



## JUBILEE 2025 IN OUR WORLD, A FAMILY OF FAMILIES

### MARFAM THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY - JANUARY: FAMILY BEGINNINGS

with an overall focus on Becoming Eco-Friendly Families as Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope.



#### NOTES:

- **Abbreviations:** Pope Francis: LS = Laudato Si. AL = Amoris Laetitia. FT = Fratelli Tutti. LD = Laudate Deum. DN = Dilexit Nos. Jub25 = Jubilee 2025 Spes non confundit MM = Misericordia Misera
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- The **2025 FAMILY YEAR PLANNER** calendar to be downloaded from [www.marfam.org.za](http://www.marfam.org.za) or ordered in printed format.

**MAIN RESOURCES:** POPE FRANCIS: *SPES NON CONFUNDIT – Jubilee 2025*, *DILEXIT NOS – The Sacred Heart of Jesus, MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE – January 1 2025*. *LAUDATO SI, FRATELLI TUTTI, AMORIS LAETITIA*,. Download from [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

Extracts from **POPE FRANCIS: JUBILEE 2025 SPES NON CONFUNDIT.**

*Hope does not disappoint. Here we see the reason why this hope perseveres in the midst of trials: founded on faith and nurtured by charity, it enables us to press forward in life.*

*Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. Hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. (Rom 5:1-2.5).*

*Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross: “For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life” (Rom 5:19). That life becomes manifest in our own life of faith, which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God’s grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit. Jubilee 2025 2-3.*

*The goal of the Jubilee “is to give an experience of the mercy and love of God.” The Vatican’s chief Jubilee organizer, Archbishop Rino Fisichella stated, “I hope that all pilgrims coming to Rome or celebrating the Jubilee in their own local Church can have this kind of experience: ‘God loves me.’”*



Extract from **POPE FRANCIS MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE. JANUARY 1. “Forgive us our trespasses, grant us your peace.”** Download from [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

*“Each of us must feel in some way responsible for the devastation to which the earth, our common home, has been subjected, beginning with those actions that, albeit only indirectly, fuel the conflicts that presently plague our human family. All these represent a threat to the existence of humanity as a whole. At the beginning of this year, then, we desire to heed the plea of suffering humankind in order to feel called, together and as individuals, to break the bonds of injustice and to proclaim God’s justice.*

**PARISH DEDICATION AND BLESSING.** A text for a simple commissioning, dedication and blessing ceremony is included that can be held in the parish one Sunday early in the year, commissioning everyone for their particular tasks.

**A FAMILY PRAYER FOR CREATION from LAUDATO SI.** God of love show us our place in this world as families and as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future for the coming of your Kingdom, of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.

**JANUARY THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY overview. Family Beginnings.** In the beginning, before the world, the sun, moon, stars, animals, plants and humankind were created there was only God, as Trinity, a community of love. God had a passion to create, to share and to love, and so every created thing came into being. This desire for creation and co-creation was implanted into every creature and through their reproductive ability our world continues to evolve. Humankind, as stewards of creation, take responsibility for care of all the families of creation. This month we can reflect on the family beginnings everywhere. How well have we cared for creation? How can we respond to the impact of our harmful behaviour on the earth and its creatures? Can we resolve to begin again, to love and renewal in every area of our lives? In the context of the Jubilee of Hope how can we as families be signs of hope to all of creation with the help of the Laudato Si Action Platform family sector. **Pope Francis:** *As never before our common destiny begs us to seek a new beginning. Let ours be a time remembered for awakening a new reverence for life, a firm resolve to achieve sustainability, quickening of the struggle for justice and peace and the joyful celebration of life. LS207 Earth Charter. May the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the door of our salvation.*

The THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY for faith sharing with a family focus use a modified SEE-JUDGE-ACT method.

1. A look at a life situation, built on the daily scripture passage and the monthly theme.
2. Read from scripture of the day and Church teaching (extracts from Pope Francis writings)
3. Reflect, share, pray, act.

The primary intention is to promote a spirituality of family life, as the normal way of being, for most people in their various family forms, and with the different experiences. The THOUGHTS can be used by individuals or together.

**Setting the scene in an imaginary parish setting.** The Holy Family parish, chose to begin the New Year with the theme FAMILY BEGINNINGS as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year and with the general focus on Becoming Eco-Friendly Families and OUR WORLD A FAMILY OF FAMILIES. Fr James, the parish priest, the PPC and the LAUDATO SI ACTION PLATFORM group invited all parish groups and parishioners to reflect and share on the given themes. In their own families – as little churches of the home and to consider how to make a good start taken the concepts to heart. “I know it is still holiday time for many of us, but making New Year’s resolutions is a good start to a pilgrim way of hope. Every individual can do so, but families are also invited to make time for faith sharing in the synodal way of dialogue with openness in sharing and listening. Doing so as often as possible, ideally weekly, is a way for making mutual decisions, family eco-planning and providing mutual support.” The MARFAM Family Year Planner with its themes can become a family liturgical calendar for family celebrations, e.g. anniversaries, birthdays, unveilings and Jubilee year events and topics.

**January 1. Mary, Mother of God. World Day of Prayer for Peace.** Mary, Mother of God is also Mother of Hope. From the moment when Simeon, in blessing her, said a cross would pierce her heart she learned to expect the pain as well as the joy of her special mission. Her hope was not naïve optimism but faith, trust and acceptance in doing God’s will. Pope Francis has chosen the theme ‘forgive us our trespasses; grant us your peace’ for his 2025, message for the **World Day of Prayer for Peace.** He made three particular proposals for the international community and all of society that can be taken up as individuals and families in our own particular contexts. The three proposals are: reducing or cancellation of international debts, respect for all human life from conception till death and a call for universal peace.

*“Each of us must feel in some way responsible for the devastation to which the earth, our common home, has been subjected, beginning with those actions that, albeit only indirectly, fuel the conflicts that presently plague our human family. Systemic challenges, distinct yet interconnected, are thus created and together cause havoc in our world. I think of all manner of disparities, the inhuman treatment meted out to migrants, environmental decay, the confusion willfully created by disinformation, the refusal to engage in any form of dialogue and the immense resources spent on the industry of war. All these, taken together, represent a threat to the existence of humanity as a whole. At the beginning of this year, then, we desire to heed the plea of suffering humankind in order to feel called, together and as individuals, to break the bonds of injustice and to proclaim God’s justice. Sporadic acts of philanthropy are not enough. Cultural and structural changes are necessary, so that enduring change may come about. World Day of Peace message 4 and 5.*

**Reflect, share. Scripture Blessing Prayer:** *“May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace. Book of Numbers 6:23-27.*

**Pope Francis:** At the start of this Year of Grace we wish to hear the “desperate plea for help” [1] that, like the cry of the blood of Abel (cf. Gen 4:10), rises up from so many parts of our world – a plea that God never fails to hear. We for our part feel bound to cry out and denounce the many situations in which the earth is exploited and our neighbours oppressed. [2] These injustices can be called “structures of sin” and arise not only from injustice on the part of some but are part of a network of complicity. Each of us must feel in some way responsible for the devastation to which the earth, our common home, has been subjected. Without gratitude, we are unable to recognize God’s gifts. Yet in his infinite mercy the Lord does not abandon sinful humanity, but instead reaffirms his gift of life by the saving forgiveness offered to all through Jesus Christ. That is why, in teaching us the “Our Father”, Jesus told us to pray: “Forgive us our trespasses” ( Mt 6:12). Peace does not only come with the end of wars but with the dawn of a new world, a world in which we realize that we are different, closer and more fraternal than we ever thought possible. **Prayer:** “Lord, grant us your peace! This is my prayer to God as I now offer my cordial good wishes for the New Year to the Heads of State and Government, to the leaders of International Organizations, to the leaders of the various religions and to every person of good will. “Forgive us our trespasses, Lord, as we forgive those who trespass against us. In this cycle of forgiveness, grant us your peace, the peace that you alone can give to those who let themselves be disarmed in heart, to those who choose in hope to forgive the debts of their brothers and sisters, to those who are unafraid to confess their debt to you, and to those who do not close their ears to the cry of the poor. From the Vatican, 8 December 2024 **Prayer and action:** As a New Year’s resolution reflect seriously on your personal response and what action is possible.

**January 2. “Tweede Nuwejaarsday”** is a cultural celebration in Cape Town, led chiefly by the coloured community, also known as Kaapse Klopse, a minstrel festival with colourful costumes, a flamboyant street parade, singing, banjos and other instruments. It commemorates the 18-19th century slave culture when slaves were given this day off to celebrate the New Year. Family groups shared, “Nowadays we do celebrate this festival, but there is also much condemnation of the evils of slavery which was the norm. Human trafficking today can also be seen as a modern form of slavery.” “But what about the wars happening in the Holy Land, Ukraine, DRC, Sudan and elsewhere. isn’t there a case of oppression and domination too and can those victims of war really remain hopeful?” “We can even ask ourselves in our families if we are fair and just to our workers today, recognising that they have families too to celebrate and spend time with. And we’re all hoping for a successful 2025 aren’t we?”

**Reflect, share. Scripture** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. PS 98. **Pope Francis.** Some people attempt to flee from reality; take refuge in their own little world; others react with violence. Between selfish indifference and violent protest there is always another possible option: that of dialogue. A country flourishes when constructive dialogue occurs between its many rich cultural components: popular culture, university culture, youth, artistic, technological, economic, family and media culture. FT 199. **Pray and act** with honesty and acceptance to promote the hope of growing unity in our cultural diversity.

**January 3. Most Holy Name of Jesus.** Bruce always felt a bit awkward talking about religion at home. Most of the family were Catholic but he had never converted from Judaism. He said to himself, “I think that during this Jubilee Year of hope, in the spirit of fraternity it would be good for me to discover more about the Catholic faith. I don't know where that will lead me, but I will do my best. I won't talk about it with the others though just yet, as they might push me too hard.”

**Reflect, share, Scripture** At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, those in heaven and on earth and under the earth. Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:10. **Pope Francis:** “The name of Jesus. There is no other name. Perhaps it will do good to all of us, who live in a world that offers us such a multitude of ‘saviours.’ Whenever there are problems people do not commend themselves to Jesus, but to others, even turning to self-styled magicians that they may resolve matters. People consult tarot cards, to know what to do. But there is no salvation there: it is in the name of Jesus. And we should bear witness to this! He is the one Saviour. We can always call on the name of Jesus and repeat this simple prayer. **Pray:** ‘Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner!’ It’s a beautiful prayer, a prayer of hope, because I am turning to him who can open the doors and solve my problems, and make me see the horizon of hope.” Choose appropriate action.

**January 4. Taking stock** is an excellent thing, for individuals but for a whole family too. It can be done at the beginning of the year, or regularly, from time to time. Mr Purser suggested, "How are we going to practise our family listening and sharing times this coming school and work year? Will we be able to programme some time into our week, time without cellphones, TV or computers? We can each talk about our own reality and plans and also consider what we can do together to become an "eco-friendly family," caring for the environment. Everyone should have a chance to express their own ideas."

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *My children, do not let anyone lead you astray: to live a holy life is to be holy just as God is holy; to lead a sinful life is to belong to the devil since the devil was a sinner from beginning. 1 John 3:7-8, 11.* **Pope Francis:** *Consideration needs to be given to the growing danger represented by an extreme individualism which weakens family bonds and ends up considering each member of the family as an isolated unit, leading to the idea that one's personality is shaped by his or her desires which are considered absolute. The tensions created by an overly individualistic culture, caught up with possessions and pleasure, leads to intolerance and hostility in families. AL 33.* **Pray:** for the year ahead that we may be open to one another and the needs of the greater world of families. Choose appropriate action.

**January 5. Sunday C. Epiphany.** Fr Michael, as a Missionary of Africa had worked in many places and had got to know leaders as well as the poor and needy. On the feast of the Epiphany he shared with the congregation, "I have often wondered what those rich Wise Men, who were foreigners and believers in other faiths, thought when they came with their gifts to the humble little stable to find Jesus the new-born King. I know the gold, incense and myrrh were symbolic but even today do we just give symbolic words or also practical help to the poor and needy? That is the promise of a merciful and loving God to everyone."

**Scripture:** *All nations shall fall prostrate before you, o Lord. He shall save the needy when they cry, the poor and those who are helpless. Psalm 72. The mystery has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is how the gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. Eph 3:5-6.* **Pope Francis:** *The enduring relevance of devotion to the heart of Christ is especially evident in the work of evangelization and education carried out by the numerous male and female religious congregations whose origins were marked by this profoundly Christological devotion. Saint Daniel Comboni discovered in the mystery of the heart of Jesus the source of strength for his missionary commitment. "Caught up as we are in the desires of the heart of Jesus, we want people to grow in dignity, as human beings and as children of God. Our starting point is the Gospel, with all that it demands from us of love, forgiveness and justice, and of solidarity with those who are poor and rejected by the world". Dilexit Nos 148, 154.* Choose appropriate action.

**January 6.** May and Paul Ceruti had been in business together for some years and the company had grown nicely although times had been tough too, especially during the Covid years. As they looked back and ahead they thought about temptations to corruption they did face and still would have to face in the battle to survive. As an "ubuntu for truth" pledge for committed Christians they decided to join a spiritual business breakfast group and invite colleagues to join in if they wished.

**Reflect, share. Scripture** *Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:5.* **Pope Francis.** *In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes logically and inevitably a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. LS 157. Love for our brothers and sisters is not simply the fruit of our own efforts; it demands the transformation of our selfish hearts. This realization gave rise to the oft-repeated prayer: "Jesus, make our hearts more like your own". Saint Paul, for his part, urged his hearers to pray not for the strength to do good works, but "to have the same mind among you that was in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:5). DN 161* **Pray:** for honesty and integrity in our business dealings and in our country as we prepare for the activities of the new year. Choose appropriate action.

**January 7. Words and deeds.** Jasmine Naidoo was getting ready for the new school year. She had been teaching for many years and felt as if she had become a little stale. During the holidays she had made a retreat and done much spiritual reading. Although she lived alone she was close to her extended family and had spent Christmas together with them. There had been some old scores to settle and she had been able to help with that after her retreat time away, focusing on God and relationships. Now as she prepared herself for the school year she decided to make a poster and

a prayer card for herself and her class. **“Jesus let us show our love not with words but with action.”**

**Scripture** *This is the confidence which we have in the Son of God that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. We know that we are of God and the whole world is in the power of the Evil One. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding to know him who is true. 1 John 5:14-21* **Pope Francis:** *We need once more to take up the word of God and to realize, in doing so, that our best response to the love of Christ's heart is to love our brothers and sisters. There is no greater way for us to return love for love. DN161.* **Pray:** Let us ask for the grace to express our love not only in words but especially in deeds. Choose appropriate action.

**January 8.** Sr Rosinah and Sr Beatrice had been at home with their families for the holidays and were getting ready to go back to their teaching. Rosinah shared, “You know, seeing that couple with their new baby after trying so hard and how everyone crowded around and were so warm and supportive was such a nice experience. I told them I think this is God's love, tenderness and mercy lived out in our own situation.”

**Scripture:** *In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be expiation for our sins. 1 John 4:7-10.* **Pope Francis:** *“He loved us,” says St Paul of Christ, in order to make us realise that nothing can ever separate us from that love. Because of Jesus we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us. (1 John 4:16) Dilexit Nos 1.* **Pray:** Let us ask for the grace to show our love in tenderness to others in deeds. Choose appropriate action.

**January 9.** Having completed his paramedic studies and qualified as a medic Jason knew he was ready to get to work, but still found himself quite fearful. “I know we have trained and practiced but what happens if I come across a serious accident and it is up to me to save an injured person's life, will I be able to do what has to be done?” All the young people that had studied fields of law or teaching were looking forward to getting to work but each one also experienced some fear of being able to handle the job they had chosen that they hoped would give them joy and fulfillment too. Fr Bruce held a short prayer service for these young people and reminded them to call on Jesus who promised to be with them always.

**Scripture:** *God is love. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, for fear has to do with punishment and he who fears is not perfected in love. 1 John 4:11-18.* **Pope Francis:** *Jesus is calling you and sending you forth to spread goodness in our world. His call is one of service, a summons to do good, perhaps as a physician, a mother, a teacher or a priest. Wherever you may be, you can hear his call, sending you forth to carry out that mission. It is part of our being friends with him. For this friendship to mature, however, it is up to you to let him send you forth on a mission and to carry it out confidently, generously, freely and fearlessly. If you stay trapped in your own comfort zone, you will never really find security; doubts and fears, sorrow and anxiety will always loom on the horizon. Those who do not carry out their mission on this earth will find not happiness, but disappointment. Never forget that Jesus is at your side at every step of the way. He will not cast you into the abyss, or leave you to your own devices. He will always be there to encourage and accompany you. He has promised, and he will do it: “For I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt 28:20).* DN 213 **Pray:** Let us ask for the grace to grow in trust and never to be afraid. Choose appropriate action.

**January 10th.** Fr James thought to himself, “There is Sunday love and Monday love. Just look at all those people there in the church, singing and dancing and getting quite carried away. They say they love God and sing about how much they love God. Then on Monday in their workplaces and schools they fight each other even over small things. At home they don't pay attention or talk nicely to each other and there is so much conflict, especially of course when there is alcohol involved. Aren't we all just being hypocrites? What kind of love is that if it is without real interest in and concern for the other person?” **Reflect, share. Scripture:** *“If anyone says ‘I love God’ and hates his brother he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. Every one who loves the parent loves the one begotten by him. 1 John 4:19.* **Pope Francis:** *Entering into the heart of Christ, we feel loved by a human heart filled with affections and emotions like our own. Jesus' human will freely choose to love us, and that spiritual love is flooded with grace and charity. When we plunge into the depths of his heart, we find ourselves overwhelmed by the immense glory of his infinite love as the eternal Son, which we can no longer separate from his human love. It is precisely in his human love, and not apart from it, that we encounter his divine love: we discover “the*

*infinite in the finite*". DN 67 LS14 **Pray:** for openness to one's calling and the needs of the Church and the world. Choose appropriate action.

**January 11. Eternal life.** The family had been taken with the saying, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" when they attended the Christmas services and had decided to make a poster of the saying and put it up to remind them. Little did they know that on the way back from spending Christmas visiting their family they would be involved in an accident. Patricia was killed and the others in the car had various injuries. Later Amon shared, "Knowing she is with Jesus was God's merciful gift that kept us going through the long recovery process we underwent. I can't stop thanking God for that."

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *This is the testimony that God gave us eternal life and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life, he who has not the Son of God has not life. 1 John 5:5-13. Pope Francis: JUBILEE Sacred Scripture states: "You have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins, so that when we are judged, we may expect mercy" ( Wis 12:19.22). In the words of Benedict XVI: "At the moment of judgement we experience and we absorb the overwhelming power of his love over all the evil in the world and in ourselves. The pain of love becomes our salvation and our joy". Judgement, then, concerns the salvation in which we hope and which Jesus has won for us by his death and resurrection. It is meant to bring us to a definitive encounter with the Lord. The evil we have done cannot remain hidden; it needs to be purified in order to enable this definitive encounter with God's love. Here we begin to see the need of our prayers for all those who have ended their earthly pilgrimage, our solidarity in an intercession that is effective by virtue of the communion of the saints, and the shared bond that makes us one in Christ. 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. Jub25 22. Pray:* for peace and openness to one's calling and the needs of the Church and the world. Choose appropriate action.

**12 January. BAPTISM OF THE LORD C.** Paulette wrote to her friend, "I know that the Sacrament of Baptism is an initiation into the Christian family, as the Church also describes itself. All our children were baptised as babies and confirmed later on. When Michael chose to join the liberation army because as he said, he really believed in freedom and dignity for all I supported him but also feared for his life. Soon after joining he wrote to us trying to explain his experience, 'it was like a baptism of fire for me; I felt a sense of belonging and of sacrificing for a cause I believed in.' We still worried about his safety but repeating the words of the gospel made us proud and gave us some of God's strength."

**Reflect, share. Scripture** *He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved son, with you I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22. Pope Francis. In contemplating the pierced heart of the Lord, who "took our infirmities and bore our diseases" ( Mt 8:17), we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others, and confirmed in our efforts to share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love. DN169. JUBILEE The Second Vatican Council says of hope that, "when people are deprived of this divine support, and lack hope in eternal life, their dignity is deeply impaired, as may so often be seen today. The problems of life and death, of guilt and suffering, remain unsolved, so that people are frequently thrown into despair". [14] We, however, by virtue of the hope in which we were saved, can view the passage of time with the certainty that the history of humanity and our own individual history are not doomed to a dead end or a dark abyss, but directed to an encounter with the Lord of glory. Pray:* for an understanding of "the demands of baptism. Choose appropriate action. .

**January 13.** Many of the parish prayer groups had taken up watching the very popular religious TV series THE CHOSEN. It is watched by millions of Christians, and while historical its attraction largely is that it depicts Jesus and his followers in very real relatable terms. Jesus chose his disciples from among ordinary people like fishermen, a tax collector and simple men and women too. Our baptism also makes us his chosen people. Infant baptism is not a personal choice but a time comes when personal responsibility is required for living one's Christian life in hope and grace. **Reflect, share. Scripture:** *Passing by the Sea of Galilee Jesus saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net in the sea because they were fishermen.. And he said to them, "follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:14-20. Pope Francis: JUBILEE In addition to finding hope in God's grace, we are also called to discover hope in the signs of the times that the Lord gives us. As the Second Vatican Council observed: "In every age, the Church has the responsibility of reading the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel. In this way, in language*

*adapted to every generation, she can respond to people's persistent questions about the meaning of this present life and of the life to come, and how one is related to the other". We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope. Jub25 7. Pray: for openness to one's calling and the needs of the Church and the world. Choose appropriate action.*

**January 14. Unclean spirit.** Norma had not chosen to become a sex worker. As a teenager she had been lured into prostitution by the promise of a job as a way out of the poverty of her family. By 18 she had become disgusted by the lifestyle. It was when by chance she visited the local church and heard the powerful message that was being preached that she was challenged to change. "I can be made clean. Jesus remove this unclean spirit within me," she prayed under the guidance of the sister at Mercy House who had become like a mother to her.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *You have made man/woman little lower than the angels, with glory and honour you crowned him/her. With authority he commands even unclean spirits and they obey him. Mark 1:21-28. Pope Francis: JUBILEE May the Christian community always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future. May the Lord's words in the great parable of the Last Judgement always find an echo in our hearts: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" for "just as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me" (Mt 25:35.40). Jub25 14. Pray: for mercy, forgiveness and openness to the needs of the Church and the world. Choose appropriate action.*

**15 January.** Why do **mothers-in-law** have such a bad reputation? The group of women decided that talking it through with daughters-in-law would be a good start in resolving some of this negative attitude. "Maybe we are to blame, or maybe it is the young ones who want greater independence and feel threatened. Most likely both sides are responsible in a way. Let's give it a try this year for a start."

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever and immediately they told him of her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up and the fever left her and she served them. Mark 1:29-39.*

**Pope Francis.** *The larger family includes in-laws and all the relatives of the couple. One particularly delicate aspect of love is learning not to view these as competitors, threats or intruders. AL198 JUBILEE During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope. The elderly, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned, also deserve signs of hope. Esteem for the treasure that they are, their life experiences, their accumulated wisdom and the contribution that they can still make, is incumbent on the Christian community and civil society, which are called to cooperate in strengthening the covenant between generations. Jubilee 2025. 14. Pray: for openness to building loving relationships in the Church and the world. Choose appropriate action.*

**16 January. What did we learn** about pandemics and how to prevent and deal with them. In the more recent ebola scare in a number of countries there was a lot of fear, linked with some of their cultural practices. A body has to be washed before burial, but touching body fluids is the greatest risk of infection. Mixed emotions surround disease and disabilities of all kinds and families can have great difficulty in coming to terms with acceptance in such cases. The nurses' sodality made it their life's work to address this issue with families.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *A leper came to Jesus begging him and kneeling said to him, "If you will you can make me clean." Mark 1:40. Pope Francis. The works of mercy are "handcrafted." our hands can craft them in a thousand ways. MM20. JUBILEE Inclusive attention should also be given to all those in particularly difficult situations, who experience their own weaknesses and limitations, especially those affected by illnesses or disabilities that severely restrict their personal independence and freedom. Care given to them is a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope that calls for the choral participation of society as a whole. Jub25.11. Pray: for openness to the needs of those most vulnerable in the Church and the world. Choose appropriate action.*

**17 January. Forgiveness.** Portia reflected, "I'm not sure what children are taught in catechism these days but I distinctly remember growing up with a belief that only God can forgive. It was much later on that I realised I that we all have the power and even the duty to forgive others. We say that in the Our Father. I can think of two examples. Remember Oscar Pistorius who shot and killed his girlfriend and Janus Walusz who shot Chris Hani. I was impressed

reading in the paper that Reeva's mother said she has forgiven Oscar Pistorius for killing her daughter because she is a Christian and she has to forgive. What is the situation with Christ Hani and his family? There seemed to be no willingness to forgive and parole was refused many times. Walusz was finally deported. Is forgiveness a very complex but also a very mature adult quality?."

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** "Child your sins are forgiven. Now some scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts. "Is this blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone? Mark 2:1-12. **Pope Francis.** *Only God forgives sins, but he asks that we be ready to forgive others even as he has forgiven us. MM8. JUBILEE Part of this spirit of reparation to the Heart of Jesus is the custom of asking forgiveness from our brothers and sisters, which demonstrates great nobility amid our human weakness. Asking forgiveness is a means of healing relationships, for it "re-opens dialogue and manifests the will to re-establish the bond of fraternal charity. It touches the heart of our brother or sister, brings consolation and inspires acceptance of the forgiveness requested. Even if the irreparable cannot be completely repaired, love can always be reborn, making the hurt bearable". DN187 Pray:* for willingness to forgive Choose appropriate action.

**18 January. Sinners.** Jock said, "Have you ever wondered why so many "tax collectors and sinners" were so keen to follow Jesus? Was it because of a guilty conscience or because they were treated as outcasts and found him open to accepting them? What is a sin, and who is a sinner anyway?" In the gospel Matthew just left his job and up and followed. Zacheus even offered to make up for anything unjust and pay back what he overcharged as a Roman tax collector. Admitting you are wrong can be one of the most difficult things to do and then on top of that making up for the wrong you did is even harder. That is true mercy. Don't we see the need for that all the time around us, even at home and very much in nature? Going to confession can then become a new beginning.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *As he sat at table in his house many tax collectors and sinners were sitting with Jesus and his disciples for there were many who followed him. "I came not to call the righteous but sinners." Mark 2:13-17. Pope Francis.* *Let us open our hearts and trust in God's love for us. It accompanies us and remains with us despite our sins. MM 5. JUBILEE The intention of reparation, to make amends, and to do so in a concrete way, is essential for the process of reconciliation and a return to peace of heart." Good intentions are not enough. There has to be an inward desire that finds expression in our outward actions. Reparation, if it is to be Christian, to touch the offended person's heart and not be a simple act of commutative justice, presupposes two demanding things: acknowledging our guilt and asking forgiveness... It is from the honest acknowledgment of the wrong done to our brother or sister, and from the profound and sincere realization that love has been compromised, that the desire to make amends arises". DN 184-5. Pray:* for openness to making reparation when needed in the Church and the world. Choose appropriate action.

**January 19. Sunday 2C.** Fr Solly was a Franciscan friar. On this Sunday, speaking of the Wedding Feast in Cana, he told the congregation "We Franciscans are guardians of the holy sites in Israel. People usually think of Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem, but Cana is where Jesus performed his first miracle, changing water into wine, blessing with great compassion and tenderness the young couple at their wedding by saving the family from the embarrassment of running out of wine. If you go to Cana now, selling wine is big business, but its real significance should be that with Jesus present in a marriage the quality of their love relationship changes from plain water to the best possible sparkling wine. Just image that, and it doesn't cost R500 per botte!" He then asked the couples present to reflect on how Jesus continually blessed their marriage. The rest of the congregation was invited to reflect on this mystery too, and how it could apply to their own life situation. Fr Solly concluded, "Let us all thank God for his mercy and love and for giving us the sacrament of marriage.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *There was a marriage at Cana in Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus was also invited to the marriage with his disciples. When the wine failed..... 2 john: 1-11. Pope Francis: Pope Benedict in Deus Caritas Est 11, stressed that "marriage based on an exclusive and definitive love becomes and icon of the relationship between God and his people and vice versa. God's way of love become the measure of human love." The sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely the outward sign of a commitment. It is a gift given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses. AL 72. JUBILEE. Openness to life and responsible parenthood is the design that the Creator has implanted in the hearts and bodies of men and women, a mission that the Lord has entrusted to spouses and to their love. It is urgent that responsible legislation on the part of states be accompanied by the firm support of communities of believers and the entire civil community in all its components. For*



the desire of young people to give birth to new sons and daughters as a sign of the fruitfulness of their love ensures a future for every society. This is a matter of hope: it is born of hope and it generates hope. Jub25. 9. **Pray** for those married, those preparing and for the youth that they may learn to appreciate the value of marriage for the common good. Choose appropriate action.

**20 January.** Alison said, "I've always liked the saying, A WEDDING IS A DAY, A MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME." Jerome added, "And for us the saying, "Jesus is the third partner in a happy marriage" has been very special and important too. There were some times that I was inclined to forget that and rely on my own abilities and feelings to deal with our differences. We were lucky that we had some good mentors and role models and also a very supportive priest.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from and then they will fast. Mark 2:18-22.*

**Pope Francis.** *The journey of life that leads a man and a woman to meet, to love and to promise mutual fidelity before God is often interrupted by suffering, betrayal and loneliness. MM14 JUBILEE Faith, hope and charity are the theological virtues that are foundation of the Christian life. We need to "abound in hope" (cf. Rom 15:13), so that we may bear credible and attractive witness to the faith and love that dwell in our hearts; that our faith may be joyful and our charity enthusiastic; and that each of us may be able to offer a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed, in the knowledge that, in the Spirit of Jesus, these can become, for those who receive them, rich seeds of hope. Jub25. 18. Pray:* for lasting commitment in marriages and families for the good of the Church and the world. Choose appropriate action.

**21 January. Keeping the Sabbath.** It's rather a modern way of thinking to say that the Sabbath is made for man, not man for the Sabbath. But doesn't it allow for just a bit too much freedom about whether I do or don't feel like going to Mass." "Maybe the sting is in the tail, because Jesus adds, "so the Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath," and what did he tell us to do?" "Oh, oh, trying to figure what Jesus means in some of his sayings is sometimes the hardest thing of all." "The Church keeps teaching us that Sunday Mass is not just a law but something valuable for our spiritual growth." "It doesn't always feel like that though." And so the group continued their sharing.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath, so the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath. Mark2:28. Pope Francis. From the beginning to the end of the Eucharistic celebration mercy constantly appears in the dialogue between the assembly at prayer and the heart of the Father. MM5. JUBILEE Jesus is calling you and sending you forth to spread goodness in our world. His call is one of service, a summons to do good, perhaps as a physician, a mother, a teacher or a priest. Wherever you may be, you can hear his call and realize that he is sending you forth to carry out that mission. He himself told us, "I am sending you out" (Lk 10:3). It is part of our being friends with him. DN 213. In the Eucharist the merciful and ever-present love of the heart of Christ invites us to union with him DN83. Pray:* for commitment to Jesus in the Eucharist. Choose appropriate action.

**22 January.** Mom shared, "What I like about Mark's gospel is that he portrays Jesus in very human ways. Jesus was angry and at the same time sad. That's how parents feel a lot of the time with teenagers, and maybe the other way round too. I propose that for our family as well as finding time to pray together we need to share our feelings and learn to listen to one another without judging. That way we can actually learn to experience family unity and joy. Who agrees to that?"

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *He looked at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man. "Stretch out your hand and his hand was restored. Mk 3:1-6 Pope Francis. Joy at the gift of children is accompanied by concern about their growth and education and their prospects for happiness and fulfilment in life. MM 14. JUBILEE What is the happiness that we await and desire? Not some fleeting pleasure, a momentary satisfaction that, once experienced, keeps us longing for more, in a desperate quest that leaves our hearts unsated and increasingly empty. We aspire to a happiness that is definitively found in the one thing that can bring us fulfilment, which is love. Thus, we will be able to say even now: I am loved, therefore I exist; and I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint. Jub25. 21. Pray:* for family love and commitment to Jesus and our faith. Choose appropriate action.

**23 January.** At a meeting of religious superiors Sr Malachy shared her concern about the behaviour of some members of her community. Others, men and women, echoed her concern. They acknowledged that there was not always faithfulness to their vows. "It is the same in marriage we well know, but that is no excuse for us, surely we are called to be examples to one another and the families we care for."

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *A vow is a vow before God. I am bound by the vows I have made you, O God, I will offer you praise. From Psalm 56:13. Pope Francis. Virginity is a form of love. As a sign it speaks to us of the coming of the Kingdom and the need for complete devotion to the cause of the Gospel. AL 159. JUBILEE The Heart of Christ frees us from another kind of dualism found in communities and pastors excessively caught up in external activities, structural reforms that have little to do with the Gospel, obsessive reorganization plans, worldly projects, secular ways of thinking and mandatory programmes. The result is often a Christianity stripped of the tender consolations of faith, the joy of serving others, the fervour of personal commitment to mission, the beauty of knowing Christ and the profound gratitude born of the friendship he offers and the ultimate meaning he gives to our lives. This is the expression of an illusory and disembodied otherworldliness. DN 87* **Pray** for and support priests and religious that they may be true to their vows and their calling. Choose appropriate action.

**24. January 24. St Francis de Sales** is the patron saint of the media, of journalists and writers. As a "Doctor of the Church" he wrote many books on spirituality. Journalism is a job, a career but also a vocation to seek out the truth and expose it. That can be a dangerous mission and requires great faith to speak the truth. Journalists have been captured, held hostage, some charged falsely but some have also been "captured" by a political party. Environmental activists need to speak up for the earth and "Care for our common home." Everyone should pray for mercy as well as honesty, integrity and truth in all parts of the media world.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *It was not you who chose me but I chose you and appointed you so that you may go and bear fruit that may last so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. John 15:9-17. Pope Francis. When the media and the digital world become omnipresent their influence can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously. Efforts need to be made to help the media become sources of new cultural progress for humanity. LS 47 JUBILEE In his writings, St Francis de Sales, the saintly Doctor of the Church opposes a rigorous morality and a legalistic piety by presenting the heart of Jesus as a summons to complete trust in the mysterious working of his grace. Faithful to his teaching on the sanctification of ordinary life, Francis proposes that this experience take place in the midst of the activities, tasks and obligations of our daily existence. DN115. Pray:* for honesty and integrity in the media and a reduction use of pornography. Choose appropriate action.

**25. January 25. Conversion of St Paul.** Josie had read a reflection on the story of Saul, seeing a blinding light and falling off his horse and hearing a voice saying, "Why do you persecute me?" But possibly Saul didn't actually see Jesus and it wasn't Jesus himself who was being persecuted. It was Jesus present in the Church, in his followers. Could Jesus ask you and me that question today, "Why do you persecute me, and how?" Jesus could say through abuse, bullying, cruelty to animals, lack of commitment in relationships or to the value of life, or deliberately hurting others and destruction of creation? Do we each need a conversion experience and to make a commitment to root out a particular fault we have?

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *I heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" from Acts 22:3-16* **Pope Francis.** *I thank him who has given me strength for this. Paul's words make us reflect on our lives and see God's mercy at work in changing, converting and reforming our hearts. MM 11. JUBILEE The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope. Saint Paul states this succinctly by the use of four verbs: "I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received; Christ died, was buried, was raised and appeared. For our sake, Jesus experienced the drama of death. The Father's love raised him in the power of the Spirit, and made of his humanity the first fruits of our eternal salvation. Christian hope consists in this: that in facing death, which appears to be the end of everything, we have the certainty that, thanks to the grace of Christ imparted to us in Baptism, "life is changed, not ended", [15] forever. Jub25 20. Pray:* for the need for personal conversion and a decrease in persecution on grounds of religious beliefs. Choose appropriate action.

**26 January. Sunday 3C.** Fr James asked the congregation, "Have you ever wondered what Jesus meant in that passage about setting prisoners free? "I know," one boy put up his hand." He was talking about Boko Haram. My uncle is from Nigeria and his wife is still there. She says she is not leaving until their daughter is set free. It's more than two years since

those girls were captured. They still have that “Bring back our girls” poster right by the front door.” Fr James said, “thank you. We know there were prisoners-of-war in Jesus’ days too, or maybe he was also talking about those who had committed crimes and that they should get just punishment and not be abused.”

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives. Luke 4:14-21.* **Pope Francis:** *The mercy of God is a concrete reality through which he reveals his love as that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child.* **FM6. JUBILEE** *During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. I think of prisoners who, deprived of their freedom, daily feel the harshness of detention and its restrictions, lack of affection and, in more than a few cases, lack of respect for their persons. I propose that in this Jubilee Year governments undertake initiatives aimed at restoring hope; forms of amnesty or pardon meant to help individuals regain confidence in themselves and in society; and programmes of reintegration in the community, including a concrete commitment to respect for law. Jub25 10.* **Pray:** for greater observance of the law by all citizens. Choose appropriate action.

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**DEDICATION CEREMONY AND BLESSING.** Suggested for a Sunday close to the beginning of the school and working year. It is can be linked to the Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope in some appropriate way.

**Introduction.**

**Pope Francis.** *This Holy Jubilee year is a time of pilgrimage and service. In Dilexit Nos we hear from St John Paul II, “In union with Christ, amid the ruins we have left in this world by our sins, we are called to build a new civilization of love. That is what it means to make reparation as the heart of Christ would have us do. Amid the devastation wrought by evil, the heart of Christ desires that we cooperate with him in restoring goodness and beauty to our world.”*

At the beginning of a new year in homes, school or parish many dedicated people take up their task of witnessing to their faith, expressing love and mercy. Witnessing is an outward expression of faith and is done through the tasks of worship, teaching and service in ministry to one another and to God. The parish priest, deacons, assistant ministers of the Eucharis and of the Word, members of the Parish Pastoral Council, choir, liturgy committee, catechists and teachers all have a recognized form of ministry. Members of different sodalities and many Catholics who work in a voluntary capacity in the community perform acts of service as an expression of their faith and merciful love. Family members too, as the domestic church, perform the same tasks as they pray, teach and serve each other with love and mercy as bread-winners in the world and home-makers carrying out their small chores as well as pray and play together. This responsibility follows and starts with our Baptism.

(The themes of DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT can be incorporated into the Sunday liturgy where all members are asked to recommit themselves to their forms of service.)

**COMMISSIONING** by priest, deacon or pastoral council

I commission you, the People of God, to serve God and one another as you dedicate yourselves to your particular tasks of worship, teaching and merciful love in order to build up the Kingdom of God. Through our common commitment may we build the Church in our homes, the parish and the wider community to be a visible sign of hope and God's presence in the world. I pledge my support to you as we work together in ministry.

**RECOMMITMENT PLEDGE.**

We, the People of God, in our families and the community commit ourselves to our tasks of worship, teaching and merciful love and dedicate ourselves to build up God's kingdom to the best of our ability as a sign of hope in the world.

**BLESSING.** May almighty God, the Father bless you, the Son accompany you and the Holy Spirit inspire and guide you in your tasks ahead.

**RESPONSE:** Amen

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**January 27.** The Ndlovu family had a long history and tradition. Gogo told the stories at this time. In former times the “patriarch” was the undisputed leader and young and older members listened and obeyed him as a matter of course. Then younger men had gone off to the mines to work. Women had stayed behind. Split families had settled in urban

areas where some had prospered while other parts had remained in rural areas. Politics had taken over from family traditions and conflict arose over political affiliations. Would it ever be possible to rebuild some form of family unity or the type of families that are sustainable? Do we try hard enough?

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *If a kingdom is divided against itself that kingdom cannot stand. Mark 3:22-30. Pope Francis: JUBILEE. Looking to the future with hope also entails having enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it. Sadly, in many situations this is lacking. A first effect of this is the loss of the desire to transmit life. A number of countries are experiencing an alarming decline in the birthrate as a result of today's frenetic pace, fears about the future, the lack of job security and adequate social policies, and social models whose agenda is dictated by the quest for profit rather than concern for relationships. In certain quarters, the tendency "to blame population growth, instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the [real] issues."* Jub25. 5. **Pray:** for family and community sustainability and openness to life and transmission of life. Choose appropriate action.

**January 28.** The group of widowed women met once a month to offer one another support and share the experiences of their lives. "My son has been very good to me, he sends me money but I never see him." "I have ended up looking after my daughter's children while she is at work but she does come home every night." "Without my neighbour I wouldn't have been able to survive, not only physically but also emotionally and spiritually. We are like sisters, closer even than my own sister." "That is good but also sad because I still believe there is something really special about one's blood relatives.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *At that time the mother of Jesus and his brothers came. Jesus said, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."* **Pope Francis:** *The larger family should provide love and support to teenage mothers, children without parents, single mothers, persons with disabilities, separated or widowed who are alone. AL 197. JUBILEE. The elderly, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned, also deserve signs of hope. Esteem for the treasure that they are, their life experiences, their accumulated wisdom and the contribution that they can still make, is incumbent on the Christian community and civil society, which are called to cooperate in strengthening the covenant between generations. Grandparents represent the passing on of faith and wisdom to the younger generation. May they find support in the gratitude of their children and the love of their grandchildren, who discover in them their roots and a source of understanding and encouragement. Jub25. 14. Pray:* for commitment and care for the elderly and those in need. Choose appropriate action.

**January 29.** As they took time to look ahead and look back over the years Frank and Joyce wondered about their children. Growing up all four children had the same beginnings and upbringing; school, church, catechism, youth groups. "Has the ground we prepared not been the same? Did we take enough cognizance of each of their personalities which I know are very different? Pauline is so outgoing and Michaela a quiet artistic child and the boys too, one is a great sportsman and the other has a very sensitive nature. I admit that I really wasn't surprised when as he grew up we all had to acknowledge his homosexual orientation. I know that it was hard for him too to work through and accept that in those days when it was not so commonly recognized. Today young people have probably too much insight into all those things, from school and friends and social media, even if their parents still hardly talk about it."

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *Read the Parable of the sower. Mark 4:1-20, Pope Francis: Every person regardless of sexual orientation ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration. AL 250. Christian families, by the grace of the sacrament of matrimony, are the principal agents of the family apostolate, above all through their joy-filled witness as domestic churches. Pastoral care for families needs to make it clear that the Gospel of the family responds to the deepest expectations of the human person, a response to each one's dignity, fulfilment in reciprocity, communion and fruitfulness. AL200-1. JUBILEE. Looking to the future with hope entails having enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it. Sadly, in many situations this is lacking. A number of countries are experiencing an alarming decline in the birthrate as a result of today's frenetic pace rather than concern for relationships. Jub25. 9 Pray:* for greater support for the pastoral care for families and their needs. Choose appropriate action.

**January 30.** "Is it good or bad to have or keep secrets?" That was not such a simple question. As important it is that the truth needs to be told, there are times when it is necessary to protect someone's reputation from harm. In

politics as we have seen, there is much lying and fraud that needs to be brought to light. But whistle-blowers, for their own safety may have to act in secret and sometimes even keep secrets.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *Jesus said, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a bed and not on a stand? For there is nothing hidden except to be made manifest, nor is anything secret except to come to light. Mk 4:21-25. Pope Francis: JUBILEE* In our journey towards the Jubilee, Scripture speaks to us, "May we who have taken refuge in him be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered" (Heb 6:18- 20).. *The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope which transcends life's fleeting pleasures and the achievement of our immediate goals. It makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called. Jubilee 2025. 25. Pray:* For an end to corruption and crime and a increase in trust and integrity. Choose appropriate action.

**January 31. St John Bosco.** William was a great fan of St John Bosco. He told his kids, "There are many saints who were priests and religious but there are also some saints that are recognised more as family people or concerned about family issues and children, youth, or women or married couples. I wonder if these people have a special gift from God for their particular ministry. Don Bosco was a saintly man responding to a calling of concern for youth, especially poor and street kids. He founded congregations of priests, brothers and sisters; the Salesians and Daughters of Mary to care for boys and girls and throughout the world there are many homes, schools and projects for youth. In a way he was adding to and creating a new, substitute, community family for them. Let's not forget the Salesian Green Alliance which also focuses on the wider view of care for creation.

**Reflect, share. Scripture:** *Whatever things are true, honourable, chaste, praiseworthy, think about these things. These you have learned and made your own and have heard and seen in me. Phil 4:4-9. Pope Francis: From the Document on Human Fraternity and World Peace. "I reiterate the appeal for peace, justice and fraternity, in the name of the poor, the destitute, the marginalised and those most in need, whom God has commanded us to help as a duty required of all persons, especially the wealthy and those of means." FT285. JUBILEE* "May we be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered" (Heb 6:18- 20). *Those words are a forceful encouragement for us never to lose the hope, to hold fast to that hope and to find in God our refuge and our strength. The image of the anchor is eloquent; it helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus. The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death. Jub25 25. Pray:* for the youth especially those who are homeless, unhappy and thank God for those who care for them and their needs. Choose appropriate action.

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