



Jubilee Way 2025

*Pilgrims come to Lourdes to experience the grace of the Jubilee.
How might we enable them to welcome this grace?*

Two texts from the Gospel can give us some direction:

- 'I will rise and go to my Father' (Lk. 15:18)*
- Disciples of Emmaüs (Lk. 24:15-35)*

Meditative in form, the Jubilee Way can include prayer, song, words from the leader, stillness, etc.

I. In front of the Information Centre

- Hello, our Jubilee Way begins here.
Man's pilgrimage on earth began when he had to leave paradise. Because he listened to the devil and refused to be close to God, man recognised his nakedness and lost his identity as a child of God. He began to have a yearning for God. Throughout his life, he will arise and seek the Father. We need to cultivate our yearning for God and to direct our lives towards Him. The Jubilee is given to us so that we can arise and seek the Father.
- Before we set off, let's listen to the Word of God: "That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the

morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So, they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.” So, he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.”

This is followed by a procession to the Breton Cross. During the procession, there are opportunities to sing and pray. For example, you could sing the hymn ‘I, the Lord of Sea and Sky’ or ‘Just as I am’.

II. At the foot of the Breton Cross

While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.” The Lord draws near to us. First, he sees us, then he hears us. He journeys with us to breathe hope into our hearts and to help us grow as human beings. “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” (Lk. 24:17). As we walk this earth, we talk about our spiritual trials and tribulations, our sins, illnesses, handicaps, disappointments, heartaches, weaknesses...

In ‘*Spes non confundit*’, Pope Francis reminds us of the issues facing the world today: the tragedy of war, the suffering of prisoners and those deprived of their freedom, the sick, migrants, the elderly and the poor.

As Jesus did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, allow the pilgrims to share their concerns about events in their lives and in the world.

Spontaneous prayers.

To conclude the time of prayer: Mary Mother of Hope, you remained with the disciples as their Mother, as Mother of Hope. Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, hope and love with you.

On the way to the next stopping point, the group should pause briefly in front of the OCH, the Hospitality building and at a point where the Accueil Notre-Dame can be seen from a distance.

- L'OCH – Christian Office for Handicapped People
The OCH is open to people with disabilities and their families. It's a welcoming place where you can rest, relax, meet friends, share what's on your mind, and spend time with people with disabilities.
It is a place of consolation!
Let's pray for the people who work there and for those they welcome...
- The Hospitality of Our Lady of Lourdes
It is an association. Its members are called hospitaliers. They are volunteers from numerous countries around the world. Their mission is to welcome and accompany thousands of pilgrims, especially the sick. Through the hospitaliers, God consoles the sick.

Let's pray for the hospitaliers...

- The Accueil Notre Dame
The Accueil Notre Dame has 850 beds for sick pilgrims. The Accueil Notre Dame is not a hospital, but a place where, first and foremost, charity is at work. The sick can do anything without the volunteers. They can't go to the Grotto, or to Mass, or to the Baths. Being a hospitalier is a vocation. It's a wonderful vocation. You become a hospitalier by answering a call. The call to holiness. Hospitaliers commit themselves to the path of holiness. The sick person sees Jesus in them because Jesus spent time with the sick and the hospitalier sees Jesus in the sick person because He dwells above all in those who suffer.

Let us pray for...

III. At the foot of the Crowned Virgin statue

Pausing at the foot of the Crowned Virgin statue, look towards the basilicas where the Word is proclaimed and the Chapel of Reconciliation, where forgiveness is given. The Jubilee offers us the chance to receive a plenary indulgence. As a reminder (cf. the bishop's note on receiving the grace of a plenary indulgence)

- “He opened to us the Scriptures” (Lk. 24:32). The Word of God does not change our reality, but it enlightens it, enables us to see it differently and gives it meaning. The Crowned Virgin looks towards the basilicas where the Word is proclaimed, and the Eucharist is celebrated. “When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them” (Lk. 24:30). There is a link between the Word heard and the bread shared. The Word leads to sharing and sharing accomplishes the Word. Bread sent down from heaven nourishes and gives strength. Bernadette made her First Communion between the penultimate and last apparitions.

When I take communion “I feel my soul filled with strength and confidence, thinking that it is no longer me praying, but Jesus in me,” she said.

The Scriptures also show us God's merciful heart. Bernadette made her first confession between the first and second apparitions. All her life, at the request of the Blessed Virgin, she prayed to God for the conversion of sinners. Forgiveness changes our lives. God transformed the Grotto of Massabielle from a dark, dirty place, a shelter for animals, into the home of his Son. He wants to turn the heart of each pilgrim, however dark it may be, into the home of his Son.

IV. At the garden of reflection

Try to inspire in pilgrims the desire to grow in holiness within the Church community.

- “They returned to Jerusalem” (Lk. 24:33). They went back because their hearts were burning. They went back to hear that the Lord had truly risen and to bear witness to their encounter with him. They met him and their hearts changed. After completing this pilgrimage, we want to return to our church communities, to live in the Church. Our comforted hearts burn, and the Lord calls us to become his missionary disciples. Bernadette grew in holiness in community. First in the Congregation of the Children of Mary and then in the Congregation of the Sisters of Nevers. All pilgrims come to the Grotto. It was at the Grotto that Mary said, “I am the Immaculate Conception.” With these words, Mary reminds us of our vocation to holiness. She calls us to live in the presence of Christ, holy, immaculate, unblemished. She, Mother of the Church, calls us to live as active members of the Church. So many calls to serve the Church have been heard at the Grotto.

V. At the Good Samaritan rotunda

The Risen Lord says: ‘Peace be with you’ (Lk 24:36). The Risen Lord is present in my life. He is at work and everything he does is good for me. I give thanks to God for what he has done for me. He is the source of living water. At this point, I’d like to offer you all the chance to celebrate the water gesture.

The celebration:

Together, and in the company of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette, let’s make the sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen !

Let’s put ourselves in the presence of God.

(A brief moment of silence...)

On 25th February 1858, during the ninth apparition, Our Lady of Lourdes spoke these words to Bernadette Soubirous:

“Go to the spring, drink and wash yourself.”

Following in the footsteps of Bernadette and so many other pilgrims from all over the world, we are here to perform the same gesture.

The ‘spring’ is God the Father, who gives us his Son, Jesus Christ: ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.’ (Jn. 3:16).

The ‘spring’ is the person of Jesus Christ: ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.’ (Jn. 7:37).

The 'spring' is the person of the Holy Spirit: 'But those who drink of the water that I will give them (the gift of the Holy Spirit) will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life'. (Jn. 4:14)

When we drink the water from the Grotto and wash ourselves in it, we let the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit come to meet us.

When we drink the water from the Grotto and wash ourselves in it, we are asking the Lord to make us receptive to his Word and his Sacraments, which are the source of life.

When we drink the water from the Grotto and wash ourselves in it, we allow ourselves to be transformed by the grace of conversion and to be reconciled with God and our brothers and sisters.

Let us make Bernadette's prayer our own

“O Jesus, give me, I beg You, the bread of humility, the bread of charity, the bread of strength to break my will and to mould it to yours, the bread of interior mortification, the bread of detachment from creatures, the bread of patience to bear the suffering my heart endures. O Jesus, You want me to be crucified, fiat, the bread of strength to suffer as I ought, the bread of seeing you alone in all things and at all times. Jesus, Mary, the Cross, I want no other friends but these.” (Saint Bernadette).

Everyone drinks from the palm of their hand and splashes a little water on their face.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen !”

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen