



Opportunity for the Jubilee Indulgence in All Parish Churches

"Now the time has come for a new Jubilee, when once more the Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ."

Thus writes Pope Francis in the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee Year 2025, *Spes non confundit* (*Hope Does Not Disappoint*, 6). On Christmas Eve, the Pope opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, and on Sunday, December 29, the Jubilee Year was inaugurated in local churches around the world, including the Diocese of Helsinki in Finland. During the Jubilee Year, the Church calls all of us to step into a new life that comes from encountering Jesus Christ.

During the Jubilee Year, the faithful have the opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence by making a pilgrimage, especially to the Papal Basilicas in Rome. In addition, the cathedral of each diocese is designated as a place where one can obtain the indulgence. However, the diocesan bishop may also designate other shrines for this purpose. For this Jubilee Year of 2025, I have decided that all eight parish churches of the Diocese of Helsinki (including the chapels of St. Michael and the Sacred Heart) shall be destinations for the pilgrimage of hope and places where the plenary indulgence can be obtained.

The Jubilee indulgence can be gained by confessing one's sins, receiving Holy Communion in the church, and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father. It is also recommended to recite the *Our Father* and the *Hail Mary*. To obtain the indulgence, it is necessary for the faithful to be in a state of grace and detached from all sin.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation cleanses us of the guilt of our sins, but an indulgence removes the traces of sin in the human soul. Thus, an indulgence "helps us understand God's boundless mercy," as the Holy Father writes. "Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms "mercy" (*miseriordia*) and "indulgence" (*indulgentia*) were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds." (*Spes non confundit*, 23).

The faithful may obtain one indulgence per day under the above conditions. The indulgence can be applied either to oneself or for the benefit of a deceased person.

Ultimately, only Christ "is Himself 'our indulgence'," as Pope Paul VI wrote (see *Spes non confundit*, 23). Through His Church, Christ mediates to us the infinite mercy of the Father. May we all, through this encounter with mercy, become pilgrims of hope in the midst of the world!

Helsinki, January 3, 2025, Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

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