



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WILCANNIA FORBES - JUBILEE 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE -



STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

INTRODUCTION

Jubilee 2025 offers a unique opportunity to rediscover our relationship with God, each other and with creation. Catholic Education Wilcannia Forbes (CEWF) is deeply committed to celebrating this Holy Year with an intentional approach that reflects our partnership with the diocese, individual parishes, schools and families, as well as aligning with the current focus on Family Engagement.

By intentionally involving families in Jubilee 2025 through prayer, outreach and formation opportunities, we are building on the existing commitment to strengthen the partnership between home, school and church, to nurture strong parish communities. This alignment ensures that families are at the heart of faith formation and that parents are equipped with the knowledge and confidence to talk about faith with their children and share in meaningful experiences of Jubilee.

CORE UNDERSTANDINGS

There are a number of core understandings at the heart of Jubilee 2025. These form the foundation for all the initiatives, gatherings and activities that will be shared throughout the year. Jubilee is a time to:

- re-establish our relationship with God, each other, and creation
- grow in love and generosity
- embrace hope, deepen our faith and draw closer to God
- transform our hearts and lives, becoming more like the people God calls us to be
- celebrate as one global Catholic family, united in faith and joy.

OPPORTUNITIES

In collaboration with our schools and churches, we will offer a variety of faith formation opportunities to help parents, children and families deepen their understanding of Jubilee's rich traditions, themes and values. Families will be invited to fully embrace the spirit of Jubilee through a range of celebrations and activities across home, school, and parish. These opportunities will include:

- **Prayer and Outreach:** Engaging in spiritual and corporal works of mercy to serve both those we love and those who are vulnerable.
- **Pilgrimages:** Adapted to the unique geography and circumstances of our communities, offering opportunities for spiritual reflection and connection.
- **Reconciliation:** Opportunities for sacramental and non-sacramental moments of healing and grace
- **Caring for Creation:** Recommit to looking after our common home.

CEWF has also identified a number of celebrations from the official Jubilee Calendar that we will take part in, including the Jubilee of Families, the Jubilee for the Poor, the Jubilee for Bishops, and the Jubilee for Priests. These celebrations will provide rich opportunities for us to connect with the wider Church and strengthen our sense of unity and shared mission.

INVITATION AND INCLUSION

There will be an emphasis on invitation and welcome. All people will be included, regardless of people's level and commitment to their faith, or if they are of faiths other than Catholic, or of no faith. Not only will this foster a sense of unity, community and respect, it will also provide an opportunity for primary evangelisation. Whether individuals participate in community events or home-based initiatives, *everyone* is invited to be part of Jubilee 2025.

CONCLUSION

Jubilee 2025 is a sacred invitation to deepen our faith, celebrate our shared Catholic identity and experience the joy of God's love as a community. Together, as schools, parishes and families, we will embrace this holy year as a time of renewal, transformation and hope. CEWF believes that to *live Jubilee*, we must first *learn Jubilee*. By understanding its rich traditions and themes, we can more fully engage in its call for transformation and renewal, strengthen our relationship with God and live each day as *Pilgrims of Hope*.

CEWF JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVES



TERM	INITIATIVES
TERM 1	JUBILEE DAY – LAUNCH IT, LEARN IT, LIVE IT!! In Term 1, schools will focus on raising awareness of Jubilee 2025. If we want to be communities who LIVE JUBILEE, we need to be communities who LEARN JUBILEE. During Weeks 1-4, schools will select a suitable day/date to promote awareness of Jubilee 2025. During the day, students engaging in various activities designed to explore the purpose and meaning of Jubilee, as well as highlight the themes of <i>hope, reconciliation, prayer, kindness, creation</i> and <i>peace</i>. Resources and activities will be shared with teachers, allowing flexibility to adapt and implement them in ways that best suit their classes. https://sites.google.com/view/cewf-jubilee-day-/home Click here to access the resource site. A family activity and an issue of Faith in Focus – Jubilee 2025 (parent fact sheet) will also be sent home, to assist parents with their knowledge and understanding of Jubilee and to support family faith at home. Jubilee Day will help students, staff and parents deepen their understanding of Jubilee, enabling them to engage more fully in the planned celebrations throughout the year. (activities can be aligned with Caritas - Project Compassion)
	Gather Together and Reflect (GaTheR or GTR) RECs will facilitate a GTR for parents with a Jubilee theme. Running sheet and accompanying resources to be provided. RECS are also invited to facilitate the same GTR for staff.

TERM 2	JUBILEE FOR FAMILIES – DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK Families are the cornerstone of society, where love and service create a foundation for building a more compassionate world. As one of God's greatest gifts, the family nurtures and passes down faith. Families week will coincide with Catholic Schools Week (themed Pilgrims of Hope) in Wk 3. The Catholic Schools Week CEWF Resource Booklet will contain a selection of activities for students and their families to engage in, as well as a sample liturgy, advertising materials etc. Catholic Schools Week is the opportunity for schools to organise a Jubilee Mass at which their school communities can celebrate the theme... Pilgrims of Hope. GATHER TOGETHER AND REFLECT RECs will facilitate 2x GTRs for parents with Jubilee themes of peace and caring for creation. Running sheet and accompanying resources to be provided. RECS are also invited to facilitate the same GTRs for staff. JUBILEE FOR BISHOPS AND PRIESTS The Church has designated June 25 to celebrate Jubilee for Bishops and June 25-27 to celebrate Jubilee for Priests. Information to follow are ideas for acknowledging and thanking Bishop Columba for leading our diocese, and for the priests for leading our parishes. (connect celebrations with our diocesan patroness - Our Lady of Perpetual Help) (activities can be aligned with St Vincent de Paul - Winter Appeal - Mini Vinnies)
TERM 3	PILGRIM PATH Students will embark on their own Jubilee Pilgrimage, starting at a designated point and ending at the church or school hall, where Mass and liturgical celebrations are usually held. Along the way, they will stop at 4-6 prayer stations, each reflecting the main themes of Jubilee. As they journey, students will experience the role of a pilgrim, reflecting on God, learning about faith, and spending quiet moments in prayer. The pilgrimage concludes as they walk through the church or hall doors, symbolising the Holy Doors and marking the transformation and spiritual growth from their journey. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

	An initiative to provide an opportunity for families to engage in faith talk and prayer at home. An activity will be sent home to families to complete and sent back to school to display for the <i>International Day of Peace</i>, Sunday, September 21. (To give flexibility, schools may choose any day/date in Week 10 to implement this initiative.) Resources will be shared with RECs. This initiative will be combined with any requests from Pope Leo, to pray for world peace.
	GATHER TOGETHER AND REFLECT RECs will facilitate 2x GTRs for parents, one with the Jubilee theme of kindness. Running sheet and accompanying resources to be provided. RECS are also invited to facilitate the same GTRs for staff.

TERM 4	NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE In the Catholic Church, November is the Month of Remembrance, a time to remember and pray for those who have died. It begins with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, reminding us of the Communion of Saints and our call to pray for those in Purgatory - those who are still journeying to be fully united with God. This month invites us to reflect on the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Schools provide opportunities for families to understand what Catholics believe about this month and to remember loved ones using the 2024 initiatives or updated resources to be shared early in Term 4.
	GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE - KINDNESS AND COMPASSION CAMPAIGN The Kindness and Compassion Campaign invites communities to respond to Pope Francis' Jubilee call to "let our hearts grow bigger" through simple acts of kindness, empathy and generosity. By living compassionately, we embody the spirit of Jubilee and open ourselves to God's love and grace. Throughout Weeks 4-7, schools will take part in activities and challenges that show kindness through action and prayer, reaching out to those we love and those in need. This campaign leads beautifully into the Season of Advent and strengthens the connection between home, school and parish communities. <i>(Activities can be aligned with Catholic Mission - Socktober initiatives and the Jubilee of the Poor - November 16.)</i>
	GATHER TOGETHER AND REFLECT RECs will facilitate 2x GTRs for parents, (including one for Advent). Running sheet and accompanying resources to be provided. RECS are also invited to facilitate the same GTRs for staff.
	ADVENT INITIATIVE - 2025 Advent Calendar: Live the Waiting This year's Advent Calendar will come in a creative <i>flip-card</i> design of 25 cards on a ring that can hang on the fridge or another special place at home. Each card will feature a Scripture reference from the daily readings in Advent, with three

	simple prompts - <i>Understand it, Live it, Pray it</i> - encouraging families to reflect, act and pray together. It will provide a simple and engaging way for families to grow in faith and make Advent a season of meaningful preparation and waiting. Resources will be printed and shared mid-term, for RECs/FECs to collate and share with families.
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JUBILEE VIDEOS

CEWF will provide a suite of short videos over the coming weeks and months that schools can use to unpack the concept of Jubilee with staff, students, and families. These videos could be used during prayer, RE units, reflection before/after Mass during Catholic Schools Week or on social media (or all of the above). Please find the first of these videos linked below:

[Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope - CEWF](#)

THE BOAT OF HOPE

In the spirit of the Jubilee theme “Pilgrims of Hope” - The CEWF **Boat of Hope** will journey from parish to parish, school to school and classroom to classroom throughout this Jubilee Year. Bishop Columba will bless the boat at Mass during the upcoming curriculum cluster days. It will comprise various elements of the Jubilee logo and “set sail” around the diocese (at the beginning of term 2) spending time in each school and parish. The goal is that our Boat of Hope will make its way into each classroom where students will engage in reflective activities in which messages of hope will be gathered and stored within the vessel. We will be able to track the journey of the boat and the hope it brings to each community on social media!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Official Year of Jubilee Website](#)
- [Song - Pilgrims of Hope](#) (Andrew Chinn) also available on Spotify & Apple Music. [\(lyrics\)](#)

- [CEWF Staff Prayer Experience - Pilgrims of Hope](#)