

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter 9  
17 January 2025

*At St Bernadette's Catholic School, you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you.*

## Reminder

School will close for half term on **Friday 14th February**.  
We will reopen for **children** on **Tuesday 25th February**, as there will be a staff INSET day on **Monday 24th February**.

The Gospel of St. John will be shared with us at mass on Sunday this week. John 2:1-12

### The Wedding at Cana

Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and His followers were also invited to the wedding. When all the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to Him, "They have no more wine."

Jesus answered, "Dear woman, why come to me? My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you to do."

In that place there were six stone water jars. The Jews used jars like these in their washing ceremony. Each jar held about 20 or 30 gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled the jars to the top.

Then He said to them, "Now take some out and give it to the master of the feast."

So the servants took the water to the master. When he tasted it, the water had become wine. He did not know where the wine came from, but the servants who brought the water knew. The master of the wedding called the bridegroom and said to Him, "People always serve the best wine first. Later, after the guests have been drinking a lot, they serve the cheaper wine. But you have saved the best wine till now."

So in Cana of Galilee, Jesus did His first miracle. There He showed His glory, and His followers believed in Him.

## Gospel Reflection

Our Young Disciple has written this week's reflection.

This Gospel teaches us to have trust and faith in Jesus. Mary had complete faith in Jesus, even though He had never performed a miracle before. When the wine ran out, nobody, except Mary, believed He could help by turning water into wine. However, Mary's faith in Jesus reminds us that we should always have trust and faith in Jesus.



## The Season of Ordinary Time



The season of **Ordinary Time** began on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January and will continue until the day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday. **Ordinary Time** is the season of the Church year when we are encouraged to grow in our daily expression of faith outside the great seasons of celebration of **Christmas** and **Easter** and the great periods of penance of **Advent** and **Lent**. **Ordinary Time** is a time to deepen our prayer life, read the Bible, become closer to the Lord in the Eucharist, and become a more holy and whole person.

## Light a candle to offer a prayer

Your prayers are asked for:

The mother of Mason and Cillian who continues with her treatment.

The Father of Miriam in Year 1

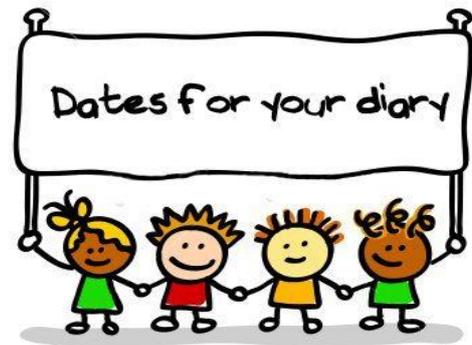
The Whyte Family

The Cooper Family

The Montgomery Family



## Diary Dates



### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Year 1 - Maths Open Morning

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Year 3 - Maths Open Morning

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Year 2 - Maths Open Morning

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January

Reception - Maths Open Morning

Jubilee Launch Livestream 9:30

### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Year 4 - Maths Open Morning

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

9.00 am – Year 2 Mass in school

### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Green and Red Group – Maths Open Morning

Year 5 and 6 Young Voices

### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Blue and Yellow Group – Maths Open Morning

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

International Week (pm)

### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

International Week (pm)

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

International Week (pm)

9.00 am - KSI Mass

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February

International Week (pm)

### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February

International Week (pm)

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Whole School Mass - Our Lady of Lourdes (IOB)

IOB to wear own clothes to celebrate their class saint

Internet Safety Day (pm)

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February

5.00 pm – First Holy Communion Meeting

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Feast of St Valentine – 4-KL to wear own clothes

Year 6 Stay & Pray

Year 1 Valentine's Disco 2pm-3pm

**Break up for half term**

## Punctuality

We have noticed that several children are still arriving late to school each day. Please remember that children should arrive between 8:30 am and 8:45 am. Arriving after this time means they are late and will miss valuable learning time.

A child arriving at **9:00 am daily** misses **1 hour and 15 minutes of learning each week**, adding up to **5 hours per month**. This lost time cannot be recovered, and regular lateness can significantly impact your child's education. We need all children to be in school on time every day, and we rely on parents to ensure a prompt start.

## Evening Lateness

Please ensure that you pick up your child on time at the end of the school day. Many children become distressed when they are not collected promptly.

### Nursery:

3:05 pm Monday to Thursday and 2:00 PM on Friday.

### Reception to Year 6:

3:15 pm Monday to Thursday and 2:00 PM on Friday.

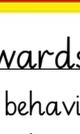
If a child is picked up late more than **three times**, the school is entitled to issue a fine of **£5.00 per child for every 15 minutes of lateness**.

## Safeguarding reminder

Please remember that if you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child, members of the public are able to make an anonymous referral to the safeguarding team within Birmingham City Council. Parents should call 3031888 and share their concerns with a duty social worker. The safeguarding leads in school are Mr Carroll, Miss Finnegan and Miss Cowings and they will be happy to support any parents in this process should they be required.

  
St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

**Our Behaviour Expectations and Values**

-  ✓ We will always remember that we are all part of the St Bernadette's family.
-  ✓ We always respect and celebrate the efforts of others.
-  ✓ We always solve our differences with love and kindness.
-  ✓ We always respect our school environment, making sure it is clean and tidy.
-  ✓ We always speak kindly and play considerately with others.
-  ✓ We are always quiet and calm when moving around our school.
-  ✓ We always show good manners to everyone we meet in school.
-  ✓ We will always try our best in our work and never give up even when it is difficult.

### Brilliant Behaviour Awards

At St. Bernadette's, we have eight behaviour expectations rooted in our Catholic ethos, which promotes positive relationships and respect. We encourage pupils to make moral choices about their behaviour and their contribution to the school community, guided by Christian values. Each week, children have the opportunity to earn their behaviour star, which is recorded in their communication diaries. This week, if they achieved enough stars, children were presented with their certificates in a special assembly. For those who did not receive their certificate, there will be plenty of opportunities to work towards achieving it this term.



### Reminder

We kindly remind parents and carers that children should only have water in their water bottles. Squash is not permitted.



### Year 2 Mass in School



On **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January** Year 2 will be leading Mass in school. We would like to take this opportunity to invite parents and family members of children in Year 2 to this Mass.

Your children, Fr. Fretch and the Year 2 Staff would be delighted to see you there. Please arrive at 8:55am for a prompt start at 9am. Mass will be finished at around 9:45am.

### Charity Fundraising

## Stroke Association

Each half term, children in each year band take the lead in charity work by adopting a charity of their choice. This half term, Year 1 has chosen to support **Stroke Association UK**.

To raise funds, they will be hosting:

- A Valentine's Disco for Year 1 children on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February from 2–3 pm. (See ParentPay for more details.)



- 'Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar', a fun activity open to the rest of the school.

Thank you for supporting our children as they learn the importance of giving back and making a difference! ❤️

## Join us for a Math-tastic Open Morning!

We are thrilled to invite you to our upcoming Maths Open Mornings this half term, where you will have the chance to step into the world of number alongside your child.

Please reply to the invites that have been sent out on ParentPay.

### Maths Open Morning Dates

Year 4	28 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 3	21 <sup>st</sup> January
Year 2	23 <sup>rd</sup> January
Year 1	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Reception	24 <sup>th</sup> January
Please arrive at 8:50 am and the session will be finished by 10am.	
Nursery	Green and Red Groups – Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January Blue and Yellow Groups – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January
Nursery parents and carers to go to Nursery via the Nursery entrance at 9am.	

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the Year 5 and Year 6 open mornings this week.

SCHOOL FUND ACADEMIC  
YEAR 2024-2025



Parents are requested to make a donation of £10.00 per child or £10.00 per family to our school fund. Log onto

<https://www.parentpay.com/>

This payment will help to subsidise the cost of some of the activities that take place throughout the school year to enhance the curriculum ie workshops and theme days, and ensure our children continue to have the broadest possible experiences in school.

Thank you for your continued support.



### Times-Tables Tribe – Glorious Gold

Congratulations to these children who have recently achieved their Gold Stars which means they know and can quickly recall all of their times-tables up to 12 x 12.

Amar	Year 3
Anayah	Year 3
Aaron	Year 4
George	Year 4
Jake C	Year 4
Emmy	Year 5
Isla-Rae	Year 5



### Young Voices 2025

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, a group of Y5 and Y6 children will be taking part in one of the biggest children's choirs in the world - Young Voices. The children have rehearsed for months and are now very excited to perform with 7,000 other children. Tickets can be bought for this event through the Young Voices website or directly through the arena, bp pulse LIVE (the old Genting arena).



### Inclement Weather

If there is bad weather, and in the unlikely event that school needs to close, please listen to the local radio stations. The school texting service, school website and the school Twitter feed will also be used to inform parents. If you do not receive a text by 8am, then you can assume that school will be open as normal. If a blanket closure is announced by Birmingham City Council then we will close. Please note, school will complete a risk assessment of the site while making this decision, it is up to you as parents to risk assess your journey to school to ensure the children arrive safely.



## Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

We are excited to share that this year marks a special Jubilee Year, celebrated by people around the world as a journey of faith, hope, and renewal. Every 25 years, the Catholic Church celebrates a Holy Year of Jubilee, and Pope Francis has called this Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Pope Francis is inviting us all to reflect on our own life journeys and the hope we carry with us along the way. It's a very special, holy year of forgiveness and mercy, a time to reset, and to renew our relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

In school, we will celebrate the Jubilee Year with a range of events, which we will share through our newsletter, on X, and on the school website.

<https://www.stberns.co.uk/jubilee2025>

*"Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Rom 5:1-2.5)*

To mark the start of the Jubilee Year, on Friday 10th January, all classes planted a 'Seed of Hope'. Throughout the year, the children will nurture their seed, reminding us that just as a seed needs sunlight, water, and care to grow, *hope grows when we trust in God's love and share kindness with others.*



# School of Sanctuary Update

*'I was a stranger and you made me welcome.'*

*Matt 25:35*



School of  
**SANCTUARY AWARD**  
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

We are excited to share a fortnightly update on our journey toward achieving the **School of Sanctuary** award. These updates will highlight the steps we are taking as a school community to create a welcoming, inclusive environment where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

## Pilgrimage of Hope: Refugee Journey

In the week beginning 27th January, all classes will have the opportunity to take part in a **Pilgrimage of Hope**, reflecting on the journey of refugees.

As part of our work for our **School of Sanctuary Award**, we will be creating a pilgrimage that illustrated different 'stations' of a refugee's journey. The children will walk through these stations to better understand the refugee experience:

1. **Packing for a Journey:** The children will put themselves in a refugee's shoes and imagine what they would pack if they had to flee their home at short notice.
2. **Emotional Goodbyes:** They will think about the emotional goodbyes that refugees must face as they leave everything behind.
3. **The Long Journey:** The children will imagine the exhausting and dangerous journey, often across deserts, mountains, and forests, in search of safety.
4. **Refugee Camps:** They will pause to consider life in refugee camps, where some refugees wait years before being granted asylum.
5. **Final Journey:** The children will reflect on the final stage of a refugee's journey, where emotions mix between relief, excitement, and nervousness as they arrive at their new home.
6. **A New Home:** At the final station, they will discuss what it might be like to arrive in a foreign land with a new language and culture.

This pilgrimage links to the Jubilee Year's theme of Pilgrims of Hope, encouraging us all to walk alongside those who are displaced, offering empathy, support, and a shared journey of hope. It will also remind us to keep our hope in God, trusting that He is with us on every journey, and that with faith, we can bring hope to others. We look forward to the children engaging in this meaningful reflection and embracing the values of compassion and hope in God.



## Miss Corkery's Family Story

As part of our work towards the **School of Sanctuary Award**, we want to share some personal stories from our staff about migration. These stories, while not about asylum seekers or refugees, offer insight into what it's like to start a new life in a different country.

My family's journey to Birmingham is a story of hard work, resilience, and the pursuit of a better life. Like many families, we've experienced big moves and faced challenges along the way.

It all began in Ireland, where both of my parents were born. My dad was one of seven children raised by a Headteacher Grandad and Granny, while my mum was the eldest of three, raised by my Granny, a housewife, and my Grandad, a sales representative.

My dad graduated from Medical School in Cork 66 years ago, and my mum worked as a medical secretary at the General Hospital in Cork. They were married in 1964, and my brother was born soon after. In search of better career opportunities, my parents decided to leave Ireland and moved to London, where my oldest sister was born.

Life in London wasn't easy. Dad worked long hours, and my mum, alone in a new city, faced hostility from some of their neighbours, as Irish immigrants weren't always welcomed. Despite the difficulties, they persevered.

From London, they moved to Sheffield, where my next sister was born. But when a big opportunity came to move to Canada, my parents didn't hesitate. They crossed the ocean, seeking a brighter future for their growing family. It was in Canada that my next eldest sister was born.

Eventually, my parents returned to the UK, settling in Birmingham, where my dad became one of only six Paediatric Surgeons in the country at the time. Today, there are often that many in a single hospital! Birmingham became home, and it's where I was born—the youngest of five siblings.

My dad's dedication to his work went beyond the hospital. He built connections with doctors from around the world, often welcoming them into our home, where my mum would cook for up to 15 people at a time! My mum was a tireless homemaker, caring for all of us and later working as a secretary at a multi-faith centre.

My parents instilled a strong work ethic in us, showing us the value of family, teamwork, and perseverance. Even in difficult times, they supported each other and ensured we had a loving home. At one point, all five siblings followed in their footsteps of dedication and service, becoming teachers in Birmingham—a testament to the values they passed on to us.

When my mum fell ill last year, we returned the care she had always given us, looking after her in her final days. Her passing taught me more about living than I ever imagined. Watching my dad grow older is bittersweet, but it reminds me daily of the importance of family and how blessed we are.

My family's story is one of migration, determination, and love—a testament to how hard work and hope can create a brighter future.

# Attendance

## Every minute counts

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

- 5 minutes late every day means around 3 days of education are missed.
- A score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed around 100 lessons over a school year.

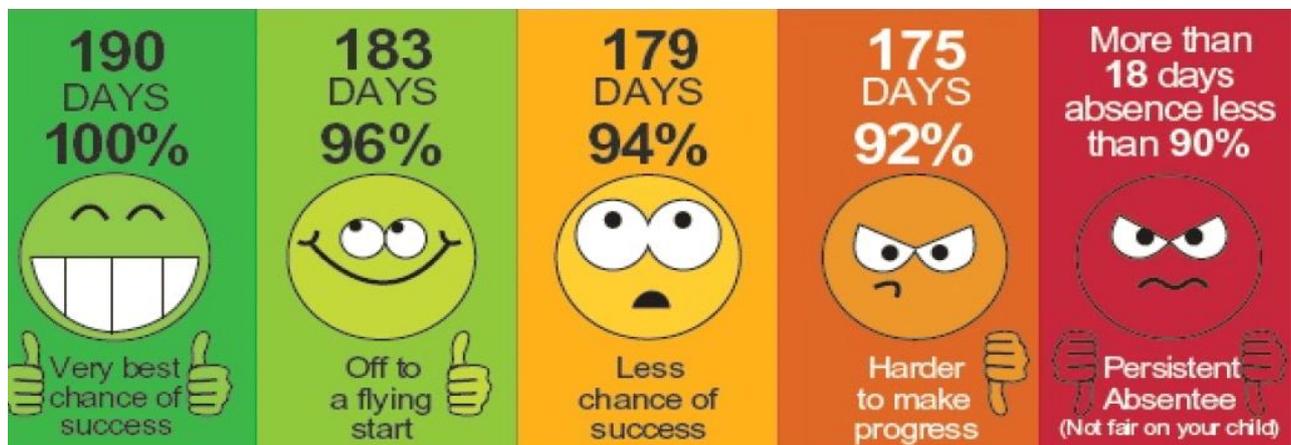
Attendance figures can be seen below. Congratulations to ICOT, 2EOB, 2SH and 3CK for the best attendance in KS1 and KS2! Also a big well done RLC for the best attendance in the Foundation Stage!

## Attendance update

We continue to track attendance every week and work hard to ensure every child in school demonstrates good attendance and punctuality. If children are to reach their full potential they need to be in school every day, unless they are too unwell to attend. **We will make home visits from time to time, particularly if we have safeguarding concerns or if a child's attendance is causing a concern.** Even if a parent has called the school to give a reason for their child's absence, a home visit may still occur. We aim to offer both support and challenge where needed, but always have the child's best interest at heart.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
91%	RSJ 92%	ICOT 95% 	2SH 95% 	3DA 94%	4RW 94%	5MF 94%	6CB 95%
	RCB 92%	IML/NL 93%	2EH 93%	3EG 95%	4AMJ 95%	5CG 94%	6LC 95%
	RLC 93% 	IOB 94%	2EOB 95% 	3CK 97% 	4KL 96%	5FM 95%	6ZB 96%

Whole School Attendance	94%	Currently, the whole school attendance is 94% which is below the 96% that is expected.
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**Special Certificates** - Each week a child from each class is nominated to receive a special certificate through the post. The pupils who are awarded these certificates have shown that they really understand what it means to live as Jesus taught us, perhaps by being particularly kind or helpful. Well done, to the following children:

CLASS	NAME	REASON	CLASS	NAME	REASON
Nursery (Blue)	Arian	For his super effort in Maths.	Nursery (Red)	Hazrat	For trying his best to listen to others and begin conversations with friends.
Nursery (Green)	Lukas	For showing such enjoyment in listening to different types of music and dancing to them independently.	Nursery (Yellow)	Tariq	For using new vocabulary such as frozen, melt and solid during our science experiment.
RCB	Chester	For amazing listening skills during our Gymnastic lessons!	3EG	Mickey	For writing a lovely prayer of gratitude.
	Ruby-Marie	For writing her name independently! You have made great progress.		Leo	For trying hard and answering questions during afternoon lessons.
RLC	Khadijah	For fantastic sentence writing in Literacy! Well done!	4AMJ	Millie-Christine	For doing well in her AR reading test.
	Darcie-Rae	For writing her name independently! You have made great progress.		Ava-Mae	For being a mature and responsible pupil.
RSJ	Layton	For his super effort in Phonics. A great improvement!	4KL	Tayah	For welcoming our new pupil so kindly.
	Valentina	For being so creative at the Art table and making wonderful junk model creations.		Stanley	For trying harder in all areas of school life.
ICOT	Helena	For wonderful work in English.	4RW	Poppy	For being a superb buddy to our new starter- Rose.
	Benjamin	For excellent answers in Topic lessons.		Rose	Welcome to our new school! Well done for settling in so well.
IIML/NL	Ella	For her fantastic answers in RE and Topic.	5CG	Beniamin	For settling in really well this term!
	Norah	For her perseverance in Maths.		Muhammad	For helping new children with the computer.
IOB	Muhammed Aadam	For his excellent effort in RE lessons.	5FM	Isla-Mae	Working so hard in maths!
	Sophia	For always being a kind friend.		Alia	For making a great start at St Bernadette's.
2EH	Ellias	For his great effort and answers in RE.	5MF	Aaron	For working so hard in all subjects!
	Ammar	For his excellent effort in Science.		Hennessey	Working so hard in maths!
2EOB	Phoebe-Grace	For being kind to others.	6CB	Olivia	For settling back into St. Bernadette's beautifully!
	Zachariah	For making excellent contributions in Topic and Science!		Ahmed	For being a responsible lunchtime helper this week.
2SH	Aairah	For trying hard in all lessons and having a positive attitude.	6LC	Nuala	For being a great support to her peers.
	Isaiah	For putting his hand up in lessons and trying hard.		Denzel	For working hard in maths.
3CK	Jaylen	For being a good role model.	6ZB	Sh'Kyah	For trying so hard in English.
	Fatima	For trying hard in maths lessons.		Samantha	For being such a brilliant role model.
3DA	Conan	For trying his best and always wanting to help others.			
	Cirear	For her excellent effort.			



# Jubilee for Schools FAQs

## 1 What is a Jubilee year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

## 2 How often is a Jubilee year?

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

## 3 When does the Jubilee start and finish?

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026.

## 5 Launch day for schools: Friday 24th January 2024

The gospel reading on Sunday 26 January is Luke 4:16-21, a key text for the Jubilee year.

## 6 Pledge Day: June/July 2025

Schools are invited to reflect on their mission and choose a date to commit to stand in solidarity with the poorest communities, sharing hope and challenging injustice by pledging to take concrete actions to make their community, country and world a better place.

## 7 Jubilee Celebration: Friday 21st November 2025

Celebrating the end of the Jubilee year and looking ahead with hope.

## 4 Key Dates



## 8 What is the theme for the Jubilee 2025?

The theme is **Pilgrims of Hope**. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

## 9 What is the Biblical background for the Jubilee Year?

The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*, which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9). In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour:

***The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Luke 4:18-19)***

After reading, Jesus announces: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus shows us what God's Kingdom of justice, compassion and freedom looks like. He invites us to join him in making it a reality.

## 10 What is a Papal Bull of Indiction?

The term 'bull' originates from the lead seal, known as *bullā* in Latin. It refers to a Papal decree which outlines the purpose and spirit of the Holy Year.

## 11 What is the Papal Bull for Jubilee 2025 called?

The Bull is titled "*Spes non confundit*" (Hope does not disappoint) and urges us to look for signs of hope in the world around us and work for peace and justice.

## 12 What is a Holy Door?

The beginning of the Jubilee Year is marked by the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. It is only during a Jubilee Year that these doors are opened.

## 13 What is the Year of Prayer?

In preparation for the Jubilee Year, 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. He asks us all to join in a great "symphony of prayer" and "to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord".

## 14 What do Catholics do in a Jubilee year?

The Jubilee Year is an opportunity to respond to God's call to turn to him and to pursue justice, to renew our relationship with God, with our neighbours, and with the earth itself.

Often people will go on pilgrimage during a Jubilee year, to Rome or another holy site.



## 15 How can schools get involved?

There are lots of opportunities to be involved! The Pilgrims of Hope map will give you some flexible ideas for joining together with schools across England and Wales in the Jubilee year, including opportunities for prayer, learning and action.

Visit [jubilee-schools.org.uk](http://jubilee-schools.org.uk) for all the resources.

Coming soon! Order your free Jubilee Journey Map

## 16 What is a Jubilee pledge?

A pledge is a solemn promise, a commitment to undertaking a specific course of action. The Jubilee Pledge is a commitment that all schools are invited to make during this Jubilee year, to walk in solidarity with our global family, and to be agents of change in the world.

**The Jubilee Pledge:**

**We are pilgrims of hope. We walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers worldwide, sharing challenges and celebrating joys. We promise to be agents of change, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally. We want to build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth, can flourish.**

