

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

January 2025



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we step into the blessed year 2025, designated by Pope Francis as a Jubilee Year under the theme “*Pilgrims of Hope*”, we are reminded that our lives are a journey marked by faith, perseverance, and the hope that springs from God’s promises.

This year, whether we embark on physical pilgrimages to holy sites or deepen our inner spiritual journey, we are called to embrace hope as our guide and destination. Hope is not merely a feeling; it is a way of living, rooted in the trust that God walks with us and has a plan for us, even when the path seems uncertain.

To be a pilgrim of hope means living with a heart open to God’s presence, ready to encounter Him daily. Like the Magi who journeyed far to meet the newborn Christ, we, too, are invited to seek God with faith and courage, to carry light into the world, and to journey together as a parish. This year we celebrate 110 years as a parish. We thank God for the gift of our community and invite every parish member to join in this act of thanksgiving and celebration in July.

The Jubilee Year is a time of renewal – a chance to deepen our relationship with God, reflect on our purpose, and recommit to walking the path of faith. Hope is not passive; it calls us to action. This year, let us pray with purpose, asking God to reveal His will for us; serve with joy, reaching out to those in need; and live with trust, knowing that God’s plans are always for our good, even when we face trials.

Our Carmelite Community remains grateful for the hope you bring and share in the parish through your selfless sacrifices and contributions. Your presence, dedication and service continue to keep our parish community alive and give us hope for the future.

As we journey together as Pilgrims of Hope in 2025, may your path be illuminated by God’s light. May His peace guard your hearts, His love sustain you in every challenge, and His hope inspire you to live boldly, joyfully, and with unwavering faith.

Wishing you a blessed and hope-filled New Year,

*Discalced Carmelite Community
St Joseph’s Priory, Gerrards Cross*

“During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.”

Pope Francis