



Celebrating the Jubilee Locally

JUBILEE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (APRIL 28-29, 2025)

The Jubilee Year is a sacred time in the Church, inviting the faithful to experience God's mercy through pilgrimages, Mass celebrations, and acts of reconciliation. The 2025 Jubilee Year follows the theme "Pilgrims of Hope", encouraging Catholics to embrace and share God's mercy through service, peace, and compassion.

The Jubilee of People with Disabilities will take place from Monday, April 28, to Tuesday, April 29. However, this moment of grace extends beyond these dates—it is an invitation to recognize, celebrate, and uplift persons with disabilities throughout the Jubilee Year and beyond.

Here in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, we encourage parishes, schools, organizations, and individuals to use this resource packet to plan local celebrations that foster inclusion and belonging. Whether through special Masses, community gatherings, or acts of outreach, every effort—big or small—helps create a more welcoming and supportive Church for all.

This guide, created by the Social Justice Commission, provides practical ideas and inspiration, but it is only the beginning. May it serve as a catalyst for ongoing initiatives that honour the gifts and dignity of persons with disabilities in our faith community, not just during this Jubilee but throughout the years to come.

May this guide help create spaces of belonging, joy, and faith-filled celebration for all.

PRAYERS

Suggested Prayers of the Faithful:

For the Church, called to welcome people of all abilities as part of God's beloved family, and to invite them into full participation, we pray to the Lord.

For people with disabilities, seeking dignity and empowerment to serve God, we pray to the Lord.

For parishes, seeking ways to become more accessible to all people, we pray to the Lord.

For all of us, called to welcome and embrace and worship with people of all abilities, we pray to the Lord.

Special Prayers:

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are dealing with extraordinary challenges and special needs. May they be accepted, included, cared for and treated as all others in our communities. May we, as Christians, open our arms to welcome them with a loving embrace within our communities, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Amen

Offer a Holy hour of Adoration, praying for people with disabilities.

Saint's Intercession:

St. Margaret of Castello, patron saint of people with disabilities, pray for all those facing extraordinary challenges and give them hope and strength in Christ Jesus.

St. Andre Bessette, who humbly cared for the sick and disabled, pray for us as we serve those in need.

St. Margaret of Castello, patron saint of people with disabilities, pray for all who face physical and mental challenges.

St. Benedict Joseph Labre, patron saint of those with mental disabilities, pray for all who long to be understood and accepted.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, who overcame challenges to embrace her faith, pray for all who seek belonging and spiritual strength.

ACTION

Spend time visiting with a person with a disability.

And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me (Matthew 25:40)

- Be present. Listen.
- Offer them a prayer card or to share a favourite Bible passage.
- Take time to visit and truly engage with someone who has a disability. Be present, listen to their stories, and share in their joys and struggles. Consider bringing a small token, such as a flower, a card, or a book of reflections.

Offer a ride to church or offer to run errands for someone who has mobility issues.

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)

- Offer this as an individual or organize groups in the parish to minister to fellow parishioners in this way.
- Many individuals with disabilities or mobility issues struggle with transportation. Offer to give them a ride to Mass or help with grocery shopping, doctor’s appointments, or errands.
- Form a ministry within the parish to provide regular transportation and assistance. Assign volunteers to regularly check in with those who may need help attending Mass or completing daily tasks.

Offer respite for a caregiver.

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. John 13:14

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

- This may be for an hour, a day, a weekend, depending on your ability and familiarity with the person with disabilities.
- Caregivers often need time to rest and recharge. Offer to spend time with their loved one so they can have a break for an hour, a day, or even a weekend, depending on your availability and familiarity with the family.

Assess parish accessibility and take steps to improve inclusivity.

You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the Gospel to you; though my condition put you to the test, you did not. Galatians 4:13-14

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." (Proverbs 3:27)

- If your church doesn't have space available for wheelchairs or pews marked for those needing assistance, make a space available.
- Arrange teams to offer rides to Mass and parish events.
- Include people with disabilities in liturgical ministry.
- Evaluate the physical accessibility of your church: Are there wheelchair-accessible pews and seating areas? Is there clear signage and access to ramps/elevators? Are there large-print missals or hearing assistance devices available? Work with the parish council to implement changes that make the church more welcoming for all.

Host an awareness workshop to promote understanding and inclusion.

We are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8

- Invite people working in the field and people with disabilities to present or share at the workshops.
- Invite people with disabilities and professionals in the field to share their experiences. Discuss ways to create a more inclusive parish. Provide practical guidance on how to interact with and support those with different needs.

Give a special blessing at mass for people with disabilities and their families and caregivers.

“With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 15:6)

- Give the blessing together, so as not to separate those with disabilities

Include people with disabilities in liturgical ministry.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.” (1 Corinthians 12:4)

- Encourage individuals with disabilities to participate in parish life. They can serve as lectors, altar servers, choir members, or greeters. Everyone has a gift to share in worship.

Volunteer with a local organization that serves people with disabilities.

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

- See suggestions in the Resources section or local organizations in your area.
- Seek out opportunities to serve through organizations that support people with disabilities. Visit homes for those with special needs, assist in social programs, or help at community events.

RESOURCES

- Manitoba Possible offers opportunities on their Community Education Hub.
www.manitobapossible.ca
- L'Arche Winnipeg <https://www.larchewinnipeg.org>
- Church documents on disability and inclusion: "The Person with Disabilities: The Duties of the Civil and Ecclesial Community"
https://www.vatican.va/jubilee_2000/jubileevents/jub_disabled_20001203_scheda_5_en.
- Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church "148. Persons with disabilities are fully human subjects, with rights and duties: "in spite of the limitations and sufferings affecting their bodies and faculties, they point up more clearly the dignity and greatness of man"[291]. ... The rights of persons with disabilities need to be promoted with effective and appropriate measures"
- Training for people assisting individuals with disabilities. St. Amant (Wpg) has numerous workshops available. stamant.ca, as does Manitoba Possible.

"At Worship with the Disabled" CCCB. https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/At_Worship_with_the_Disabled.pdf