

Catechesis on the Jubilee Indulgence

During the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis is inviting all Christians to experience God's love and mercy more deeply. This Jubilee is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal, especially in a world still facing violence and suffering. The Holy Father emphasizes the importance of hope and mercy, urging people to rediscover the signs of God's presence in the world today.

One of the central elements of the holy year is the **Jubilee Plenary Indulgence**, a special grace offered to the faithful. The Indulgence is linked to God's infinite mercy and is seen as a way for individuals to experience the forgiveness of sins. The Indulgence can be granted to those who are truly repentant and have purified their souls through the Sacrament of Penance and Holy Communion. It can be applied to help souls in Purgatory as well.

This is how an indulgence is defined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

“An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.” (CCC 1471)

Ways to Obtain the Jubilee Indulgence

Pilgrimages

Pilgrims may obtain the Jubilee Indulgence by visiting specific sacred places, such as the four Major Papal Basilicas in Rome (St. Peter's in the Vatican, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul's Outside the Walls) or other designated pilgrimage sites worldwide, including Cathedral churches and other designated churches, shrines, and grottos such as those noted in this Pilgrim's Guide.

Devoutly participating in Holy Mass and other spiritual activities like the Via Crucis (Way of the Cross), the Marian Rosary, the recitation of the Akathist hymn, and celebrating the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) will help pilgrims receive the Jubilee Indulgence.

Pious Visits to Sacred Places

Likewise, the Jubilee Indulgence may be obtained by visiting designated sacred places for Eucharistic adoration, prayer, and meditative reflection. This can be done individually or in groups and should include praying the Our Father (Lord's Prayer), the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God.

Works of Mercy and Penance

In addition, acts of mercy and works of charity, such as visiting the sick, prisoners, the lonely, or feeding the hungry and assisting the poor and others in need can lead to the Indulgence. The faithful are encouraged to practice penance and offer personal sacrifice, including fasting in various forms, avoiding distractions, supporting the defense and protection of human life, and donating money to help those in need.

Special Considerations

Those who cannot travel, such as the sick, elderly, or imprisoned, may receive the Jubilee Indulgence by spiritually uniting themselves with the holy year celebrations through prayer and offering up their sufferings. The faithful can receive the Jubilee Indulgence twice in one day if they receive Holy Communion a second time and have specifically carried out an act of charity for the souls in Purgatory.

Additional Opportunities

Priests have been asked to widen their availability to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance during the Jubilee Year. Such opportunities will be announced for the seasons of Lent and Advent and, as the year unfolds, for additional pilgrimage events within the Roman Catholic Archdioceses of St. Boniface and Winnipeg, and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg. In addition, each archbishop on appropriate days and occasions will announce further opportunities in which they will impart the *Papal Blessing* with the attached plenary indulgence, obtainable by the faithful who receive this *Blessing* under the usual conditions.

(cf. Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary N. 240513f)

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