



OUR LADY OF MERCY HAMPDEN PARISH
ST THOMAS CHURCH, TERANG & ST COLMAN'S CHURCH MORTLAKE

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Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope



Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen. Pope Francis

Anniversaries: Richard Wightman, Peter Casonato, Fr Leo Baker, Matthew Harrington, Alan Noonan, Patrick McManus, Patrick McKinnon, Margaret Boyle, John Kelly, Patrick O'Keefe, Kathryn Heffernan, Fanny Elliott, Kevin McEntee, Elizabeth Walsh, Terry Johnstone, Lyla Brumm, Margaret Meade, Stella Kenna, Brian Moloney and Betty Mahony.

Recent Death: We pray for the departed soul of Michael Lourey.

Mass of the Oils 2025

All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils this year on Monday, April 14, 2025 at Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 1.00pm. Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall. The Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/qUVA70FoZ9c?feature=share>

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C 2025.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the book of Joshua (Joshua 5:9-12)

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover, they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips.
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**
3. Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

Second Reading:

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So, we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation:

Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 15:1-3. 11-32)

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So, the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

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'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So, he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Truth and Reconciliation

For Jews, pigs are ritually unclean, so that living in a pigsty would make this young man unapproachable. So, imagine the reaction of his Jewish audience when Jesus told the story of the father running to his son and embracing him still stinking of the pigsty, exclaiming, 'You were lost and now you are found.'

That is Jesus' portrayal of his heavenly Father's relationship with us.

Of course, sometimes we are the older brother, resentful that someone seems to have had too easy a time of God's forgiveness. Is this the attitude of many who challenge the emphasis by Pope Francis on Mercy as the core of God's relationship with us? More often, we are like the younger brother who has strayed to a far-off place, sometimes quite deliberately.

We could resolve to approach the Sacrament of Mercy during Lent, knowing that our heavenly Father will run towards us, embracing us, exclaiming, 'You were lost but now you are found.' That is worth a celebration!

Pope Francis's intention of Prayer for March 2025

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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C 2025.

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy: March 28-30,2025

The National Centre for Evangelisation have provided a resource for the Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy available from <https://nce.catholic.org.au/events/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope>. A bulletin notice is included below. Suggested Prayers of the Faithful: For the Church, may she never tire of extending mercy and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. We pray to the Lord.

For priests, who are a conduit to the mercy of God through the Sacrament of Penance, that they may continue to reflect the Lord's boundless mercy and loving tenderness. We pray to the Lord.

St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat - A Place of Pilgrimage

Bishop Paul has designated St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat as a place of pilgrimage for this Jubilee Year. Pilgrims are invited to take a self-guided tour of the Cathedral. A booklet is available for pilgrims to follow. This includes suggestions on how to be a pilgrim, a brief history of St Patrick's Cathedral and information about the beautiful stained-glass windows. As well as visiting the Cathedral for the self-guided tour, pilgrims are welcome to spend some time in the Cathedral in prayer. This could include joining in the celebration of Mass. Masses are held on weekdays at 12.05pm and on Saturday mornings at 10.00am. Sunday Masses are celebrated on Saturday evenings at 5.30pm and on Sundays at 8.00am, 10.30am and 5.00pm. There are also opportunities for daily adoration and devotions. Please check the Cathedral bulletin for information <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-cathedral>. A self-guided tour is best done in quiet times, when there is no Mass or other event happening. Pilgrims are welcome to come as individuals or you could arrange for members of your parish to come as a group.

Project Compassion 2025 Week 4: Unite against poverty this Lent

In the fourth week of Lent, we meet Irene. Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family. *Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia.* **Please donate today:** You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes and envelopes, or by scanning or clicking on the QR code, or online at caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling. 1800 024 413.

Australian Pilgrims of Hope website

The ACBC Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry have launched a website for the 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope. This site provides details of cathedrals, shrines, churches and pilgrimages identified by local churches across Australia as fulfilling the requirement for obtaining a plenary indulgence <https://pilgrimsofhope.catholic.org.au/>

"Our Parish Community wishes to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and worship Our God."

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