



Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

2025 is a jubilee year! What's that about? We think of a jubilee as a time of celebration to mark a special event, such as the late Queen's 2022 Platinum Jubilee. But the origins are recorded in the Book of Leviticus in the Bible. A jubilee year was marked every 50 years, its name taken from the ram's horn (yobel) used to proclaim it.

The year was a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with other people and with all of creation. It involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land and a fallow period for the fields. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.'

Pope Boniface VIII called the first jubilee of the Christian era in 1300. Initially, jubilees were every 50 years but, in 1470, changed to every 25 years.

A jubilee year takes on its full meaning in its historical context. In 2025 that context is the vulnerability of the earth and its people to war, disease (the lingering impact of the COVID pandemic) and climate change.

The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope', a time for conversion with an emphasis on God's mercy. The year started on Christmas Eve with Pope Francis opening the Holy Door in St Peter's

Basilica. Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas in Rome are destinations for millions of pilgrims in the next 12 months.

The plans for the jubilee at Christ the King and in our sister churches of St Brigid's and St Paul's are less ambitious. Between now and the end of the jubilee year on 6 January 2026 we plan to be Pilgrims of Hope in reaching out to our local communities and journeying together to some of the traditional pilgrim sites in South Wales such as Llantwit Major, Penrhys, Margam Abbey and St David's.



The logo for the jubilee year sets the scene. It shows four stylized figures representing all humanity from the four corners of the earth. They embrace, indicating the solidarity and brotherhood that unite people. The first figure is clinging to the cross. The waves below are

choppy, showing that the pilgrimage of life is often not calm. The lower part of the cross is elongated into an anchor, which dominates the waves.

The image shows that the pilgrim's journey is not individual but communal, moving towards the Cross of Christ, which offers the certainty of His presence and His reassurance.

We are pilgrims of hope led forward by His Cross of salvation.

A happy and blessed 2025 to all.

Canon Matthew Jones, parish priest

Church services

Services are streamed live at www.3churches.org

Saturday, 6pm: Vigil Mass of Sunday

9.30am: Sunday Mass – with children's liturgy in term time

9.30am: Tuesday Mass

9.30am: Thursday Mass

Activities (in the parish centre)

- Monday, 9.30 – 11am: Baby and Toddler Group
- Wednesday, 11am – 1.30pm: Welcome Space
- Friday, 6.30pm: Junior Club in term time (School Years 3–6)
- Thursday 9 January, 7pm for 7.30pm start: Community Quiz Night Christmas Special
- Saturday 11 January, 11am – 1pm; 2 – 4pm: Sustainable Clothes and Books Market

For further information, contact Christ the King's parish office (phone 2075 3945, email llanishen@rcadc.org) or Canon Matthew Jones (phone 2075 2389, email matthew.jones@rcadc.org) or visit the website at www.3churches.org

The church and parish centre are located at Newborough Avenue, Llanishen, CF14 5DB.