

THE **CARMELITE**

CENTRE MELBOURNE

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# The Doorway to Mystical Hope



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Weave together various themes:

- Jubilee Year of Hope 2025
- The Journey toward Easter
- Hope: its nature and types
- The SOURCE of our Hope
- Personal response in today's world



# Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

*On Ascension Thursday, May 2024, Pope Francis in declaring 2025 a Jubilee Year issued a Bull of Indiction called SPES NON CONFUNDIT meaning “Hope does not disappoint.” The Jubilee Year began with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve, 2024.*



1. SPES NON CONFUNDIT. “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years. ... For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (1 Tim 1:1).

*So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. (John 10:7.9)*

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, (1 Tim 1:1) [New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition]*

# A Brief History of The Catholic Tradition of Jubilee Years

## **Biblical Origins**

The concept of Jubilee comes from the Book of Leviticus 25 in the Old Testament, where every 50th year was declared a time of liberation and restoration:

- \* Slaves were freed.
- \* Debts were forgiven.
- \* Land was returned to its original owners.

This was a year dedicated to God, emphasizing justice, mercy, and communal renewal.

## **Christian Adaptation**

1300 A.D. Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Christian Jubilee Year as a time for the faithful to make a pilgrimage to Rome, receive indulgences, and seek penance. Pilgrims who visited the basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul were granted spiritual benefits.

Initially, Jubilees were intended to occur every 100 years.

## **Development of the Tradition**

In 1350, Pope Clement VI instituted a Jubilee at the 50-year mark due to popular demand, aligning it with the Old Testament practice.

By 1475, Pope Paul II set the interval to 25 years so that every generation could participate.

# A Brief History of The Catholic Tradition of Jubilee Years

## Significance of a Jubilee Year

A Jubilee is a time of:

- \* Spiritual renewal: Encourages deeper faith and prayer.
- \* Forgiveness: Special indulgences are offered, emphasizing God's mercy.
- \* Pilgrimage: The faithful are invited to travel to Rome or other designate holy places.
- \* Charity and Justice: Acts of compassion, service, and advocacy for the marginalized are central.

The Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica and other basilicas in Rome is opened to symbolize the door to salvation.



# Holy Door: Rebibbia Prison in Rome

"The first Holy Door I opened was at Christmas in St. Peter's. I wanted the second one to be here, in a prison," the Pope told the inmates before he entered.



"I wanted all of us, inside or out, to have an opportunity to throw open the doors of our hearts and understand that hope does not disappoint."

"May the opening of this Holy Door be for all of us a call to look to the future with hope," he said. "Let us open our hearts to the mercy of God so as to celebrate with the whole church his unending love."

"I like to think of hope being like an anchor on the shore, and we, holding the rope, are there, safe because our hope is like an anchor" hooked into the earth. "This is the message I want to give all of us, including myself: Don't lose hope."



## The Logo

### The Four Figures

The four stylized figures represent all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth.

They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity that should unite all peoples.

The figure at the front is holding onto the cross, a sign of not only faith but also of hope, which can never be abandoned. The image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking but as something communal.

### The Rough Waves and Anchor

Rough waves under the figures symbolize that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters.

The lower part of the cross has been elongated and turned into an anchor let down into the rough waves.

### The Cross

The cross in the logo is dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope.

At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope. This is what we are all call to be in this Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope.

## *Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:1-5*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand;  
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,  
knowing that suffering produces endurance,  
and endurance produces character,  
and character produces hope,  
and hope does not disappoint us,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Questions and reflections so far.

Responses to this reading?

What resonates? What doesn't?



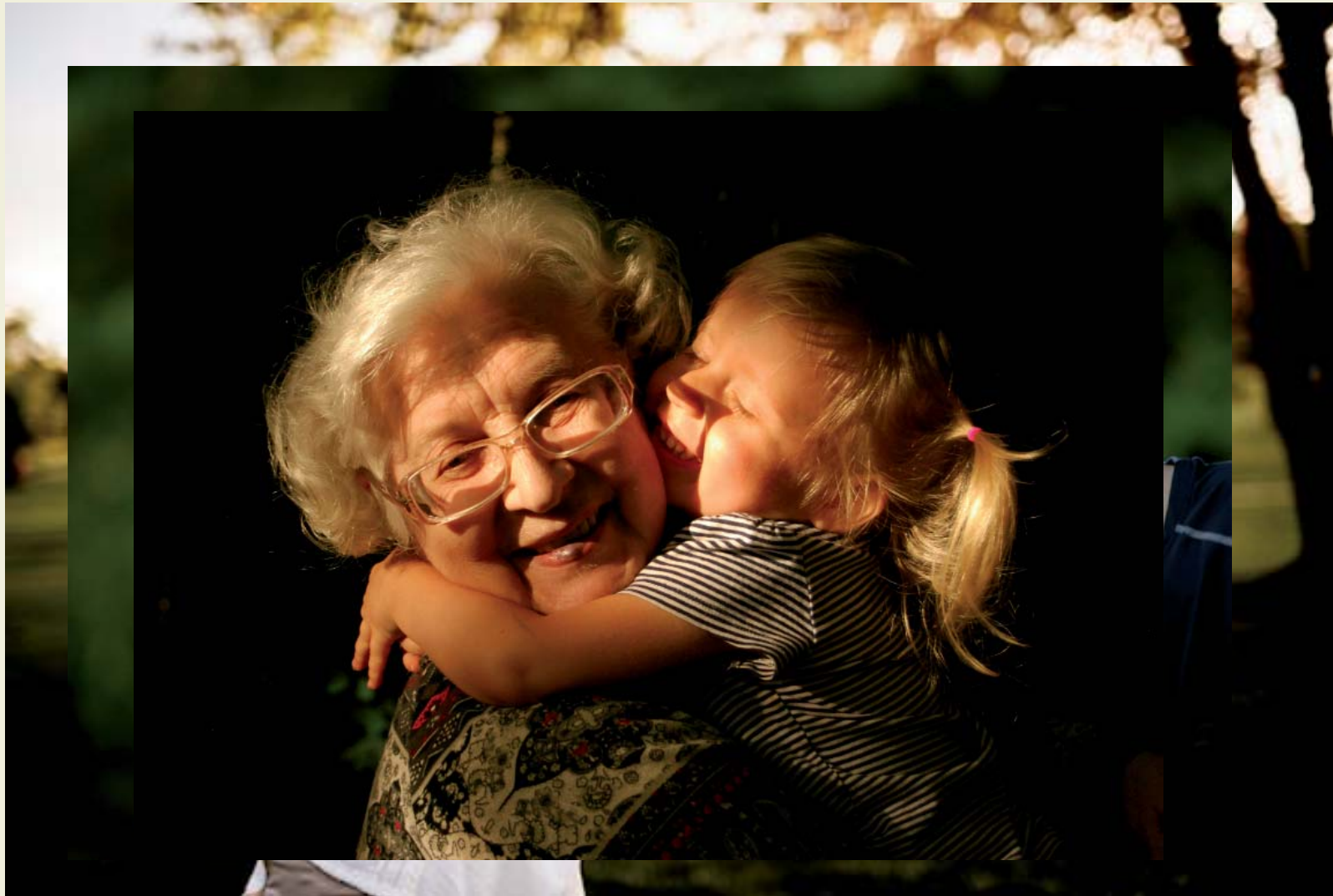
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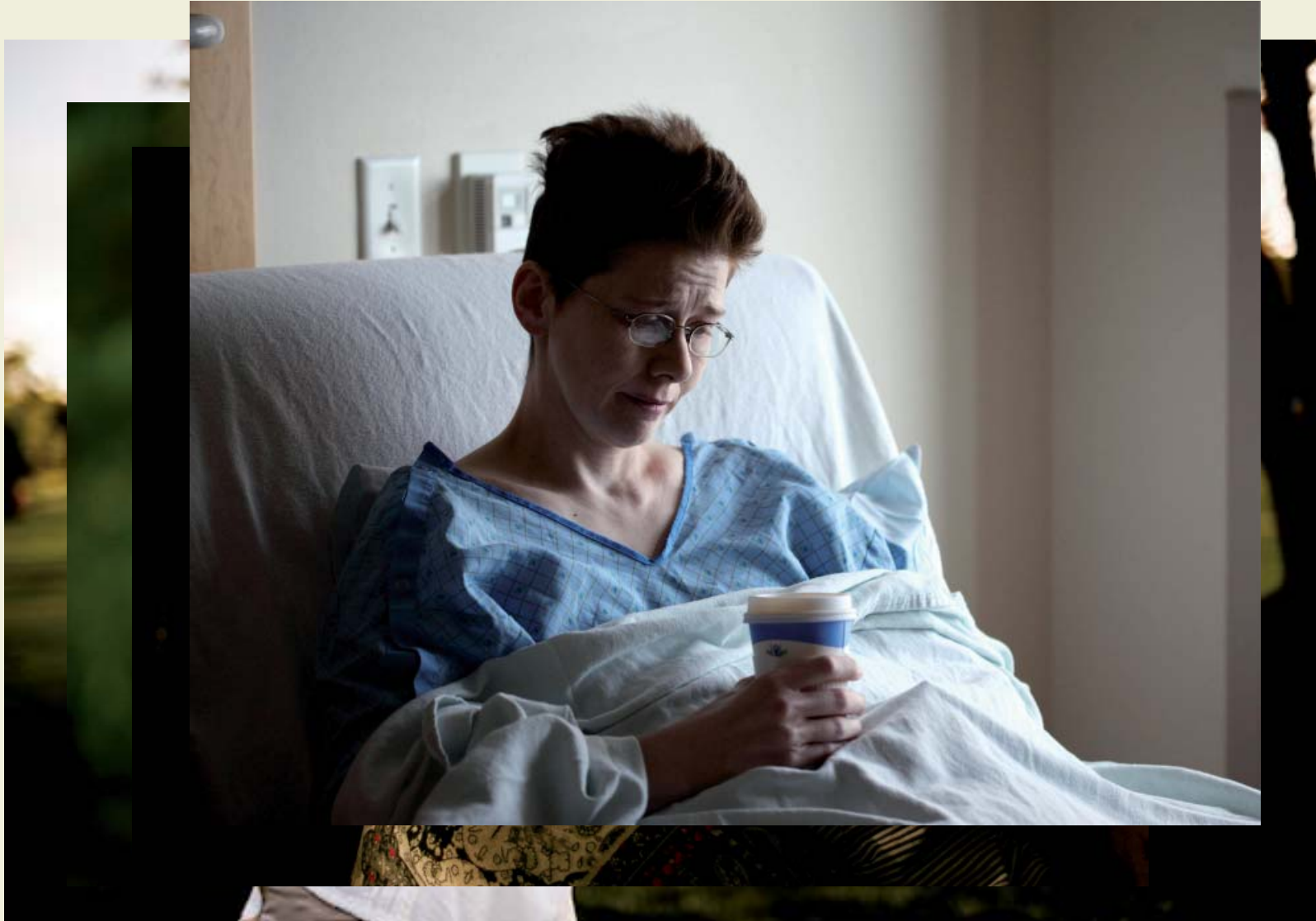
“hope does not disappoint”



“hope does not disappoint”



“hope does not disappoint”



“hope does not disappoint”



“hope point”





“hope does not disappoint”





What does it mean to say “hope does not disappoint” ?

How is it we can believe this in the face of disappointment?

What is the source of our hope?



# The Nature of Hope

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. (SNC 1)

A pre-condition for hope is the **lack** of what is hoped for.



# The Nature of Hope

Hope is the centre of the ontological mystery.

Our capacity to hope makes us human.

Our hope is not in vain *because* of a principle in reality on our side working with us to fulfill our deepest desire.

*Hope consists in asserting that there is at the heart of being, beyond all data, beyond all inventories and all calculations, a mysterious principle in connivance with me which cannot but will what I will at least if what I will is really worth willing and is in fact willed with my whole being.*

Gabriel Marcel



# Two types of Hope

**hope for** something,

“In our usual way of looking at things, hope is tied to outcome. We would normally think of it as an optimistic feeling – or at least a willingness to go on – because we sense that things will get better in the future.” Cynthia Bourgeault

“the reasons for hoping [with this type of hope] are exterior to myself, they are outside my being,” outside what I am, rather than “having their roots in the very depths of what I am.”

Gabriel Marcel

“O Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” Saint Augustine

# Mystical Hope

- Mystical Hope is not tied to a good outcome, to the future. It lives a life of its own, seemingly without reference to external circumstances and conditions.
- It has something to do with presence – not a future good outcome, but the immediate experience of being met, held in communion, by something intimately at hand.
- It bears fruit within us at the psychological level in the sensations of strength, joy and satisfaction. ... not from outward expectations being met [but] it seems to produce them from within.

# The Source of our Hope – The Divine Indwelling

and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5

Teresa – God dwells at the centre of our being.

John of the Cross – the ascent to union with God is a journey within.

Elizabeth of the Trinity – “There in the depths of my heart, in the heaven of my soul, I love to find him, since he never leaves me. ‘God in me, I in him.’ Oh, that is my life!... I so love this mystery of the Holy Trinity; it is an abyss in which I lose myself.”

# Signs of the Times

We are called to discover hope in the signs of the times that the Lord gives us. ...



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. (SNC 7)

The first sign of hope should be the desire for peace in our world ... (SNC 8)

# Signs of the Times



All of us, however, need to recover the joy of living, since men and women created in the image and likeness of God cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfilment in material realities alone. This leads to a narrow individualism and the loss of hope; it gives rise to a sadness that lodges in the heart and brings forth fruits of discontent and intolerance.

(SNC 9)

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. (SNC 10)



How can we be tangible signs of hope for those we encounter everyday?

How does awareness of the divine indwelling foster the hope that does not disappoint?

new insights? new pondering?

connections to our Carmelite saints?

to our celebration of Easter?

Responses to these questions or anything else.

What resonates? What doesn't?

What are your experiences of mystical hope?

# The Doorway to Mystical Hope

The Jubilee year calls us:

to go within and open the door

to let free God's Spirit that has  
been poured into our hearts.

to encourage others to open  
their own interior door.

to BE hope in today's world.

to believe in the hope that  
does not disappoint.

