

## ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

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His Excellency, The Most Reverend John J. McDermott  
By the Grace of God and of the Favor of the Apostolic See  
ELEVENTH BISHOP OF BURLINGTON

### DECREE

On May 9, 2024, His Holiness, Pope Francis declared an Ordinary Jubilee for 2025 with the Papal Bull "*Spes non confundit*" reminding the faithful that "the Pilgrimage is a fundamental element of every Jubilee event and that "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). In this Bull, in addition to the Holy Doors and Jubilee Churches in Rome, our Holy Father indicated the importance of also making other places at the local level spaces of welcome in which to generate hope (23).

Therefore, I hereby establish that for the duration of this Jubilee Year – from the promulgation of this decree to December 28, 2025 – these are to be considered the Jubilee Churches in the Diocese of Burlington:

- Cathedral of Saint Joseph (Burlington)
- Church of St. John the Evangelist (St. Johnsbury)
- Church of St. Michael the Archangel (Brattleboro)
- Church of Christ the King (Rutland)

The Norms of the *Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025*, issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary on May 13, 2024, state that all the faithful, who are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin, who are moved by a spirit of charity and who, during the Holy Year, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, in the following ways:

## 1. Pilgrimages

The faithful, pilgrims of hope, will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they undertake a pious pilgrimage to any of the above Jubilee Churches and devoutly participate in any of the following:

- Holy Mass
- A ritual Mass for the conferral of the sacraments of Christian Initiation or the Anointing of the Sick
- A celebration of the Word of God, the Liturgy of the Hours, the Stations of the Cross, the Marian Rosary, the recitation of the Akathist hymn, a penitential celebration which includes the individual confessions of the penitents (as found in the Order of Penance).
- Engage in a suitable period of time in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and prayers to Mary, the Mother of God, so that in this Holy Year everyone "will come to know the closeness of Mary, the most affectionate of mothers, who never abandons her children" (*Spes non confundit*, 24).

## 2. Works of Mercy and Penance

In addition, the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if, with a devout spirit, they participate in popular missions, spiritual exercises, or formation activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, held in a church or other suitable place, according to the mind of the Holy Father.

The faithful who are truly repentant of sin but who cannot participate in the various solemn celebrations, pilgrimages, and pious visits for serious reasons (especially cloistered nuns and monks, but also the elderly, the sick, prisoners, and those who, through their work in hospitals and other care facilities, provide continuous service to the sick), can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence under the same conditions if, united in spirit with the faithful taking part in person (especially when the words of the Supreme Pontiff or the diocesan Bishop are transmitted through various means of communication), they recite the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith in any approved form, and other prayers in conformity with the objectives of the Holy Year, in their homes or wherever they are confined, offering up their sufferings or the hardships of their lives.

The faithful will also be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, their brothers and sisters who are in need or difficulty (the sick, prisoners, lonely elderly people, disabled people), in a sense making a pilgrimage to Christ present

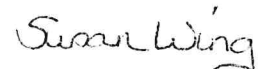
in them according to the usual spiritual, sacramental, and prayer conditions. The faithful can repeat these visits throughout the Holy Year, even daily, acquiring a plenary indulgence each time.

A plenary indulgence can be acquired only once in the course of a day. However, the faithful who have carried out an act of charity on behalf of the souls of Purgatory, if they receive Holy Communion a second time that day during a Eucharistic celebration, can obtain the plenary indulgence twice on the same day, applicable only to the deceased.

Given at the Chancery Office in South Burlington, Vermont, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of Our Lord 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. McDermott", with a cross at the beginning of the line.

The Most Reverend John J. McDermott  
Bishop of Burlington

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Wing".

Mrs. Susan Wing  
Vice-Chancellor