



We proclaim a crucified Christ

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23 December 2025

Pastoral Letter on the Conclusion of the Jubilee Year 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Peace be with you.

As the Jubilee Year 2025 journeys toward conclusion in our local churches on 28 December, I write to you with gratitude — gratitude to God above all, and gratitude to you, the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, for the way you have received this year of Jubilee with faith, trust, hope and generosity.

From the initiation of this Jubilee, we have been invited by Pope Francis to be *Pilgrims of Hope*. This invitation has been about recognising that our Christian life itself is a pilgrimage — lived day by day, step by step, often quietly, always together. Across our Archdiocese, many have taken up this invitation through prayer, reconciliation, pilgrimage, service, and renewed participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

I have been especially heartened by the response of our Pilgrim Places — parishes, shrines, and communities who opened their doors and their hearts to welcome pilgrims from across the Archdiocese and beyond. In offering spaces of prayer, reflection, hospitality, and mercy, these communities reminded us that the Church is most fully herself when she is a place of welcome, encounter, and hope. I thank the clergy, religious, parish leaders, volunteers, and all the faithful who made this possible through their generosity and care.

What has marked this Jubilee most clearly for me has been the faithfulness of ordinary people: people who prayed, who welcomed, who listened, who served, and who walked with one another. In these simple but profound acts, the hope that does not disappoint has been made visible — not as an idea, but as a lived reality grounded in Christ.

As we now mark the formal conclusion of the Jubilee Year, we do not bring its spirit to an end. Rather, we are invited to carry it forward. The call to be pilgrims of hope remains with us — in

our families, our parishes, our workplaces, and our communities. We are sent forth to continue walking together, attentive to the presence of the Lord who journeys with us, and responsive to the needs of those we meet along the way.

I encourage you to hold fast to the practices that have sustained you during this year: prayer that opens the heart, the sacraments that nourish and heal, and a generosity of spirit that reflects the mercy of God. May the seeds sown during this Jubilee continue to grow, bearing fruit in lives shaped by faith, hope, and love.

With every grace and blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A. Comensoli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne