

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, MENTONE

VISITING A PILGRIM PLACE – THE JUBILEE INDULGENCE

St Patrick's Church, Mentone, has been chosen by Archbishop Comensoli as one of twelve Pilgrim Places in the Archdiocese of Melbourne (besides St Patrick's Cathedral itself).

The other Pilgrim Places are: St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne; St Mary MacKillop, Keilor Downs; St Luke's, Lalor; St Mary Magdalene's, Trentham; Polish Marian Shrine, Aberfeldie; St Dominic's, Camberwell East; St Francis Xavier, Mansfield; Sacred Heart, Croydon; Divine Mercy Shrine, Keysborough; Our Lady of Lavang, Keysborough; St Macartan's, Mornington.

A special benefit of visiting a Pilgrim Place is receiving a Jubilee Indulgence. Abundant indulgences are a major feature of Jubilee Years in general, and Pope Francis explained the Jubilee Indulgence at some length in his Bull *Spes Non Confundit* (22-23) that officially proclaimed the 2025 Jubilee Year.

It is one particular way of gaining a *plenary indulgence*, which is a remission of all debt of purgatorial punishment still owing for those sins the guilt of which has already been forgiven (that forgiveness of guilt typically having taken place in sacramental Confession). (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nn. 1471-79) Plenary indulgences are available for various acts of devotion even outside of a Jubilee Year; but one of several ways of receiving a Jubilee plenary indulgence during 2025 will be:

- **Devoutly visiting any Pilgrim Place and there engaging in Eucharistic adoration and meditation 'for a suitable period of time', concluding by reciting the *Our Father*, the Creed in any legitimate form, and the *Hail Mary* (or any other invocation to Mary the Mother of God).** (*The Creed, for those who do not know it from memory, can easily be read from the Mass cards in the pews in St Patrick's Church.*)

For the full indulgence, the usual further conditions of a plenary indulgence must be met: of Confession (within 20 days before or after – one Confession suffices for multiple plenary indulgences); Holy Communion; and prayers for the Pope's intentions (e.g. 1 *Our Father* and 1 *Hail Mary*). (It is suitable to fulfil the latter two conditions on the same day as the indulgenced act.) Also, one must be free from all affection for sin, even venial. This may be more difficult, but one can simply ask God's grace, make a sincere Act of Contrition, and leave the rest to God. In any case, even if all the conditions are not fulfilled, a partial indulgence can still be gained.

By default, an indulgence is applied to oneself, but it can also be offered as a prayer for the souls in Purgatory. If one is frequently gaining indulgences, it seems more generous to apply the bulk of these to the souls in Purgatory – not only freeing many souls into Heaven, but surely gaining them as grateful intercessors. (Rather than having to think of this each time, you might declare this your habitual intention, then occasionally make exceptions in your own favour.)

The Apostolic Penitentiary at the Holy See has decreed for the Jubilee Year: 'Despite the rule that only one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day, the faithful who have carried out an act of charity on behalf of the souls in Purgatory, if they receive Holy Communion a second time that day [*only legitimate within Mass*], can obtain the plenary indulgence twice on the same day, applicable only to the deceased...'

The elderly and sick who cannot visit the Pilgrim Places in person 'can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence, under the same conditions if, united in spirit with the faithful taking part in person' they recite the *Our Father*, the Creed, 'and other prayers in conformity with the objectives of the Holy Year...offering up their sufferings or the hardships of their lives.'