

### **The 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 forever. Amen

### **Plenary Indulgences**

Throughout a Jubilee year, the church offers the faithful the possibility of receiving the gift of a plenary indulgence, a remission of sins for either themselves or those who have died. A Plenary indulgence is an opportunity for us to receive the mercy of the Lord, to draw closer to God and to experience the joy of forgiveness. To those who cannot participate in the Jubilee celebrations due to being sick, elderly or housebound, they too can receive a Jubilee indulgence.

#### **How to obtain a plenary indulgence**

- ❖ Receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.
- ❖ Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be).
- ❖ Recite the Creed.
- ❖ Make pilgrimages to sacred places.
- ❖ Practice works of mercy.

## **ST. JOSEPH'S (HIGHLAND) DEANERY**

### **ST MARY'S RC CHURCH, BEAULY**



#### **What is a Jubilee Year?**

In the Old Testament, a Jubilee year was held every fifty years. The year was a time of universal pardon where slaves were freed and debts were forgiven. The Jubilee was seen as an opportunity to re-establish a relationship with God, with each other, and creation. In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII instituted the first Christian Jubilee. Since its establishment, the church has designated each Jubilee year as a special year of grace and forgiveness with the opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence.

#### **The Jubilee year of 2025 is entitled "Pilgrims of Hope."**

At a time when many countries suffer from war, climate change, and financial hardship, Pope Francis hopes that the Jubilee year is an opportunity to restore hope, a time for renewal and rebirth. The Jubilee year begins on the eve of Christmas, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door in the Basilica of St Peter's, Rome, and will close on the feast of Epiphany in 2026.

## **ST MARY'S BEAULY: A DESIGNATED PILGRIM CHURCH.**

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Beauly, Scotland, has long been a spiritual and historical landmark in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Aberdeen. Designated as a pilgrim church for the Jubilee Year 2025, St. Mary's invites reflection not only on its history but also on the broader historical and religious significance of the area.

## **HISTORICAL ORIGINS AND CONNECTION TO BEAULY PRIORY**

The roots of St. Mary's can be traced back to the profound monastic tradition that shaped the spiritual landscape of Beauly. The nearby Beauly Priory, founded in 1230 by John Bisset of the prominent Bisset family, served as a centre for the Valliscaulian Order. The monks of the Valliscaulian Order were renowned for their contemplative way of life, rooted in simplicity and devotion. The name "Beauly," derived from the French "Beau Lieu" ("beautiful place"), reflects the Priory's tranquil and inspiring setting.

The Priory's establishment in 1230 marks a pivotal moment in the region's spiritual history. Over the centuries, it became a hub for religious activity and a beacon of faith for the surrounding community. The dissolution of monasteries during the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century left Beauly Priory in ruins, yet its spiritual legacy persisted, eventually influencing the Catholic community that would establish St. Mary's centuries later.

## **THE FOUNDING OF ST. MARY'S RC CHURCH**

St. Mary's RC Church in Beauly was founded in 1864, during the Catholic revival in Scotland in the 19th century, a period when the Catholic community was re-emerging after centuries of suppression following the Reformation. This year marks the church's 161st anniversary, underscoring its enduring presence in the community.

The church owes much of its existence to the generosity and dedication of the Fraser family of Lovat, a prominent local Catholic family who were instrumental in its construction. The Frasers of Lovat were well-known for their steadfast

commitment to the Catholic faith during times of persecution and their efforts to support the local Catholic population. Their patronage and financial contributions ensured that a place of worship could be built to serve the faithful in Beauly and the surrounding areas.

Built in the Gothic Revival style, St. Mary's reflects the architectural trends of the time, with its elegant design and attention to detail symbolising the renewal of Catholic faith and heritage in the region. Its dedication to the Virgin Mary echoes the Marian devotion that was central to the spiritual life of Beauly Priory, creating a tangible link between the two sacred sites.

## **SPIRITUAL CONTINUITY AND THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025**

The designation of St. Mary's as a pilgrim church for the Jubilee Year 2025 underscores its enduring significance as a place of spiritual renewal and reflection. The Jubilee Year, proclaimed by Pope Francis, is a time of grace, pilgrimage, and reconciliation, inviting the faithful to deepen their relationship with God and the Church. For St. Mary's, this Jubilee provides an opportunity to honour its historical ties to Beauly Priory and the broader Catholic heritage of the region.

Pilgrims visiting St. Mary's during the Jubilee Year are invited to contemplate the rich history that connects the church to the Priory and the founding of Beauly in 1230. This continuity serves as a reminder of the timeless nature of faith and the enduring call to spiritual growth and community.

St. Mary's RC Church in Beauly stands as a testament to the resilience and continuity of the Catholic faith in Scotland. Its connection to the historic Beauly Priory and the region's medieval spiritual heritage enriches its role as a pilgrim church in the Jubilee Year 2025. As pilgrims gather to celebrate this special year, they are invited to embrace the deep spiritual roots that link past and present, finding inspiration in the beauty and history of this sacred place.