

## **Pilgrims of Hope**

### **“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5)**

Pope Francis has declared The Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 with the theme: **‘Pilgrims of Hope’**.

The Jubilee year opens on December 29, 2024, and closes December 28, 2025.

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

In accordance with ancient tradition, a Jubilee is declared by the pope every 25 years. This Holy Year is intended to be “a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus.” (Proclamation of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025)

#### **What is Jubilee 2025?**

The theme is ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. The intention of the year is to offer all of us an opportunity to be “renewed in hope.”

“God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. Taking it as our guide, let us return to the message that the Apostle Paul wished to communicate to the Christians of Rome.” (Proclamation)

This year’s Jubilee also seeks to invite practice of patience, “a virtue closely linked to hope ... Patience has been put to flight by frenetic haste, and this has proved detrimental, since it leads to impatience, anxiety and even gratuitous violence, resulting in more unhappiness and self-centredness.”

In addition, Jubilee 2025 coincides with the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the Synodal conversation of Bishops from which emerged the Nicene Creed and the continued quest “of fitting ways to respond fully to the prayer of Jesus “that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me” ( Jn 17:21).

#### **How do we celebrate a Jubilee?**

“Christian life is a journey calling for moments of greater intensity to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps towards the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus.” (Proclamation)

#### **Pilgrimage is a fundamental event of a Jubilee, and we can participate:**

- Spiritual Pilgrimage through Scripture, prayer, reading/learning, and reflection

#### **Signs of Hope are fundamental invitations for events in this Jubilee, including:**

- Advocacy and prayer for peace in the world
- Tangible signs of hope for the marginalized: such as those living in poverty, those in jail, individuals with physical and mental challenges, individuals with health issues
- Engagement of youth and of the elderly in sharing faith and fostering hope
- Care of the Earth and fair development practices for all nations

Continuation of the Synodal Journey is an important aspect of this Jubilee, in honour of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, especially in unity among the faithful. A common

celebration of Easter, which is currently held on different dates in the Eastern and Western churches, is planned for 2025.

### **How will we celebrate the Jubilee in our Parish?**

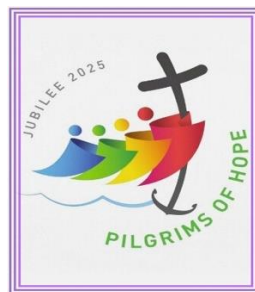
“In the course of the year, every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God’s grace and in the signs that attest to its efficacy.” (Pope Francis)

This year, our Advent Theme will mirror our Jubilee's Motto, “Pilgrims of Hope.” We begin this weekend you will receive a reflective booklet entitled, Pilgrims of Hope by Sister, Janet Schaeffler, OP. Each day we are encouraged to spend some time in prayer, preparing our hearts as we await the Coming of Jesus Christ as a human to live among us and his Second Coming at the end of time.

Let us ask ourselves, “how are we pilgrims of hope in our own community?” As well, I encourage our parish ministries to embrace this theme for the coming year. Ask yourselves, “How is your ministry giving hope to those who are on the journey with us?”

Have a Blessed Advent,

Fr. David



### **THE MEANING OF THE LOGO**

The Logo shows four stylized figures to indicate all of humanity from the four corners of the earth. They each embrace one another, indicating the solidarity and union that must unite peoples. The first figure is clinging to the Cross. The underlying waves are choppy to indicate that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters.

Because often personal circumstances and world events call for a greater sense of hope, a description of the Logo says, the lower part of the Cross is elongated turning into an anchor, which dominates the movement of the waves.

Anchors often have been used as metaphors for hope.

The image shows how the pilgrim's journey is not individual, but rather communal, with the signs of a growing dynamism that moves more and more toward the Cross.

The Cross is not static, but dynamic, bending toward and meeting humanity as if not to leave it alone, but rather offering the certainty of its presence and the reassurance of hope.

The Jubilee 2025 Motto, *Peregrinantes in Spem* is also clearly visible in the color green.