

Theme of the Week - Listen

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. The 2025 Jubilee Year, also called the "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee, is a special year of grace and renewal in the Catholic Church, announced by Pope Francis. Its primary purpose is to encourage Catholics worldwide to deepen their faith, rediscover hope, and embrace the call to pilgrimage—both physically and spiritually—on their journey toward God. The Jubilee Year is an invitation for Catholics to renew their relationship with God through prayer, reflection, and the sacraments, particularly the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It aims to foster a deeper commitment to living out the Gospel in daily life. The theme "Pilgrims of Hope" emphasizes hope in the face of global challenges such as conflict, inequality, and environmental crises. It invites individuals and communities to find strength and renewal in God's promises, reinforcing the belief that Christ is the ultimate source of hope.

This passage, from Luke 4:14-21, is rich in meaning and serves as a powerful declaration of Jesus' mission and identity. By reading from Isaiah, Jesus declares His purpose: to bring good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, healing to the blind, and to proclaim the Lord's favour. This is a clear statement of His mission to bring spiritual and physical restoration to humanity. By saying, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing," Jesus reveals that He is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy, affirming that He is the Messiah sent by God to bring salvation. The "poor," "prisoners," "blind," and "oppressed" mentioned are not only literal but also symbolic of spiritual realities. Jesus came for all who are marginalized, broken, or in need of God's grace, making His mission one of radical inclusivity. This reflects God's love for all, especially the vulnerable and overlooked. The "year of the Lord's favour" refers to the Jubilee year in Jewish tradition, a time of liberation, forgiveness, and restoration. Jesus presents Himself as the bringer of a new spiritual Jubilee, offering freedom from sin and the restoration of humanity's relationship with God.

The gospel passage from Luke connects to many virtues from our Pupil Profile, including being **Faith-filled** and **Hopeful**:

This passage highlights Jesus' **faithfulness** to His mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit. He confidently declares Himself as the fulfilment of prophecy, demonstrating trust in His identity and purpose. This invites reflection on how we can live with **faith** in our own calling, trusting God to guide and empower us in challenges we face, including education and relationships at school.

The Gospel passage is also a message of profound **hope**, as Jesus proclaims liberation, healing, and restoration. This promise assures believers that even in moments of struggle or adversity, God's presence brings transformation and renewal. It is a reminder to remain **hopeful** in difficult times, knowing that challenges can lead to growth and that we are never alone.

Listen

Weekly Reflections
26th January 2025
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



From the Gospel of Luke (1: 1-4, 4: 14-21)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, You sent Jesus to bring good news and healing to a broken world. Fill us with faith to trust in Your plan and hope to see Your work in our lives, especially in challenging times. Help us to share Your love and bring hope to those around us.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Day 1

Discuss with students the Jubilee year of Pilgrims of Hope (Blue text on 1st page).

Then, reflect on the following question: Think about a time when something felt impossible or too difficult—how did you overcome it, and how did **hope** help you move forward?

Day 2

What do you think Jesus means when he says "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" after reading Isaiah's prophecy?

Day 3

Jesus trusted in His mission, even when it was challenging. How can you remain **faith-filled** and **hopeful** in yourself and your abilities, especially when facing difficulties in or out of school?

Catholic Social Teaching - Dignity of Work and Participation

We respect the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Church teaching has upheld the dignity of work and participation. The human person should always come before the pursuit of profit. Workers have the right to join trade unions, to a just wage, to spend time with their families and to rest. Work is an essential part of our human dignity and everyone has the right to participate.

"It is essential that we continue to prioritise the goal of access to steady employment for everyone, no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning" - Pope Francis

How this half term can you promote the Dignity of Work and Participation in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?