



**PILGRIMAGE TO ROME TO CELEBRATE
THE JUBILEE OF YOUTH
With the Diocese of East Anglia**

We are now starting to plan our Diocesan pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the Jubilee of Youth.

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Contact Information

*If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact
Hamish MacQueen, Director of Diocesan Youth Service*

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Introduction to Pilgrimage

In the Diocese of East Anglia, we have a long history of young people going on pilgrimage including Lourdes, Taize, Santiago, and many World Youth Days. Pilgrimage is a journey to a place of spiritual significance. In taking time out of busy lives to undertake that journey, people often find a greater meaning to their lives, a sense of direction and a deepening of their faith.



East Anglia Pilgrimage to Santiago in 2024

Introduction to The Jubilee Year

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God and with one another. A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*, which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9). In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour: *The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.* (Luke 4:18-19)

The beginning of the Jubilee Year is marked by the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in Rome. It is only during a Jubilee Year that this door and other Holy Doors are opened. Often people will go on pilgrimage during a Jubilee year, to Rome or another holy site. Pope Francis writes:

"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."

...and that's what we're doing!



St. Peter's Square, Rome

Image on: [Flickr](#) | Creator: TIZIANA FABI | Credit: AFP | Copyright: AFP ImageForum

The Jubilee Logo Explained

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves.

The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: Peregrinantes in Spem (Pilgrims in hope), represented in green letters.



General Information

Who is organising the Pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the Jubilee of Youth?

The pilgrimage is organised by the Diocesan Youth Service, led by Hamish MacQueen – Director of Youth Service. We work closely with Diocesan Safeguarding to ensure the pilgrimage meets the high standards of safeguarding we expect.

When is the Pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the Jubilee of Youth?

A **provisional** itinerary is as follows:

July 28	Fly to Rome
July 29	Opening Jubilee Mass with the Pope at St. Peter's Square
July 30 – August 2nd	Pilgrimage around Rome including visiting some or all of the four Holy Doors of the major basilicas.
Aug 2	Travel to Tor Vergata for an evening vigil with the Pope Sleep overnight under the stars
Aug 3	Sunday Mass with the Pope at Tor Vergata
Aug 4	Fly back to the UK

Where are we staying in Rome?

We will be staying in a simple hotel or retreat house. Details are yet to be confirmed.

How old do you need to be and is there an upper age limit?

The pilgrimage is for those who will be 16 or over by July 28th although in exceptional circumstances, we may allow 15 year olds. There is no upper age limit but anyone over 35 would be expected to come as a 'leader' rather than a 'young person'.

How do I book a place?

Please read the 'Booking a Place Terms and Conditions'. You can book online from 21st October at www.rcdea.org.uk/youth. Places are limited and will be accepted on a first come first served basis. To increase your likelihood of getting a place, we suggest you book as soon as possible.

What about world events that may affect the pilgrimage?

We will always follow advice from the Government and Bishops Conference, taking any necessary precautions. Financially, the diocese will do everything we can to ensure your money is safe in the unlikely event that WYD is cancelled or it is not safe to go. However, we also advise you to ensure your travel insurance policy covers you for this.



East Anglia Pilgrimage to World Youth Day in 2023

How much will it cost?

At the moment it's not possible to give a definite figure but we are working on an estimate of **£1250** which we think is realistic. Until we can give a definite figure, any money you pay will be completely refundable and you can cancel your place.

Why is it so expensive?

Over a million people are expected in Rome during the Jubilee for Youth week. Airlines and hotels know this demand and put their prices up accordingly.

Also, we have taken a decision that the Diocesan group will go in 'reasonable accommodation'. By that we mean a bed, washing facilities and close enough to the centre of Rome to be able to travel in and out of each day. It is possible to book space on a school gym floor, more than two hours drive away and with a cold hose pipe as a shower between 50 people, much much cheaper, but that isn't the experience we want to offer. Of course, that is an extreme (but true) example and our aim has been to find the optimum accommodation, in terms of proximity to the the centre of Rome, comfort and price.

**We know this is expensive but please don't let the cost put you off
– it's worth it!**

**Parishes and people can be very generous supporting young people going
on pilgrimage and in the past, we have been amazed by their generosity!**

**We also have many ideas for fundraising and a staged payment plan
– see the next pages.**

What's included

- Travel to Rome and back, and within Rome
- Accommodation
- Breakfast and a dinner each day
- Group t-shirts
- Admission to the Ignite Festival – our annual Diocesan Youth Festival

We are not including lunch as this is likely to be things like grabbing a sandwich in small groups inbetween events, which is difficult to organise the Diocese paying for .

We are not including is travel insurance as experience has taught us different people want different levels of cover etc. **However, it is compulsory you have at least a basic level of travel insurance.** You should be able to get this for under £30 (e.g. The Post Office) or you may already have it on a family policy or free with a bank account.

“Faith wasn't important to me but my mum had paid for me to go on a pilgrimage, so I thought I might as well go – there's nothing to lose. Little did I know it would change my life!”

*Alex Thanickal
Pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023*

Making Payments

When you book we ask for a deposit of £150. In addition to this there are cut off dates (stated below) by which time you must have paid a certain amount. This is because the Diocese needs to make payments to secure accommodation etc. on your behalf. You can either make payments in lump sums to meet these dates or spread the payments over several months as suggested below.

Amount

£150 initial deposit

£150

£150

By 5th January 2025 you need to have paid a total of £450

£150

£150

£150

By 5th April you need to have paid a total of £900

£150

£150

£. 50 (or remaining balance)

By the 5th July 2025 you need to have paid in full

Payment date

By 5th November 2024

By 5th December 2024

By 5th January 2025

By 5th February 2025

By 5th March 2025

By 5th April 2025

By 5th May 2025

By 5th June 2025

By 5th July 2025

Remember until we are able to give a definite figure, any payments you make will be completely refundable and you will be able to cancel your place.

You can pay for the pilgrimage in three ways:

1) Card Payments – follow the link on the Diocesan Website which will go live with the booking form on October 21st.

2) Direct Bank transfer

Account Name: RC Diocese of East Anglia

Account Sort Code: 60-15-31

Account Number: 08741697

Reference: So we know who the payment is from, please ask your bank to use the reference 'ROME' followed by a space, then your first initial, then a space, then your surname (or as many characters as possible). E.g. If your name is Fred Smith, your reference would be 'ROME F Smith'

3) Cheque

Please send a cheque made payable to 'RC Diocese of East Anglia' to Diocesan Youth Office, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH. Please write ROME followed by your name on the back of the cheque.



Rome Skyline (Photo by Nicholas Hartmann)

Fundraising

If you talk to people who have fundraised in the past for pilgrimages, many will tell you how the money came in quicker and easier than they thought it would. We would like to suggest one possible plan is that you fundraise one third, you ask your family to consider paying one third and you ask your parish to consider paying one third. Clearly many families and parishes would not be able to afford this (especially if there is more than one person going from the same parish or family) but it might work for some of you.

You will probably find it easier to fundraise together with people in your parish or deanery. If using any of these ideas for fundraising, make sure you get all the right permission and have an adult around. Generally people are happy to help. Here are some ideas:

Parish Talent Contests

Fashion Show

Do a gig

Run a 'Battle of the Bands

Sponsored events e.g. walking, cycling etc

Window cleaning

Run a Ceilidh for your parish

100 / 200 club

Ask Christmas / birthday presents to be money towards the pilgrimage

Baby sitting

Auction of items or services

Treasure hunt and charge people to enter

Rome themed party / Christmas party / Fancy dress party

Race Nights

Plant sale

Jars of coins

Coffee morning

Bag packing

Bucket Collections

Ask people to sponsor you per mile – show this on a map

Car washing in parishes, supermarkets

Cake sales

Pancake parties

Carol singing

Make and sell Christmas cards

For further information, why not talk to people who have fundraised for World Youth Day in the past or contact Hamish at the Diocesan Youth Office.



The Trevi Fountain and Colosseum in Rome(Photos by DAVID ILIFF)

Booking a Place Terms and Conditions

To book a place please go to www.rcdea.org.uk/youth and follow the links. You may find it useful to look over the application form and think about your answers before starting it. Also, please ensure you have read and understand the following:

- You must be age 16 or older by July 28th 2025. In exceptional circumstances, we may consider bookings from those who are under 16.
- You must have a valid passport by July 2025 and valid for at least 3 months after our planned departure date (valid until 4th November 2025).
- If you are not a UK citizen, it is your responsibility to apply for an appropriate visa if necessary.
- You must have arranged your own travel insurance by the time we leave and provide details.
- If you are over 18 at the time of travel you must be willing to have a DBS check (similar to a criminal record check) carried out by the diocese. This is because as we are likely to be mixed group of over and under 18 year olds, living very closely together for the duration of the pilgrimage.
- You must have a mobile phone with WhatsApp installed that you are willing to take with you to Rome, and be part of a group to receive messages with arrangements for each day. This will mean your number will be visible to other people in the group. (If this poses a problem for you, please get in touch).
- You must let your parish priest / school chaplain know if you are booking a place and check they support your application.
- If you are booking a place, it is expected that you are already, or are willing to, start attending Mass regularly and involved in the life of your parish or the wider diocese. One way of being involved in the diocese is to join the Ignite Lite team who help run events and retreats. Please email our team leader, Alex Thanickal on igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk for more information.
- Travelling to Rome is part of it, but the Pilgrimage actually starts now! it is expected you attend preparation meetings (which will be publicised at least 6 weeks in advance). In addition it is compulsory you attend our 2025 Diocesan Festival 'Ignite' on the 3rd and 4th May leading into the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on 5th May.
- After booking a place, please send a deposit of £150 as soon as possible. Your booking is not confirmed until we have received this,
- You must also be able to meet regular payment deadlines as detailed on the previous page.
- Until we can give a definite guaranteed cost, any money you pay will be completely refundable if you decide to cancel. When we can give a definite guaranteed cost, you will be asked to agree to a 'Commitment to Payment Declaration'.
- We're not looking for already made saints but we are looking for people who will genuinely find going on pilgrimage to Rome will help their own faith journey and help in the service of Christ and the Church.



Hope to see you in Rome!