

Pilgrims of Hope: The Jubilee Indulgence in the Diocese of Pembroke

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you are aware, on December 29, 2024, the Diocese of Pembroke inaugurated the Jubilee Year 2025 in the Cathedral of St. Columbkille. Encouraged by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, we continue to our journey as Pilgrims of Hope together as one diocesan family. This letter contains an explanation of the Jubilee Indulgence. It also outlines important moments when we will celebrate this Jubilee in every region of our Diocese. I encourage all of us to enter into the spirit and prayer of the Jubilee with hope and confidence in God's love and mercy.

✠MICHAEL BREHL, C.Ss.R.
Bishop of Pembroke

Jubilee Indulgence

An indulgence is a favor granted to an individual by the Church— through the merits of Christ— that removes, either partially or completely (plenary), the temporal punishment that remains for sins that have been forgiven. This is a magnanimous grace of mercy from God.

The Jubilee Indulgence is a concrete manifestation of God's mercy, which goes beyond and transforms the boundaries of human justice. This treasury of grace entered human history in the witness of Jesus and the saints, and by living in communion with them our hope for our own forgiveness is strengthened and becomes a certainty. The Jubilee indulgence allows us to free our hearts from the weight of sin because the reparation due for our sins is given freely and abundantly.

In practical terms, the experience of God's mercy involves some spiritual acts indicated by the Pope. Those who cannot make the Jubilee pilgrimage due to illness or other circumstances are nonetheless invited to take part in the spiritual movement that accompanies the Jubilee year, offering up the sufferings of their daily lives, and participating in the Eucharistic celebration.

The conditions for receiving an indulgence, beyond the act of pilgrimage:

1. Sacramental Confession within 20 days prior or following the day of pilgrimage
2. Reception of Holy Communion
3. A prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father

For more information concerning the Jubilee Indulgence please consult <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Catechetical-Resource-on-Plenary-Indulgences-during-the-Jubilee-Year.pdf>

Celebration of the Jubilee Year in Pembroke Diocese

The Diocese of Pembroke has chosen our longstanding and venerable celebration of the Triduum and Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Ann in Cormac as our diocesan celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025. Bishop Brehl will preach the three evenings of Triduum at St. Ann's in Cormac, 24-25-26 July at 7:00 p.m. and will culminate with the celebration of Pilgrimage Sunday, 27 July.

Please visit www.cormacpilgrimage.com. Parishes and parishioners are invited to plan for participation in Cormac on Sunday, 27 July.

Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Jubilee Sites in the Diocese of Pembroke

While some will make pilgrimage to Rome during this Jubilee Year, the graces of this sanctified time have been afforded to any member of the faithful who makes a pilgrimage to our local diocesan Cathedral of St. Columbkille in Pembroke. By extension, our diocesan celebration of the Jubilee Year will highlight the liturgical feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the *Bull of Indiction* inaugurating the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis states: “*Hope finds its supreme witness in the Mother of God. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life. Like every mother, whenever Mary looked at her Son, she thought of his future*” (paragraph 24).

Turning to the intercession and accompaniment of the Blessed Mother in our pilgrimage into deeper friendship with her Son, the following feasts and places have been designated as days and locations of pilgrimage in the Diocese of Pembroke in which the faithful may obtain the Jubilee Indulgence:

25 March	Annunciation of the Lord	Ste Anne, Mattawa
13 May	Our Lady of Fatima	Our Lady of Fatima, Renfrew
31 May	Visitation of Our Lady	Our Lady of Combermere, Madonna House, Combermere
9 June	Mary, Mother of the Church/ Feast of St Columbkille	St Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke
27 July	Diocesan Jubilee Celebration	Pilgrimage to Shrine of St Ann, Cormac
15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Mother	Holy Well, Mount St Patrick
8 September	Nativity of Our Lady	St. Mary, Quyon
7 October	Our Lady of the Rosary	St Mary, Wilno
21 November	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin	St Alphonsus, Chapeau
8 December	Immaculate Conception	Our Lady of Lourdes, Pembroke

The diocesan website and your parish bulletin will provide details of the various celebrations and times of prayer available in these locations on these designated days. Please consult www.pembrokediocese.com.

