

JUBILEE 2025



Pilgrims of Hope



An introduction for the
Caritas Internationalis Confederation



WHAT IS the Jubilee?

A Jubilee is a holy year that the Pope has convoked periodically since 1300 and which marks an important milestone for the Catholic Church. The Church holds a Jubilee every 25 years, but sometimes the Pope can also call an “extraordinary” Jubilee in another year.

The Jubilee is a year of reconciliation, conversion and sacramental penance. During the Holy Year, the Pope grants plenary indulgence to the faithful who travel to Rome and perform particular religious practices: passing through the Holy Door, confessing, receiving communion, praying and performing a work of piety, mercy or penance. **More information about the history and characteristics of jubilee years can be found [here](#).**

The theme of the 2025 Jubilee is: Pilgrims of Hope.

Papal Bull

Traditionally, each Jubilee is proclaimed through the publication of a Papal (or Pontifical) ‘Bull of Indiction’. A ‘Bull’ is an official document, generally written in Latin, bearing the seal of the Pope, the shape of which gives its name to the document itself. ‘Indiction’ refers to a particular year in a defined period of time, and so here refers to the Jubilee year within a 25 year period.

The Papal Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee is titled, *Spes non confundit* (Hope does not disappoint). This document highlights a number of topics related to the work and mission of Caritas. These include: hope, love, enthusiastic charity, peace, young people, migrants, the poor, debt justice and synodality.

The full text of the Bull (in several languages) can be downloaded [here](#).

The Holy Door and pilgrimage groups

The Apostolic Penitentiary is in charge of the Plenary Indulgence aspect of the Jubilee. In this [Decree](#), they explain how it will work, including information about which sites in Rome can be visited and how to obtain the Plenary Indulgence.

If you wish to organise a pilgrimage for you and/or a group of people, you can find more information [here](#).

Registration can be done through this [online portal](#).



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The Vatican has organised a calendar of Jubilee celebrations to mark specific moments and themes throughout the year.

The full calendar can be found [here](#).



Key Jubilees

In accordance with the Holy See's official calendar, Caritas Internationalis is putting together a calendar of key events and moments of relevance and importance to Caritas throughout the Jubilee year. We have identified the following as particularly key Jubilees:

Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

Saturday 8 – Sunday 9 March 2025

Volunteers are the backbone of Caritas's social action work at the grassroots level across the globe. This Jubilee is an opportunity to celebrate the work of all volunteers, and also to encourage more people to engage in volunteering.

Jubilee of Governments

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 June 2025

Caritas raises the voices of the voiceless through our advocacy at the local, regional and global levels. We engage with governments and the international community to encourage them to shape their policies and strategies in order to serve the needs of the vulnerable, marginalised and people living in poverty. The Jubilee of Governments is a key opportunity to strengthen this engagement, and we plan to place a particular emphasis on debt justice as a core component in integral human development.

Jubilee of Youth

Monday 28 July – Sunday 3 August 2025

Caritas has an active youth presence all over the world, and we are committed to increasing the leadership and participation of young people in our work to serve people living in poverty. Caritas is planning to bring a delegation of 20 young people to the Jubilee for Youth and to host an event to engage youth pilgrims and promote the mission of Caritas among young people.

Jubilee of Migrants

Saturday 4 – Sunday 5 October 2025

Migrants form some of the most vulnerable populations on earth, especially when they have been forced to move as a result of war, natural disaster, and increasingly, climate change. Caritas meets migrants at the frontlines, and this Jubilee is an opportunity to show solidarity with all migrants, as well as to look in a renewed way at how we can work to reduce the risks which migrants face and offer them real hope.

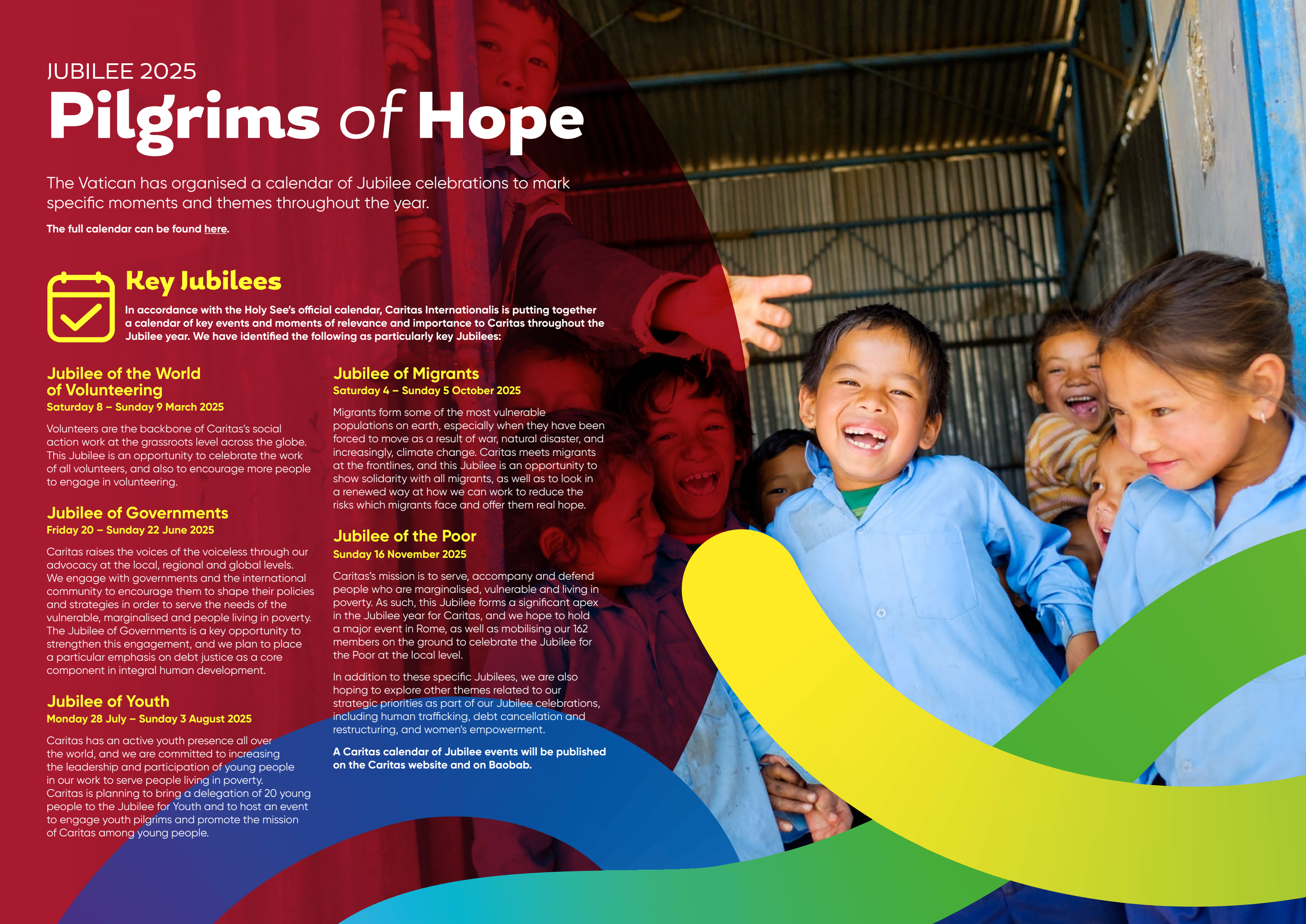
Jubilee of the Poor

Sunday 16 November 2025

Caritas's mission is to serve, accompany and defend people who are marginalised, vulnerable and living in poverty. As such, this Jubilee forms a significant apex in the Jubilee year for Caritas, and we hope to hold a major event in Rome, as well as mobilising our 162 members on the ground to celebrate the Jubilee for the Poor at the local level.

In addition to these specific Jubilees, we are also hoping to explore other themes related to our strategic priorities as part of our Jubilee celebrations, including human trafficking, debt cancellation and restructuring, and women's empowerment.

A Caritas calendar of Jubilee events will be published on the Caritas website and on Baobab.



TURN DEBT INTO Hope

Building on our global Together We campaign, we will be promoting a new initiative for the Jubilee year, called Turn Debt into Hope. This campaign will focus on the urgent need for debt justice in heavily indebted countries—a matter of both social and climate justice. This message will be conveyed throughout the Jubilee Year, emphasising the theme “Pilgrims of Hope” with a central message of (re)building our social fabric together in the face of global challenges. Inspired by Pope Francis’ call for transformative action, we invite every member organization to join our petition to collect 10 million signatures advocating for a renewed and equitable financial system.

Turn Debt into Hope was launched on 23 December 2024 and will run throughout the Jubilee year. The campaign pack and more information is available on the Caritas website and on Baobab.



How can the Caritas Confederation celebrate the Jubilee?

Caritas’s grassroots presence and actions show how we are sowing seeds of hope all over the world, and the Jubilee provides us with a great opportunity to share our work and mission, from local to global levels.

It will be a special moment to witness how, in the context of humanitarian crises, Caritas brings hope to the communities affected, share more about the programmes being implemented on the ground, and listen to the voice of workers and volunteers, as well as to the people served and accompanied by them.

We particularly encourage Caritas Member Organisations to celebrate the Jubilee at the local level by engaging with the local Church and other organisations, and actively involving members of the local community, particularly the poor, to be involved in the organisation and celebration of local initiatives.

As well as the Turn Debt into Hope campaign and the theme of debt justice, Caritas is promoting the message of hope across a wide range of themes and social justice issues, including, peace, human trafficking, climate change, women’s empowerment and youth engagement – among many others!

Our diverse contexts will call us to respond to the call to be pilgrims of hope in a variety of ways which reflect our own specific needs and situations. We encourage Caritas organisations to focus on actions and participate in initiatives which aim to prepare a better future, especially for those who are living in poverty or who are particularly vulnerable.

Several initiatives and events are also planned to take place in Rome, but in such a way that, where possible, the wider Confederation can also be a part of these events (e.g. through hybrid events, webinars, and/or the participation of Caritas delegations in Rome).

CI Jubilee Task Group

A global Caritas Task Group, with representatives from all seven regions, has been formed to gather, share and/or produce relevant guidance or other resources to accompany and facilitate the Confederation’s participation in the Jubilee at the local level.

Resources for the Confederation

All resources and guidance will be placed on Baobab, in a space dedicated to the Confederation’s celebration of the Jubilee 2025.

If your organisation is preparing resources for the Jubilee, we would love to collect and share them in this space in order to inspire others. Please contact Steph MacGillivray (macgillivray@caritas.va) if you wish to share your (or another) organisation’s resources.

Contact

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