



St Mary's School

Special Character Newsletter.

Term One

2025 - JUBILEE YEAR

A Jubilee Year is a centuries-old Catholic tradition dedicated to renewal, spiritual growth, mercy, and forgiveness. It was first initiated in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII and is generally celebrated every 25 years, with additional Jubilees proclaimed for special occasions. The 2025 Jubilee Year, themed “Pilgrims of Hope,” reflects Christian hope, grounded in the assurance that nothing can separate us from God’s love (Romans 5:5). A Jubilee Year is celebrated through:



THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ,
our brother,
and the flame of *love* 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

Pilgrimage: A journey symbolizing conversion and commitment to Christ.

Prayer: Deepening our relationship with God and opening our hearts to His mercy.

Reconciliation: Rediscovering the value of confession and experiencing God’s forgiveness.

Works of Mercy: Performing acts of charity that embody Christ’s compassion and justice.

These practices invite renewal in faith, love, and service, making the Jubilee a transformative time for all.



We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*.

Pope Francis

How do we celebrate a Jubilee Year?

Pope Francis encourages us to deepen our faith through pilgrimage, prayer, the sacrament of Reconciliation, and works of mercy during the Jubilee year.

Each of these practices embodies the year’s themes of mercy, healing, and renewal.

The Diocese of Palmerston North is delighted to be celebrating the Jubilee Year as a chance to make things new and better in our lives and our community.

Inspired by the Prophet Isaiah's words:

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”



These words remind us that God loves us so much and wants us to share that love by

- *Helping people feel free in their hearts* – This means showing kindness and love to others so they feel happy and not sad or worried
- *Listening to the Good News of Jesus* – Sharing and living out the teachings of Jesus, like loving one another and helping those in need.
- *Bringing joy to those who are feeling sad* – Finding ways to comfort and encourage people who might feel lonely.



Bishop John Adams

WAITANGI DAY 6TH MARCH

As Catholics, Waitangi Day is not just a time to commemorate a historical event but also an opportunity to live out Gospel values-

- Praying for unity and reconciliation in New Zealand.
- Learning about the Treaty and its significance.
- Advocating for justice and equity for Māori.
 - Celebrating the unique cultural and spiritual heritage of Aotearoa New Zealand.



FEAST DAYS WE CELEBRATE....



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY: FEBRUARY 14TH MARCH

A date established by Pope Gelasius I, in 496 AD. St. Valentine remains a symbol of love, sacrifice, and faith, inspiring people to celebrate love and kindness on his feast day. St. Valentine of Rome was a priest in the third century who was martyred during the persecution of Christians under Emperor Claudius II around 269 AD.

ST JOSEPH ~ MARCH 19TH

St. Joseph was Jesus' foster father and Mary's husband. He was a hardworking carpenter, a protector of his family, and a man of great faith. St. Joseph reminds us to listen to God and care for others.



St. Joseph's profession as a carpenter highlights his humility, hard work, and dedication to providing for the Holy family.

ST PATRICK ~ MARCH 17TH

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. As a young boy, he was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave. Later, he escaped but returned to Ireland to teach people about Jesus.

Patrick used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit



Calendar of Events in the Diocese of Palmerston North

FEBRUARY 2025

- 2 Feb**
Opening of the Year of Jubilee
- 8 - 9 Feb**
Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel
- 15 - 16 Feb**
Jubilee of Artists
- 22 - 23 Feb**
Jubilee of Deacons

MARCH 2025

- 5 March**
Ash Wednesday
- 8 - 9 March**
Jubilee of the World of Volunteering
- 8 March**
Pilgrimage to Hiruhārama Jerusalem, Whanganui
- 9 March**
Rite of Election
- 28 March**
24 Hours for the Lord

APRIL 2025

- 5 - 6 April**
Jubilee of the Sick and Healthcare Workers
- 18 April**
Good Friday
- 19 April**
Easter Vigil
- 20 April**
Easter Sunday
- 26 - 27 April**
Jubilee of People with Disabilities

MAY 2025

- 3 - 4 May**
Jubilee of Workers

- 10 - 11 May**
Jubilee of the Eastern Churches
- 17 - 18 May**
Jubilee of Seminarians
- 24 - 25 May**
Jubilee of the World of Education
- 31 May - 1 June**
Jubilee of Families and Children

JUNE 2025

- 7 - 8 June**
Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities
- 8 June**
Pentecost Sunday
- 14 - 15 June**
Jubilee of the World of Communications
- 28 - 29 June**
Jubilee of Bishops and Priests

JULY 2025

- 26 - 27 July**
Jubilee of Grandparents and Older Persons
- 28 July - 3 Aug**
Jubilee of Youth

AUGUST 2025

- 16 - 17 Aug**
Jubilee of Musicians

SEPTEMBER 2025

- 13 Sept**
Pilgrimage to Hiruhārama Jerusalem, Whanganui
- 20 - 21 Sept**
Jubilee of Justice
- 27 - 28 Sept**
Jubilee of Catechists

OCTOBER 2025

- 4 - 5 Oct**
Jubilee of Migrants
- 11 - 12 Oct**
Jubilee of Marian Spirituality
- 25 - 26 Oct**
Jubilee of Consecrated Life

NOVEMBER 2025

- 15 - 16 Nov**
Jubilee of the Poor
- 30 Nov**
First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 2025

- 13 - 14 Dec**
Jubilee of Prisoners
- 25 Dec**
Christmas Day
- 26 Dec**
Boxing Day
- 27 Dec**
Feast of the Holy Family

FEBRUARY 2026

- 1 Feb**
Closing of the Year of Jubilee



Visit www.pndiocese.org.nz/YearofJubilee2025
for more information and resources

