



10 February 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Re: Jubilee Year Places of Pilgrimage and Indulgences

As we journey together during the Jubilee Year, I encourage you to become familiar with the Papal Bull of Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*- “*Hope does not disappoint*”. This year provides an opportunity for personal and communal renewal and calls us to be “tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardship of any kind” (*Spes non confundit, 10*).

As part of this renewal, it is customary during years of Jubilee for the Church to make indulgences available for the faithful. Indulgences are gifts of grace of God’s mercy and can be acquired through pilgrimage, visiting sacred places and works of mercy. These indulgences are outlined by the Apostolic Penitentiary for the 2025 Jubilee Year.

When making a pilgrimage or visiting a designated diocesan church of pilgrimage during the Jubilee Year the faithful will be able to obtain a Jubilee Indulgence. As I have already communicated, the following churches are our Places of Pilgrimage in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle:

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West
- St Mary Star of the Sea, Newcastle
- St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland
- St Joseph’s, East Maitland
- St Joseph’s, Murrurundi
- Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace, Scone
- Saints Patrick & Brigid, Cooranbong
- Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Taree

All pilgrims who comply with the usual conditions for an indulgence ie. receive the Sacrament of Penance, attend Mass, receive the Most Holy Eucharist and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (all preferably on the same day or otherwise close to the day) will receive a full Jubilee Indulgence upon pilgrimage to any of the churches designated above.

In addition, the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence through spiritual exercises, formation and engaging in the corporal works of mercy according to the usual spiritual, sacramental and prayer conditions.

May this Holy Year be marked by a hope that does not fade and spreads to all who need it in our world.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the letters 'MK' and a long, sweeping flourish.

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy  
**Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle**

+MK/ed