



The CatholicPost



St Josephine Bakhita,
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Pope Francis: The Jubilee invites us to begin again

Vatican Media

Addressing nearly 8,000 people in the Paul VI Hall, Pope Francis centred his reflection on John the Baptist, whom he described as a "great prophet of hope."



Audience in Paul VI Hall

In his first Jubilee Audience on Saturday, Pope Francis described the Jubilee Year as a time for a new beginning, rooted in the transformative power of God's Kingdom, drawing on the example of John the Baptist, a "great prophet of hope."

These words resonated throughout his Catechesis, serving as both a call to action and a reminder of the Jubilee's essence: the opportunity for everyone to start anew from God, our ultimate source of hope.

Hope, the theme of the 2025 Holy Year, will be the main subject of this new cycle of bi-weekly audiences, integrating the traditional Wednesday catechetical sessions.

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Highlighting John's pivotal role in biblical history, the Pope referred to Jesus' praise of him as the "greatest among those born of women" (Lk 7:24,26-28).

John's mission, marked by his call for repentance and renewal symbolized by crossing the River Jordan, mirrors the pilgrimage of Christians crossing the Holy Door during the Jubilee. This act, Pope Francis explained, represents a new beginning, a deep spiritual reset.

Hope, as the Pope elaborated, is not merely "a habit or a character trait", but a "strength" ("virtus" in Latin) to be asked for, a gift of God that spurs Christians "to start again on the journey of life."

As the Gospel of Luke tells us, it requires a recognition of our human smallness in the face of God's greatness. "It does not depend on us, but on the Kingdom

of God," where even the "least" become great, the Pope said.

"Welcoming the Kingdom of God leads us to a new order of greatness. Our world, all of us need this!"

Pope Francis also addressed the struggles of faith, drawing on John the Baptist's own moments of doubt during his imprisonment. These doubts, the Pope noted, resonate with the challenges faced by Christians today navigating a world where "many Herods" still "oppose the Kingdom of God."

Yet, he stressed, the Gospel provides an antidote to this despair through its transformative teachings, particularly the Beatitudes, which chart a new path of hope.

Pope Francis concluded with a call to embrace hope and renewal

through service and fraternity, particularly towards the least, and through responsibility for our "common home" the Earth "so abused and wounded."

This, he said, is the essence of the Jubilee: a new beginning grounded in God and a commitment to love and service.

"Let us start again from this originality of God, which shone in Jesus and which now binds us to serve, to love fraternally, to acknowledge ourselves as small. And to see the least, to listen to them and to be their voice. Here is the new beginning, our Jubilee!"

Scan the QR Code to watch the Audience on VaticanYoutube channel.



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Why have a Catholic Newspaper?

Pope Francis has said that Catholic newspapers can be a useful tool of evangelisation. In an address to representatives of nearly 200 Catholic newspapers, Pope Francis praised in particular the value, necessity and effectiveness of Catholic and diocesan newspapers, which he said require "a renewed commitment" from priests and the whole church community. Pope Francis said, it is a place where the life of a diocese can be "validly expressed" and where members of the church can "dialogue and communicate."

"There is an urgent need for news that is communicated with serenity, precision, completeness," clarity and thoughtfulness and in a way that favours "fruitful reflection" and reject simplifying a discussion that is strident, ambiguous and insinuating, he said. Pope Francis said, "For all these reasons it is, therefore, desirable that everyone's commitment to ensuring the existence and vitality of these periodicals is not lacking."

About the Catholic Post

The Catholic Post is a new Catholic publication. It is the only National Catholic newspaper that is Carbon Neutral. It is published monthly and aims to bring news, information, faith and Catholic teaching to readers throughout the UK.

About Bellcourt Ltd

We have been a Catholic publishing company for 30 years. During that time we have served the Catholic community with 10 publications and around 3,000 editions of Catholic newspapers which is over 16,000,000 newspapers in total.

We are still leading the way by making our publications carbon neutral by using 100% recycled newspaper, 75% of the electricity comes from Solar Power, we are also part of Carbon Balanced Print Scheme which is certified by the Carbon Land Trust - www.CarbonBalancedPaper.com.

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