages, while also engaging in meaningful conversations about safeguarding and the future of the Church. Departs on Sunday, June 28, 2025 for 15 days/ 12 nights. For more information contact Louise Zavone, Senior Executive Secretary, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, louise.zavone@catholic.org.au

Composer Masterclass with Tony Alonso

Join the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network for an exclusive Composers' Workshop led by internationally acclaimed composer Tony Alonso. Focus topics will include: A composers journey - Tony's reflections; Techniques of setting music to liturgical text; songwriter's circle - appreciation and feedback session; breakout sessions for composing and collaboration.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, May 27, 2025 from 8.45am - 3:00pm at St Gregory's College Campbelltown, Badgally Road, Gregory Hills, NSW. Cost is \$50.00 for non-members or \$25.00 for APMN members (morning tea and lunch included). Registrations via www.apmn.org.au/events/formation-programs/composers-workshop . For more information contact secretary@apmn.org.au or ph. 07 3264 6766.