



January 2025 (1)

New Year Greetings from Khanya House. On the of 24th of December 2025 Pope Francis in augurated the Holy Year with the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. The rite to open the Holy Door — sealed since the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2016 — included the proclamation of a passage from the Gospel of John in which Jesus says: "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."



After breaking open the special door, Francis stopped at the threshold to pray briefly in silence as the bells of St. Peter's Basilica pealed out into the cool Rome night.

The pope passed through the Holy Door into the basilica followed by cardinals, bishops, priests, and ministers for Christmas Mass as well as representatives of other Christian churches and Catholics from five continents wearing traditional clothing from their countries. There are five Holy Doors that will be opened in 2025 for the Jubilee of Hope: Basilica of St. Peter's, Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, Basilica of St. Mary Major, Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, and Rebibbia Prison in Rome. Rebibbia prison, built in 1946, is Italy's largest jail, housing over 1500 men and women and like many such jails across the world it is overcrowded. Pope Francis made history by opening the second Holy Door of the Jubilee Year at the Rebibbia Prison Complex in Rome, marking the first time a Holy Door has been opened in a prison during a Jubilee.

"I wanted the second Holy Door to be here, in a prison. I wanted each of us, whether we are inside or outside, to have the possibility to open the doors of the heart wide and understand that hope does not disappoint," said Pope Francis. "When one's heart is closed, it becomes hard like stone; it forgets tenderness," the Pope said, expressing this is why it is necessary to keep the doors of our hearts open, even in the most difficult situations. He challenged the prisoners present to be open to hope, encouraging them as he said, "everyone knows how to do it."



Epiphany – January 5, 2025



We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following a star. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. The gold is representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned this in

the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

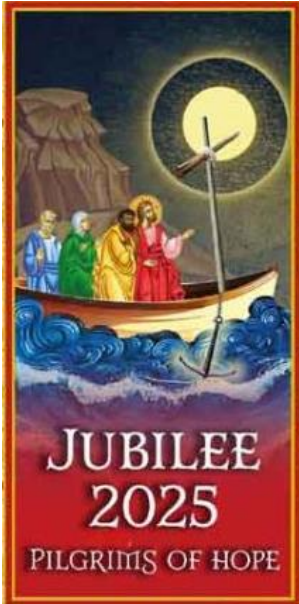
Baptism of Jesus – 12 January 2025

Within the River Jordan, John the Baptist plied his trade.
And all the ones that follows him were new Christians that he made.
Then one day there came a Man that John saw and realized,
that this was the Messiah, that had come to be baptized.
With trembling hands he lowered him beneath the waters clear,
and when he bought him to his feet, a brilliant light appeared!
And with that light there came a Voice, that all his fears released,
A Voice that spoke to all the world and said,
"This is my beloved Son, in who I am well pleased"!

Neville Mascryter



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.

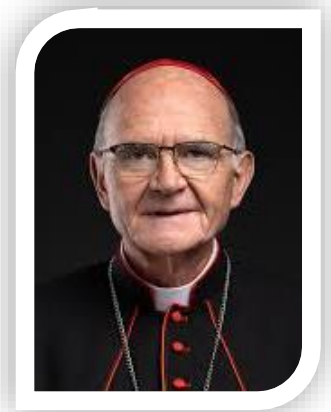
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

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 for ever.
Amen

Installation of Stephen Cardinal Brislin as Archbishop of Johannesburg

On the 25th of January 2025 Stephen cardinal Brislin will be installed as the new Archbishop of Johannesburg. He succeeds Archbishop Buti Tlhagale omi who has served the Archdiocese faithfully over many years. The cardinal was Born in Welkom on 24 September 1956. He was schooled at St Agnes' Dominican Convent and Christian Brothers' College in Welkom. He studied Philosophy at St John Vianney, Pretoria and Theology at the Missionary Institute in London. He was ordained a priest on 19 November 1983 and was ordained Bishop of Kroonstad on 28 January 2007. He was installed as Archbishop of Cape Town on 7 February 2010, on the Solemnity of Our Lady of the Flight into Egypt, the patronal feast of the Archdiocese of Cape Town. On the 5th of May 2023, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Pastoral Leadership by the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas, USA. He was announced as a Cardinal by Pope Francis at the pope's Angelus address in Rome on 9 July 2023 and was created a Cardinal-Priest of the Titular Church of Santa Maria Domenica Mazzarello by Pope Francis at the Consistory on 30 September 2023. It was announced yesterday, 28th October 2024, that Pope Francis has transferred Cardinal Stephen Brislin to Johannesburg as Metropolitan Archbishop.



Pope's Intention: January 2025 - For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

May your days be filled with light and love. May the New Year bring clarity, kindness, and countless blessings. - Fr Hugh