



A Jubilee grace: Vatican announces Holy Year Indulgence

By Christopher Wells - Vatican News

The Catholic faithful will have multiple ways to gain the Jubilee Indulgence for the 2025 Holy Year, according to a decree promulgated by the Apostolic Penitentiary—the Vatican Office with overall responsibility for the granting and use of indulgences. ... Indulgences are plenary (full) or partial depending on whether they remove all or part of the temporal punishment due to sin.

Becoming pilgrims of hope

Recalling Pope Francis’ invitation to all Christians to become “pilgrims” of hope, the Apostolic Penitentiary’s Decree is intended “to encourage the souls of the faithful and nourish the pious desire to obtain the [Jubilee] Indulgence seen as a gift of grace specific to the Holy Year.” Hope, the Decree says, “is a virtue that must be sourced above all in the grace of God and in the fulness of His mercy.” Recalling the Pope’s declaration that the Jubilee Indulgence “is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God’s mercy,” the Penitentiary says, “The [Holy Year] Indulgence, therefore, is a Jubilee grace.” After confirming that all other indulgences remain in force, the Penitentiary establishes three main ways to gain the Jubilee Indulgence: Pilgrimage to any sacred Jubilee site; pious visits to sacred places, and works of mercy and penance.

Visits to sacred places

The “sacred places” described in the second category include the Roman Basilicas of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, San Lorenzo al Verano, and San Sebastiano; as well as the Sanctuary of Divine Love (Divino Amore), the Church of St Paul in Tre Fontane, and the Catacombs. Other sacred places throughout the world include two Basilicas in Assisi, Marian sanctuaries in Italy, and “any minor basilica, cathedral church, co-cathedral church,

Marian sanctuary, or any distinguished churches designated by local bishops. The faithful are required to spend a “suitable” amount of time during their visit in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluding with the recitation of the Our Father, any legitimate form of the Creed, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Those who cannot go on pilgrimage or make a visit to a sacred place for serious reasons will be able to gain the Indulgence wherever they are by uniting



Pope Francis opening the Holy Door

themselves spiritually with those who do so, and reciting the Our Father, the Creed, and other prayers connected with the Holy Year while offering up their suffering or hardships.

Works of mercy and penance

Finally, the Decree provides for the ability to obtain the Indulgence by performing works of mercy and penance. They can do so by taking part in popular missions, spiritual exercises, or formation activities on the documents of Vatican II and the Catechism, according to the mind of the Holy Father; or by visiting

those in need (“in a sense, making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them”). Similarly, they can offer acts of penance (such as fasting and abstinence), donate to the poor, support religious and charitable works—“especially in defence of life in all its phases”—or engage in other volunteer activities.

The full text of the Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, with all the details of the Jubilee Indulgence, can be found on the Holy See website.

Every 4 minutes, a child is killed by an act of violence

The UN Children’s Fund, UNICEF, decries that millions of children suffer violence globally each year, and sounds the alarm: Every four minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by an act of violence.

Every four minutes, somewhere in the world, a child dies from an act of violence. This disturbing statistic was made known by the UN Children’s Fund, UNICEF, which published global findings on the widespread nature of violence against children. UNICEF’s statement comes as world leaders, civil society, advocates, survivors, and young people gather for the inaugural Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, taking place this week in Bogotá, Colombia. Convened by the Government of Colombia, with the support of the Government of Sweden, UNICEF, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

and the World Health Organization, the Ministerial Conference aims to promote policies, move resources, and demonstrate that it is possible to prevent and eradicate the different forms of violence against children. While it detailed in a statement how millions are affected globally each year by the phenomenon, it likewise evidenced that some 90 million children alive today have experienced sexual violence.

Greater risks for girls

Specifically, it states, 650 million girls and women, representing one fifth of this cohort of the population, were subjected to sexual violence as children. This includes, it noted, over 370 million, marking about one in eight, who experienced rape or sexual assault. In fragile settings, it points out, girls face an even greater risk, with the prevalence of rape and sexual assault in childhood slightly more than one in four. It adds that nearly 50 million adolescent girls aged 15–19, representing one in six, have been victims of physical or sexual violence by their husbands or partners in the past year. Moreover, it states that 410 to 530 million boys and men, which is around one in seven,

Photo: UNICEF





experienced sexual violence in childhood, including 240 to 310 million, who were raped or sexually assaulted.

Domestic violence

In addition, it highlights that 1.6 billion children, which UNICEF states is about two out of three children, “regularly face violent punishment at home.” “More than two thirds are subjected to both physical punishment and psychological aggression,” it states, while deploring that violence takes the lives, on average, of about 130,000 children and adolescents under age 20 each year.

Risk of death higher for boys

The findings also reveal that boys face a higher risk of dying from violence. It shows that three out of every four children and adolescents killed by violence were boys. Illustrating that the risk of dying from violence rises sharply in late adolescence, it notes that seven in ten children who died from violence were between the ages of 15 and 19—most of them boys. Finally, the UN Children’s Fund notes that close to 550 million children, around one in four, live with mothers who are victims of intimate-partner violence.

Invest in prevention to break the cycle

Given this reality, UNICEF calls the ministerial conference “a pivotal opportunity”. Specifically, it is an opportunity to work to provide greater safety for children worldwide. UNICEF calls for efforts to provide universal access to parenting-support programmes that promote nurturing care; the universal provision of safe and enabling school environments. And lastly, a targeted response: support services for all children who need it. According to UNICEF’s Director of Child Protection, Sheema SenGupta, “By investing in prevention, education, and support services, we can break the cycle of violence and build a world where children are safe.”

Deborah Castellano Lubov

Shared happiness and gratitude echoes in our mission community as hundreds of students, together with their parents, will cherish forever this benevolent gesture of yours. Together, we express our deepest gratitude to you for your generous support in providing a drinking water facility establishment at the Infant Jesus High School, Maravapatty. You remembered in our prayers.

*Fr. Antonysamy J. Maravapatty, Dindigul
Tamilnadu, India*



The inauguration of our chapel was on February, 21 2024. This was significant—it manifests the presence of the Catholic Church in this area.

Thank you for your contribution of €7,265 for the construction of Saints Peter and Paul chapel in Pawi. Now the faithful have a place to worship, calling their own a ‘decent chapel’ where they gather to hear the word of God, pray the rosary, and where children receive catechism. We are able to celebrate Mass here, only because of you and your generous benefactors. We express our sincere gratitude to you all for helping us with our project. Be assured of our prayers.

*Fr. Hailegabriel Meleku, Capuchin
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*



Can You Help?

A Borehole Well for the Suffering People

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Makulani Catholic parish belongs to the Diocese of Tunduru, Masasi, in Tanzania. We have a mission dispensary that supports the poor people in the villages. We also run a kindergarten, three primary schools, and a secondary school. The population in the area relies on water sources through shallow holes and from rain water. But it gets dry for several months each year. People must travel long distances and stay near shallow holes to get enough water for domestic needs. The elderly suffer a lot. The use of contaminated surface water has led to water-borne diseases. A water tank was installed 53 years ago, but it has worn out and cracked.

Young people are not focusing on their studies because of this ongoing problem. Makulani parish is a center for various seminars on Health Development, Humanitarian, Counseling and Spirituality. Unfortunately, it is not doing its best due to lack of water. This problem encourages abuse of our young girls and is destroying the dignity of family life. Young girls and married women who cannot afford to buy water are exposed to sexual abuse by those who sell it. We plan to drill a borehole to install water pipes for safe, clean water for the community at large. It is our hope that you will take this consideration for our project proposal that will help ease the suffering of the poor. We remember you in our daily prayers.

*Fr. Athanas Kaluah, Twara
Tunduru-Masasi , Tanzania*



Enclosed is \$ my gift for a borehole-well for the suffering people in Tanzania.

1/2025

Please remember the following intentions in your prayers:

Name (Mr. Mrs. Miss)

Address:

Zip Code Phone E-mail: