



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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December 11, 2024

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will inaugurate the opening of the Holy Year 2025, a jubilee year for the universal church with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope.” The Holy Year is an invitation to us to grow spiritually, becoming pilgrims of hope for others.

Remembering the encouragement of Saint Paul that “hope does not disappoint” (Romans 5:5), our diocesan family will celebrate this Holy Year with activities, events, and liturgies throughout the year to come. In a special way, we will be encouraging visits to eight designated churches across our diocesan community as a way to prayerfully grow in abiding hope. These churches are: The Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, the Basilica of Saint Mary, Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Hope, Saint John Bosco, Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Patrick, and Saint Paul Mission.

As followers of the Lord, we know the importance of asking for God’s grace to turn away from sin if we wish to grow in virtue. This Holy Year is a powerful reminder that God calls us not only to turn away from sin, but in a deeper way encourages us to place all our hope for lasting happiness in him.

May our Lord Jesus bless you and fill you with his peace at Christmas and always, and may the hope he inspires be shared with all those you encounter in the new year to come.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington