

# A PILGRIM'S PASSPORT



A GUIDE FOR THE PILGRIM TO THE DIOCESAN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE SITES  
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CALCUTTA

Jubilee 2025

**A Pilgrim's Passport**

*A Guide for the pilgrim to the Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites*

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*Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.*

(Psalm 84:5-7)

PILGRIM'S NAME



## ***Diocesan Pilgrimages of Hope***

The "Diocesan Pilgrimage of Hope" refers to a diocesan-level event or series of events, taking place in 2025, that are part of the broader "Pilgrims of Hope" theme of the Jubilee Year, this special year of reconciliation and renewal in the Catholic Church, which was inaugurated on 29th December 2024 in our Archdiocese.

**But specifically, it's also a time for making pilgrimages – or journeying - to specially designated holy pilgrimage sites, symbolising spiritual renewal and the path to salvation.**

## *Why do we go on pilgrimage?*

A Jubilee Year is traditionally proclaimed by the Universal Church every 25 years. It is a particular year set aside to encourage the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, to repent of their sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on the spiritual life. *In fact, the pilgrimage is the most important sign of the Jubilee.*

### *The Pilgrimage*

- Transforms our own spiritual life, from mundane to an alive faith
- Experience of conversion toward the holiness of God
- Challenge ourselves to step outside boundaries
- Contemplate in Biblical Journeys; like that of Abraham (Genesis 12:1), (Deuteronomy 26:5)
- Contemplate of the Journey of Jesus' ministry, from Galilee to the Holy City of Jerusalem
- During the pilgrimage, one also shares in the experience of those who are forced to leave their homelands and flee to other places.



**TIP!** *Even in a Diocesan pilgrimage, choose a pilgrimage site further and unfamiliar to you!*

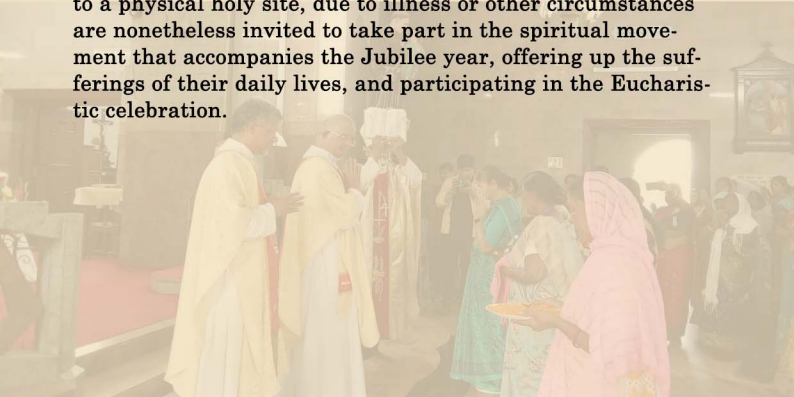
## *Types of Pilgrimages*

Your experience of pilgrimage will vary somewhat in the way you make the journey.

**Personal** = An individual pilgrimage, you make yourself. This must be carefully planned by you, including travel and stay, if intended or necessary. Advantages include spending time in the pilgrimage processes as much as you determine. For example, spending a long period of individual contemplation and prayer, and returning for another event such as Mass, and exploring the surrounding, speaking to the pastor for inputs, etc.

**Group** = Usually as part of a Church or Institution, this also includes any group of people with the common purpose of making the pilgrimage to the holy site. This is usually professionally planned as a tour, with the Pastor or Leader determining the schedule, stay and schedule at the holy site. It can sometimes feel more rushed, but has the upside of being more guided, and perhaps benefit from the spiritual and organisational support of a group.

**Spiritual** = Those who cannot make the Jubilee pilgrimage to a physical holy site, due to illness or other circumstances are nonetheless invited to take part in the spiritual movement that accompanies the Jubilee year, offering up the sufferings of their daily lives, and participating in the Eucharistic celebration.



## ***Where to go?***

For those who cannot travel to Rome, designated local pilgrimage sites within their diocese will allow Catholics to experience the Jubilee and receive the plenary indulgence by engaging in traditional practices. In our archdiocese, these are four major churches designated by Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, one in each Deanery of the Archdiocese.

These are:

1. Cathedral of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Murgihatta, Kolkata
2. Basilica of the Most Holy Rosary, Bandel, Hooghly
3. Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Kamarchowki, Midnapore
4. Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Barasat, N. 24 Parganas



## *How to prepare?*

To prepare for a Jubilee 2025 pilgrimage, plan ahead, particularly for travel and accommodation, and consider joining an organised group – such as your parish pilgrimage - for spiritual and organisational support. Also, learn about the jubilee's spiritual purpose and the specific practices tied to receiving indulgences.

### **Practical Preparation**

#### *Plan early, visit early and be aware of important dates:*

An early pilgrimage date is the best, as typically, holy sites will receive a larger influx of pilgrims a few months before closing of the Holy Year. If you are planning a solo trip, and one outside your Deanery especially, book travel and accommodation well in advance. It will also be fruitful to look up any important feasts or jubilees which may impact your trip to the site, or, those which you would like to experience.

#### *Choose a Destination:*

Decide whether you'll be making a pilgrimage to your local deanery site, or travelling to a diocesan site in another deanery. Remember, though a pilgrimage isn't tourism, you will most likely want to explore and experience the areas around the site, especially if new to you, in another deanery.

#### *Join a Group:*

As a recommendation, consider joining an organised pilgrimage group, especially from your own parish, lay action group or religious movement, for guidance and organisation.

#### *Pack Accordingly:*

Pack comfortable shoes, modest clothing for religious sites, a Bible, a rosary, and a journal for prayer intentions.

#### *Register, or book, if required:*

Though it may not be strictly necessary for solo pilgrims, Groups, especially large ones should contact the authorities (Pastor/Prior/Rector/Pro-Vicar) for guidance and avoidance of chaotic crowds, which can be disruptive to your pilgrimage and a nightmare for authorities at the holy place.



## *How to prepare?*

### **Spiritual Preparation**

#### *Understand the Purpose:*

A pilgrimage is not a tour, but an opportunity to draw closer to God, seek forgiveness, and offer prayers... and receive Graces.

#### *Research Jubilee Practices:*

Study the Jubilee indulgences and the spiritual practices, including prayers, acts of charity and penance. Make sure to have these handy on your phone or in notes for reference during your trip.

#### *Confession and Mass:*

Plan to participate in Mass, Confession, and other sacraments as part of your pilgrimage.

#### *Prayer and Meditation:*

Dedicate time to prayer, meditation, and scripture reading to deepen your spiritual preparation.

#### *Forgiveness and Mercy:*

Reflect on the concept of forgiveness and consider performing works of mercy both before and during your journey.

#### *Imitate Christ's Humility:*

Consider walking part or all of the journey, to imitate Christ's humility and discover unexpected places and peoples.



## ***How to reach there?***

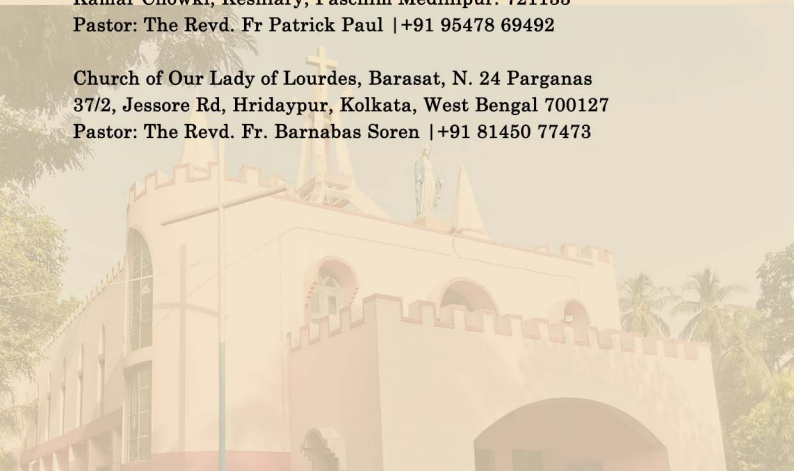
These are the addresses and contact details for each of the four designated Jubilee Pilgrimage sites in the archdiocese. Your travel will depend on distance from your location, and available modes of transport, which is beyond the scope of this little booklet. A Google search or input from a person in the know, or even a call to the pilgrimage site could be your options, though the last one should be a last resort – otherwise the site authorities may be inundated with requests, without enough resources to handle these.

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Murgihatta, Kolkata  
13,15 Brabourne Rd, Bara Bazar, Kolkata, West Bengal 700007  
Pro-Vicar: The Revd. Dr. Franklin Menezes | +91 98308 94838

Basilica of the Most Holy Rosary, Bandel, Hooghly  
Sahaganj, Bandel, West Bengal 712104  
Prior: The Revd. Fr. John Chalil SDB | +91 98361 34421

Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Kamarchowki, Midnapore  
Kamar Chowki, Keshiary, Paschim Medinipur. 721133  
Pastor: The Revd. Fr Patrick Paul | +91 95478 69492

Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Barasat, N. 24 Parganas  
37/2, Jessore Rd, Hridaypur, Kolkata, West Bengal 700127  
Pastor: The Revd. Fr. Barnabas Soren | +91 81450 77473



## *What to expect?*

Though most of the sites are expected to be open for pilgrims throughout most of the day, it is wise to take timings for a visit, especially if on a tight schedule.

Most sites are not expected to be overcrowded except on Weekends, Jubilees and other feasts.

There will usually be staff available to assist you and the head of the site or another priest will almost always be present, especially as Mass and Confessions are part of the Pilgrimage experience. But, unless a special Mass or devotion is pre-planned with the authorities for your group, attending the regular services of the Church may be your only option.

Some sites, such as Bandel Basilica are already pilgrimage centres. Facilities for stay and other amenities will be better. But at a minimum, most sites will make provision for drinking water and toilets.



## *What to do at the Pilgrimage site?*

When entering a designated Jubilee holy site focus on participating in prayer, reflection, and the sacraments, which include visiting the Jubilee Cross and engaging with the Jubilee theme of "Pilgrims of Hope"

- Unlike in the Roman churches, there are **no "Holy Doors"** at any of our diocesan sites. So feel free to enter the church through any door available to you.

- *Participate in Holy Mass:* If a Mass is about to begin, join the congregation. Else, spend time in prayer and reflection and await the Mass... an essential part of your pilgrimage.

- *Pray:* Pick a spot to sit in contemplation and pray. You can start with the Jubilee Prayer, reproduced on the last page of this booklet. The Rosary and other prayers can then be recited, either as an individual, or if you came in a Group, with the others. Ensure that your recitations do not disturb other pilgrims who may be contemplating in silence.

- *Go for Confession:* The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an essential part of receiving the Jubilee indulgence.

- *Consider meditating:* On the Stations of the Cross, or make the Stations in silence.

- *Visit the Jubilee Cross:* The Diocese Jubilee Cross is a powerful symbol representing our united hope and promise of redemption; while there is no formula for the visiting faithful to venerate the Cross, they may contemplate on this and pray. *To identify the Jubilee Cross and come before it, look for a cross identical to the one on the cover of this booklet, which is the original diocesan cross at the Cathedral. Other centres will have visually similar replicas of the Cross.*

- *Discover the sites particular devotion:* Or a shrine there, and visit and pray.

**TIP!** After leaving the main church building, you could interact with other pilgrims/groups and share your experience, or meet the Pastor/Prior/Pro-Vicar/Rector of the place. Also, see other points of temporal or spiritual interest in the vicinity, and enjoy a local meal!



## Receiving the Jubilee Indulgence

**To receive a plenary indulgence, pilgrims must\*:**

1. Visit **only** the designated Jubilee churches mentioned.
2. Detach from sin, even venial.
3. Receive sacramental confession.
4. Receive Holy Communion.
5. Pray one *Our Father* for the Pope's intentions.
6. Perform corporal or spiritual works of mercy.

You can complete the 3 to 6 either after or before the visit to the site – however it is most proper to fulfil all 6 criteria on the day of the visit.

*\*The above is the simplified requirements for the Jubilee 2025 – there are also other ways a person can receive an indulgence.*

“The faithful who are truly repentant of sin but who cannot participate in pilgrimages for serious reasons (especially cloistered nuns and monks, but also the elderly, the sick, prisoners, caregivers, etc), can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence, under the same conditions if, united in spirit with the faithful taking part in person, they recite the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any approved form, and other prayers in conformity with the objectives of the Holy Year, in their homes or wherever they are confined, offering up their sufferings or the hardships of their lives.”



Detachment from all sin, even venial



Sacramental confession



Holy Communion



One Our Father for the intentions of the pope

## *After your pilgrimage*

*Your life as a Pilgrim of Hope does not end on your return home from a Jubilee pilgrimage. Integrate the renewed faith and purpose experienced on the journey by continuing practices of prayer and penance, reflecting on the journey, sharing your experiences, and seeking to live with greater compassion and faith in daily life.*

Here's some pointer to carry the spirit of your pilgrimage into your daily life:

- *Continue the Practices of Prayer and Penance:* Make prayer a daily priority, continue with devotional practices – read the Gospels, recite the Rosary, reflect on the Jubilee Cross
- *Be an example of Hope:* Become a light to others in your daily life, practicing compassion and forgiveness.
- *Engage in Works of Mercy* and seek Peace
- *Seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation:* Make the Sacrament of Reconciliation a priority in your faith life, as Pope Francis highlights it as "the essential starting-point of any true journey of conversion"
- *Continue to Pray for the Pope's Intentions* and the Church
- *Share Your Experiences* with others and encourage them to make a pilgrimage
- *Remember the motto* "Pilgrims of Hope" and let it guide your actions and decisions



## *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

*Franciscus*

### **Pilgrim QR Code at the Pilgrimage site**

You may see a printout with a large QR Code.

Please scan this Code with your mobile device, and press the PILGRIM button, and you will be entered into the official count of Pilgrims to that particular holy site.

Your Pilgrim Count number is also displayed.