

Year of Jubilee

# Visiting a Jubilee Church



## Information Leaflet for Communities



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

## The Year of Jubilee 2025 is a beacon of hope.

*We're all invited into an encounter with Jesus Christ, as his disciples of mercy, forgiveness, and social action, and to celebrate our communities. It's a chance to envision a better future, a future of hope and faith where mercy guides our actions. It's a time for forgiveness and reconciliation within our communities. We can take action to address injustices, support the vulnerable, and work towards a more equitable society.*

*Let's embrace the spirit of the Jubilee, and unite to create a world of compassion and justice, where everyone and our whole community can grow and flourish.*

The Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle has nominated two Jubilee Churches in the diocese

- † St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool.
- † Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle.

A **Jubilee Church** offers a space for **all people to visit during the Year of Jubilee**. Throughout the Holy Year, there will be opportunities for people to come and pray and celebrate. The Holy Door at each church will be opened during the Year of Jubilee opening rite to mark the opening of the Holy Year, where pilgrims are invited to enter and receive a plenary indulgence.

The **Jubilee indulgence**, thanks to the power of prayer, is intended in a particular way for those who have gone before us, so that they may obtain full mercy. The indulgence is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms "mercy" and "indulgence" were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds. To gain a plenary indulgence, a person is invited to complete four specific acts:

- passing through a Holy Door
- go to confession
- receive the Eucharist
- pray for the intentions of the Pope.

It's a way to show your commitment to living a better life and growing closer to God.

Individuals and Community groups are invited to visit the Jubilee Churches. Below are some suggestions that may help you make the most from your visit.

- † Mass – offering a mass intention for your group.
- † Organise a visit to learn more about the Year of Jubilee and the Jubilee Church.
- † Come and pray on our Jubilee Pilgrimage.
- † Organise a pilgrimage to start or finish at a Jubilee Church.
- † Join the local community for a warm welcome and enjoy some refreshments.
- † Join us for the Jubilee Opening Ceremony with Mass on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

### Planning a visit to a Jubilee Church?

If you are visiting a Jubilee Church as a community group or school, we recommend you contacting the office to let them know.

Please check the opening and Mass/service times on the website before your visit.

Request a mass intention if you would like a mass offered for your group.

Request a Jubilee Guide to welcome you, explain about the Holy Year and offer a tour of the Jubilee Church. Choose a day/time when the Jubilee Church is organising lunch or refreshments and receive a warm welcome and hospitality from their local community.

Whilst everyone is welcome at any time, there may be other groups planning a visit on the same day. We can get busy at certain times during the year, such as Sundays, Holy Week and Feast Days, so we recommend getting in touch to avoid disappointment.

## St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool

St Paul's Road  
Hartlepool  
TS26 9EY

Website: <https://holyfamilyhartlepool.org/>  
Tel: 01429 866288  
Email: [holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk)

Visitor opening times:  
Please contact the parish office to arrange a group visit.

Mass/service times: Please check website.

Jubilee Visitor Guide available on request. Pre-booking essential.

Our **Jubilee Pilgrimage** is open to all visitors. Bring your family and friends, or come on your own, and make this special pilgrimage around the inside of St Joseph's church visiting each of the 9 prayer stations kindly donated by the school trust.

Free parking available at church. Bus route 36. 15 mins walk from Hartlepool Railway station.



## Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle

Clayton Street West  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 5HH

Website: <https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.uk/>  
Tel: 0191 232 6953  
Email: [cathedral.office@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:cathedral.office@diocesehn.org.uk)

Visitor opening times:  
Please contact the parish office to arrange a group visit.

Mass/service times: Please check website.

Jubilee Visitor Guide available on request. Pre-booking essential.

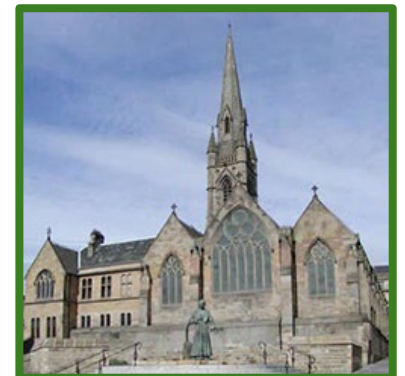
Getting here:

By train or Metro to Newcastle Central Station. The Cathedral is approximately 5 mins walk.

By road. There is limited parking in the Cathedral car park. Alternative public parking is available in Times Square car park (NE1 4AD) or at other city centre locations. The Cathedral is approx. 10-15 mins walk from Times Square.

Cloisters Café is open daily. Days/times are subject to change. Please call 0191 232 8761 to check opening times and make a reservation, if required.

Pauline Books and Media is attached to the Cathedral. Please visit website <https://www.paulineuk.org/newcastle> for opening times and what's on.



## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.  
Amen

## Creating a Digital Legacy for the Jubilee 2025

Sharing stories and testimonials can help inspire and unite communities. Picture a story of a community coming together to create a beautiful community garden or a testimonial from an individual who, through the power of mercy and compassion, discovered joy in spreading kindness to others. These narratives of hope, mercy and compassion embody the spirit of the Jubilee, reminding us that hope can flourish in every corner of our lives. Share a story, testimonial or photograph and inspire hope in others.

### Minutes of Hope

Originally devised as part of the build up to Flame 2025, and now part of the Year of Jubilee 2025, 'Minutes of Hope' has grown, with the help of its partners, to become the largest digital project ever undertaken by the Catholic Church in England and Wales. We are collating thousands of one-minute videos showing the hope our faith can bring to the world today. If you've got a story, testimony or example you want to share then upload a clip to the project and it will help inspire hope in those who see it during the year of Jubilee and beyond.

<https://minutesofhope.com/>

### Share a Message of Hope or Prayer

Sharing a Message of Hope or prayer for this Holy Year helps to create a digital legacy for our generation and for future generations, and may inspire others during this Holy Year. Messages of Hope will be appearing on the diocesan website throughout this Year of Jubilee at <https://bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

