



### **Vox Populi**

29 February 2024

As we know 2024 is dedicated to the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Church's 2025 Jubilee Year.

At the start of the year Pope Francis said this is to be a year "dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world".

Lent, which is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, allows us to intensify our prayer life, to experience the grace of the Year of Prayer and the power of God's hope.

However, the end of Lent and the solemn and joyous Easter season shouldn't mean putting our prayer life, charitable works and even fasting in neutral.

This whole Year of Prayer is about preparing the spiritual groundwork so next year's Holy Year can enrich our lives and the life of the Church and become a concrete sign of hope for the world.

Prayer enables us to be more contemplative even in the midst of activity; it opens our hearts to receive and respond to the outpouring of God's grace.

Next year an estimated 35 million people will flock to Rome for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope — the first ordinary jubilee since the Great Jubilee of 2000.

A jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church. It typically takes place once every 25 years, though the pope can call for extraordinary jubilee years more often, such as in the case of the 2016 Year of Mercy or the 2013 Year of Faith.

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on 24 December, 2024, and concludes on 6 January 2026. Plenty of prayerful opportunities in the meantime with our families, friends or communities.