



Diocese of Westminster

Westminster Way Leader's Guide



Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life.

A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life.

In the coming year, pilgrims of hope will surely travel the ancient and more modern routes in order to experience the Jubilee to the full.'

Spes non confundit 5

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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.

Pilgrims of Hope – Jubilee Hymn

(Text by Pierangelo Sequeri; Tunes: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling / Alleluia, Sing to Jesus*)

**Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people
find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters
find a home in your dear Son.**

*Like a flame my hope is burning,
may my song arise to you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.*

**God, so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free.**

**Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many
who will find the way in him.**

Further Reading

[Papal Bull](#) – Spes non confundit

[Papal Letter](#) – For the promotion of the New Evangelisation for the Jubilee 2025

[Spe Salvi](#) – Encyclical Letter on Christian Hope

Main Jubilee Website: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

Diocesan Webpage: <https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025>

Indulgences

At two of the churches on our route, **Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane** and **Westminster Cathedral**, pilgrims will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.

The gift of the Indulgence 'is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms "mercy" and "indulgence" were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds' (Spes non confundit, 23).

For more information, with step by step instructions about how to do so, please visit this link:

<https://bit.ly/jubileeindulgence>

The Westminster Way

To celebrate the Jubilee Year, one of our diocesan initiatives is to invite you to travel in the steps of the martyrs and saints, who are 'Beacons of Hope' along our pilgrimage, respecting the unique role of Westminster Diocese as a locality in the life of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

This Westminster Way will explore the following expressions of sainthood:

- Martyr
- Missionary
- Servant
- Scholar
- Prophet

They lend themselves to discovery along each stage of a journey which goes deeper into their meaning through the saints who embody them.

The Route

The recommended route to discover these aspects in greater depth can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/westminsterway>

The route covers these destinations:

1. English Martyrs, Tower Hill - towerhill@rcdow.org.uk / 0207 488 4654
2. St Mary Moorfields - moorfields@rcdow.org.uk / 020 7247 8390
3. Charterhouse Monastery - 0203 818 8873
4. St Etheldreda's, Ely Place – elyplace@rcdow.org.uk / 020 7405 1061
5. Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane – coventgarden@rcdow.org.uk / 020 7836 4700
6. Westminster Cathedral – chreception@rcdow.org.uk / 020 7798 9055

There are opportunities to discover more about the areas around these places contained within this leader's guide.

However, this pilgrimage is designed that it can be conducted around any 5-stage journey, to make it accessible to those who might not be able to walk the route above.

What is a Saint?

Saints are pilgrims of hope who have travelled along the road of faith before us and witness to how Jesus enables those who follow him to live life to the full.

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.' (Hebrews 12:1-2)

They are part of the heavenly Church, who are cheering us on as we make our pilgrimage through life. The saints named for each stage highlight an aspect of sainthood that can help to become pilgrims of hope who come closer to Christ and shine his transforming light to those we meet along the way.

Preparing your pilgrimage

Before you head off, plan your trip carefully. **If you are travelling in a large group (20+), please contact the parishes in advance to let them know you will be visiting so they can be available to welcome you.**

As you make your way, consider visiting some of the following places that carry special resonance, some of which are marked as waypoints on the map here: <https://bit.ly/westminsterway>

These include:

- The birthplace of St John Henry Newman, 1801 (corner of Old Broad Street and Threadneedle Street EC1).
- The birthplace of St Thomas Becket, 1120 (Cheapside EC2).
- The birthplace of St Thomas More 1478 (Milk Street EC1).
- The ruins of the ancient Greyfriars (EC1) and the bridge and the district of Blackfriars EC4) remind us of the Franciscans and Dominicans who lived and worked there.
- St Bartholomew is still remembered in the hospital and church that bear his name (EC1).
- The Saxon St Elphege gave his name to a now-ruined church on London Wall (EC3).
- St Olaf, the Christian Viking who helped save London from his pagan countrymen is honoured in Hart Street (EC3).
- St John Fisher at All Hallows by the Tower (EC3), where his body was taken before burial.
- Across London, street names from Austin Friars to Whitefriars, Aldermay to Paternoster Row, remind us of our Catholic heritage.

During opening times, the following places along the route are available to visit. Pilgrims are invited to say prayers and explore the locations.

Private tours can be booked at the following locations along the route:

The Charterhouse

Free to visit Charterhouse Square and the Chapel, please refer to their website for tour tickets.

Opening Hours: 10.30 – 16.30, Tuesday to Saturday

Contact: 0203 818 8873

Book Tours at <https://thecharterhouse.digitickets.co.uk/tickets>

St Paul's Cathedral

Free to attend daily services and pray in side chapel, please refer to their website for sightseeing tickets.

Opening Hours: 8.30am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday

Contact: 020 7246 8350

Book Tickets at <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/book-tickets>

Westminster Abbey

Free for individual prayer during opening times, please refer to their website for sightseeing tickets.

Opening Hours: Please refer to their website as opening times may vary.

Contact: 020 7222 5152

Book Tickets at <https://tickets.westminster-abbey.org>

Stage One

As you journey from English Martyrs, Tower Hill to St Mary, Moorfields, pilgrim can dwell on the first expression of sainthood: **Martyrdom.**

English Martyrs, Tower Hill

This church which begins the Westminster Way is in a part of London of special Catholic interest. Close by is the Tower of London, which was once surrounded by religious foundations, including Holy Trinity Priory, where Trinity House stands today. The Tower Hotel is built on the site formerly occupied by St Katherine's Hospital. The convent of the Poor Clares has given its name to a busy thoroughfare, and Saint Clare's House stands on the site of the former convent. The most famous of these foundations, the Abbey of Our Lady of Graces in East Smithfield, founded by King Edward III, became a place of pilgrimage and a centre of Marian devotion.

With the coming of the Reformation, these places of prayer and popular devotion were quickly suppressed and the Tower became the final dwelling place of many brave men and women who died for their faith, including St Thomas More and St John Fisher, both canonised on 30 June 1935. The site of the Martyrs' Scaffold can be seen at Trinity Square, close to Tower Hill underground station.

The church itself, designed by Peter Paul Pugin, was dedicated to those English Martyrs in 1876 by Cardinal Manning. Inside, it also has a shrine to Our Lady of Graces which can be visited to mark the beginning of the pilgrimage.

Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/towerhill>

Dedication of Journey

We begin our pilgrimage with Mary, the Blessed Mother who guides us always to her Son, Jesus. This ancient pilgrim prayer (origin unknown) has been used by pilgrims for decades to invite Mary, our Mother, with us in pilgrimage. If you are beginning your journey at English Martyrs, Tower Hill, say this prayer at the Shrine of Our Lady of Graces.

O Virgin Mary, Help of Christians and Lady of Graces, we dedicate ourselves to your service. We concentrate our minds, hearts, and bodies and promise to work always for the glory of God and the salvation of all people.

Protect the young and help the aged, save sinners and console the dying.
You are our hope, Mary, Mother of Mercy and Gate of Heaven.

Pray to your Son for us so that we may be filled with selfless charity and deep faith.
Ask Jesus for those things which we cannot obtain through our own actions
and help us in this our present necessity.

May we always see the will of the Father of our lives.
We ask you this, sweet Spouse of the Spirit,
so that we may come to your Son in grace.

Amen.

Reflection on Martyrs

'Martyrs, as confessors of the life that knows no end, are present and numerous in every age, and perhaps even more so in our own day. We need to treasure their testimony, in order to confirm our hope and allow it to bear good fruit.' Spes Non Confundit, 20

The word martyr means "witness". It is tempting to keep our faith private, not to have to explain what we believe or make it real in our lives. Being a martyr doesn't mean bragging about our faith, or feeling that we are holier than others. But it does mean living truthfully, and this can take courage. Today we might be ridiculed, for example by standing up for the Church's teaching on marriage, or even for going to Mass faithfully every Sunday.

We can think of:

The Carthusian Martyrs

On May 4th 1535 Saint John Houghton, Prior of the London Charterhouse, was the first of five to be hung, drawn and quartered for refusing to take the oath ascribing to the supremacy of King Henry VIII as supreme governor of the Church in England. Houghton was executed at Tyburn alongside the two other Carthusian priors Robert Lawrence of Beauvale, and Augustine Webster of Axholme, as well as Richard Reynolds, a monk of Syon Abbey, and John Haile of Isleworth. It is recorded that on the gallows Houghton embraced his executioner and forgave him.

As the first Catholic martyrs of the Reformation, the martyrdom of St John Houghton and his Companions can inspire us in our day to stand up bravely for our convictions and conscience, for what is just and true, and for the gift of our faith, for which the freedom to practice was made possible by their witness.

Upon setting out

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Heavenly Father,
be with us as we embark on this journey.
Watch over us, guide our steps,
and keep us safe from harm.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer on arrival

Lord, so great is our love for you
that even though we walk in a world
where speaking your name can mean certain death
your faithful still speak it
and speak it all the louder.

Help us work for a world where all may speak their creeds
and pray their prayers
without fear of violence.

Hear the prayers of those who abide with you
in dangerous times and in dark valleys,
and who die with your name on their lips.
Draw them quickly to your side
where they might know eternal peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Stage Two

As you journey from St Mary, Moorfields to Charterhouse Monastery, pilgrims can dwell on the next expression of sainthood: **Missionary.**

St Mary, Moorfields

The roots of the parish of St Mary Moorfields go back to several chapels that sprang up in the area in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, at which time Catholic worship was illegal.

The chapels were known locally as 'Penny Hotels', as people had to pay a penny to a man behind a grill in the door before they were allowed in. Following the Catholic Relief Act of 1791, Catholics were permitted to worship in public. And in 1820 the first church of St Mary Moorfields opened in Finsbury Circus. As the permanent seat of the Vicar Apostolic, it served as Cardinal Wiseman's pro-cathedral from 1850 to 1869.

The church was pulled down in 1899 and replaced by the present church in Eldon Street, which was opened on 25th March 1903. The architect was George Sherrin, who also designed the dome of the London Oratory as well as several Underground stations. It plays an important role in the Diocese, both because of its history, but also in its mission and ministry to the City of London.

Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/moorfields>

Reflection on Missionaries

Christ gave the great commission to the Apostles – and through them to all of us – to go out and teach all the nations. Sometimes that can mean something quite dramatic – travelling to distant places, preaching, teaching. writing. At its core is the central need to follow God's call, wherever it takes us.

We can think of:

St Augustine of Canterbury

At the end of the 6th century, Pope St Gregory the Great sent a team of missionaries to England led by Augustine, prior of the abbey of St Andrew in Rome. England at that time was not one united country but a number of Saxon kingdoms. This presented a challenge to Augustine because the British Christians had their own firm convictions and although they shared the same faith as these missionaries they were not ready to assume that Augustine could automatically impose his discipline on them.

Over the next century, as a result of St Augustine's careful work, the conversion of England to the Christian faith began, and with it a new era for the country, bringing literacy, an understanding of belonging to a wider civilisation, and the shaping of a specific culture.

Upon setting out

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Heavenly Father,
be with us as we embark on this journey.
Watch over us, guide our steps,
and keep us safe from harm.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer on arrival

We adore you, Jesus our Shepherd and Saviour
and we praise and thank you for living among us.

We ask you to walk beside your missionaries as they seek to proclaim your Gospel.
Cherish, guide, and strengthen them:
help them to be patient when they meet frustrations,
and encourage them when they are disappointed.

Lead them, we beseech you, along the path you desire for them.
For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever.

Amen.

Stage Three

As you journey from Charterhouse Monastery to St Etheldreda's, Ely Place, pilgrims can dwell on the next expression of sainthood: **Service.**

Charterhouse Monastery

The Charterhouse is a former Carthusian monastery in London, located between Barbican and Smithfield Market, and to the north of what is now Charterhouse Square. During its time it was the largest Carthusian Monastery in the world, frequented by St Thomas More, until it was brutally dissolved in 1537 when 16 monks became proto-martyrs of the Reformation.

The monastery was founded to pray for the souls of thousands of Londoners who had died in the Black Death. The last group of monks who came to live there died as martyrs because of their rejection of King Henry VIII's declaration of himself as head of the Church in England. They included St John Houghton, St Robert Lawrence and St Augustine Webster, and we celebrate their feast day on 11th May.

Since the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century the site has served as a private mansion, a boys' school and an almshouse, which it remains to this day.

Website: <https://thecharterhouse.org>

Reflection on Servants

Christ said he came not to be served but to serve. He knelt and washed the feet of the Apostles on the night before he died. He called on his followers to be the servants of all, not to seek to be great or important.

We can think of:

St Anne Line (1563-1601)

St Anne was martyred at Tyburn gallows in London for sheltering priests and having Mass said in her London home, at a time when the Catholic faith was outlawed in Britain. She was of a well-to-do family and lost her inheritance when she became a Catholic. Her husband was a Catholic and was exiled for his faith and died abroad. As a widow, she made her home a place of faith and courage. Denounced for sheltering priests, she said she only wished she had been able to help many more.

Upon setting out

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Heavenly Father,
be with us as we embark on this journey.
Watch over us, guide our steps,
and keep us safe from harm.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer on arrival

God of love,
help us to use the gifts you give us
for the people who need us.

Help us to see their need and, inspired by your Son,
reach beyond ourselves,
beyond our institutions,
to the very margins and bring all to you, the centre.

May all we do be in preparation to serve more fully,
seeking you in the world that we are invited to create with you.
Send your Spirit to keep us aglow with the desire of justice.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Stage Four

As you journey from St Etheldreda's, Ely Place to Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane, pilgrims can dwell on the next expression of sainthood: **Scholar**.

St Etheldreda's, Ely Place

St Etheldreda, born in 630, was the daughter of King Anna, of the Kingdom of East Anglia. She wanted to be a nun but agreed to a political marriage with a neighbouring King, Egfrith, on condition that she could remain a virgin. When the King tried to break the agreement, she fled back to Ely, where, as well as founding a religious community, she also built a magnificent church on the ruins of one founded by the efforts of St Augustine himself but laid waste by war.

The chapel was built sometime between 1250 and 1290 as the town chapel for the Bishops of Ely, and is one of only two surviving in London from the reign of Edward I. During the reformation it was the chapel of the Spanish Ambassador and served as a haven for English Catholics. Its first parish priest was Fr William Lockhart, a close friend of St John Henry Newman.

Website: <https://www.stetheldreda.co.uk/>

Reflection on Scholarship

The Church has always fostered learning and scholarship and established the great universities of Europe. At times of turmoil, abbeys and monasteries preserved learning and culture, and throughout the centuries have been places of scholarship, art, music and discussion of the great and deep mysteries of life. Within the daily rhythm of chanted communal prayer, the work of scholarship, from the copying and illuminating of manuscripts to the gathering of historical information and wisdom, has enriched the Church and nations.

We can think of:

St Erconwald and St Ethelburga

St Erconwald, was a Saxon Bishop of London (c. 630 – 693), while his sister St Ethelberga was abbess of Barking (c.600-654). Erconwald established St Paul's Cathedral, and the systematic instruction of people in the Faith. He is also said to have preached to the wild heathen who lived in the forests north of London. The Bishop's Gate in the old London Wall commemorates him.

St Ethelburga was the first leader of a women's monastic order in England. In its time, her great abbey was the largest centre of female education in Europe. It was a powerful influence on London and Londoners for centuries.

Upon setting out

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Heavenly Father,
be with us as we embark on this journey.
Watch over us, guide our steps,
and keep us safe from harm.
Through Christ our Lord
Amen.

Prayer on arrival

Give us, Lord God, watchful hearts that no stray thought might distract us from you.
Give us noble hearts that no unworthy affection might pull us down.
Give us just hearts that will not be divided by any dark intention.
Give us strong hearts that will not be broken by any tribulation.
Give us free hearts that will not follow any violent desire.

Give us, Lord God, minds that know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you,
lives that please you, perseverance to wait faithfully for you
and the trust that will finally embrace you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Stage Five

As you journey from Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane to Westminster Cathedral, pilgrims can dwell on the next expression of sainthood: **Prophet.**

Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane

The hidden gem of Covent Garden in London, Corpus Christi Catholic Church on Maiden Lane is the Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament and was elevated to this dignity by Cardinal Nichols in 2018.

Built in 1874 as an act of reparation for sins against the Blessed Sacrament during the Reformation and since, the church of Corpus Christi holds a very special place in the hearts of Catholics around the world. The hymns *Sweet Sacrament Divine* and *O Sacred Heart* were composed here by a former Parish Priest, Fr Francis Stanfield and Mgr Ronald Knox preached his many famous homilies on the Blessed Sacrament from this church's pulpit. As home to the Catholic Association for Performing Arts (previously the Catholic Stage Guild), Corpus Christi has also become known as the Actors' Church, providing a home for Catholic Actors performing in Covent Garden and around the West End.

Website: <https://corpuschristimaidenlane.org.uk/>

N.B. Should pilgrims feel unable to continue the journey on foot, the last stage can also be completed via the Circle/District line from Embankment to Victoria or using the number 11 bus (which stops outside Westminster Cathedral)

Reflection on Prophets

A prophet is someone who sees things as they really are, is not swayed by fashionable slogans or popular feelings, but understands the real needs of the times and speaks out for what is true. This has to be done with charity and humility: what matters is not the buzz or excitement of being a public speaker but a genuine attempt to give voice to Christ's message.

We can think of:

St John Henry Newman

Newman, born in London (1801-1890), understood and taught the central truth of what Christ did in founding the Church, and the glory of what that means for us all. He was ready to explain in detail his own spiritual journey, and he taught with gentleness, vigour and wisdom, helping to nurture the "Second Spring" of the Church in Britain. He was profound influence on the Second Vatican Council in the 20th century and was canonised as a saint in the 21st.

Upon setting out

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

Heavenly Father,
be with us as we embark on this journey.
Watch over us, guide our steps,
and keep us safe from harm.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayer on arrival

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.

Westminster Cathedral

Westminster Cathedral is the Mother Church of Catholics in the Diocese of Westminster, and the seat of the Archbishop of Westminster. Building only began in 1895 and the Cathedral was completed just eight years later in 1903 but its unique architecture reflects the influences of ancient Christian churches and its construction marks a pivotal moment in the history of the Church in England and Wales.

Cardinal Vaughan had three key requirements for his new church: first, a broad uninterrupted nave with the high altar as the focus; second, a building whose structure could be completed first (the decoration could come later) and third, sensitive to the politics of the age, a desire not to compete with the Gothic grandeur of Westminster Abbey, a near neighbour. The Cardinal wanted a new vision for the new diocese, not a poor replica of the past.

Today, the Cathedral is at the heart of Catholic faith in London. Mass is celebrated throughout the day, seven days a week and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available daily. In its lifetime, it has seen the visit of two Popes and many members of the royal family, has been the seat of 11 Archbishops, and houses the remains of St John Southworth, one of the last Catholic priests put to death during the interregnum of Oliver Cromwell, and the Cathedral's own saint. His feast day on the 27th of June is celebrated as a solemnity in the Cathedral and for several days his casket is placed in the centre of the Cathedral nave, a mark of his importance to the Cathedral community.

Website: <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/>

Thanksgiving Prayer

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.

Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy towards us;
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus:

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Acknowledgements

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