



Ealing Abbey Church

Jubilee Year Parish Discussions – Summary

There was two Parish discussions held on Wednesday 2nd October 10am-11.30am and 7.30-8.45pm in the Parish Hall. Scripture readings in the groups from the Jubilee themes were read and reflected upon considering the action points for the scripture themes and discussed in response to the issues raised.

This document summarises the key outcomes from the overall sessions for the sub-themes and general comments, these will be used in the follow-up meetings in January 2025.

Care for Creation subtheme

- Reflected upon the wonder of Creation and how we can continually reflect and give Thanks & Praise to God for this. During the year the theme of the Glory of creation could be used in the 09.00 Children's Liturgy.
- Suggested there could parish-wide activities like a day for bringing and swapping/recycling goods and unwanted toys.
- We could reflect on the presence of nature around the Abbey and Church grounds eg the work of the bees in the monastery's hives.
- We were reminded that a Jubilee Year is a time to restore the balance between rich and poor so that the riches of creation could be shared more.
- The group thought that personal awareness and actions were important to Care for Creation – sometimes it is easier to let others take responsibility, and rely on others. As part of the Roman Catholic community, we should also be pro-active, in caring for creation.
- We need to take time to appreciate nature around us – especially in our busy lives. E.g. go for a slow walk in a park etc.
- Live simply in solidarity with the poor, without exploiting the natural resources of the earth. e.g. walk instead of driving somewhere if practical
- Some sort of recruitment – to raise awareness to “Care for Creation”
- We spoke about planting a jubilee tree.
- Allowing a patch of land to be cultivated to growing and appreciating creation.
- [Pilgrimage Walk | Westminster \(pilgrimways.org.uk\)](http://pilgrimways.org.uk)
- Litter picking locally
- Growing a plant together day – brings people together and to care and cultivate a plant with prayer intertwined in the day
- Whole Catholic Church – millions of people should be able to influence our Governments worldwide
- Can we support United Nations on their work in the Middle East? We already support Friends of the Holy Land.
- Hardness of Hearts prevents solutions what can be done to soften hearts?
- Is God mission? Is it that individuals do not feel connected, their awareness is not there.

- Modern politicians – career politicians therefore not bringing life experiences.

Food Poverty subtheme

- Greed, Selfishness, and a me first culture
- The Parish Justice and Peace Group has diminished, which is perhaps a change to re-ignite for the Jubilee Year. However, from the J and P group there came A CAFOD Group and a Food Bank Group, do we need to encourage these some more for the Jubilee Year.
- SVP runs a Soup Kitchen (do we know the details?)
- Supporting a night Shelter. Not all Parishioners are aware we have Ealing Winter Night Shelter that we support and run for 6 weeks of the year each January so we can share details wider.
- Can we ourselves waste less food, buying less so less is thrown away. Parish events make sure the correct amount of food is provided, even if it should run out, no waste!
- Big companies desire for profit
- What can we do to give us hope?
- Food waste – Felix project and others to use out of date food
- Food bank – donating food
- Acton homeless – need to tackle the root cause, what is successful – numbers of homelessness is increasing.
- Winter night shelter- meals not just for the homeless, a Lenten Project next year?

Modern Slavery

- The group also discussed the issue of Slavery and Human Trafficking. We thought firstly more awareness of this issue should be raised before taking appropriate action. This could be done in the parish e.g. inviting a speaker from Caritas or Bakhita House or screening the recent Christian thriller film 'Sound of Freedom'
- Movie night on awareness of modern slavery, climate issues, food poverty. And possible have some reflective questions midway. Possible movies Sound of Freedom and Sound of Hope.
[Sound of Freedom - Official Trailer \(2023\) \(youtube.com\)](#)
[Sound Of Hope: The Story Of Possum Trot | Official Trailer | Angel Studios \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Join a march – create banners and a display perhaps the young/teen confirmation age
- Commission art piece to express
- Bakheta House was discussed, does it need more support, to help support trafficked women.
- People can have other forms of slavery. Slaves to alcohol, drugs, pornography, food, internet.
- Questions over how people are employed, whether its those we see, or those we don't (e.g. Those who makes clothes for low prices), We live a city (London) where a lot of people work in just ways, are trafficked, money laundered etc.
- Minimum wage – Government set the amount but companies want to avoid paying, a use of 'modern slavery'
- How can we work with other religious faiths to tackle this?

Managing Debt subtheme

Sharing Testimonies of the existing support projects going on in the parish ie. The winter night shelter. and encouraging new **volunteers** to come through and to take part.

Forgiveness subtheme

- We discussed around the theme of forgiveness the possibility of offering a type of conflict and family communication therapy/ a series of talks on forgiveness with possibly different guest speakers and to have a concluding night with a reconciliation evening and time in front of the blessed sacrament.X2 over the year.
- Plus hearing peoples testimonies.
- Forgiveness is perhaps seen as a sign of weakness as it's always the others' fault.
- There is a sense of tit for tat not really loving the other but wanting revenge for hurt.
- A sin of omission, remaining silent, due to selfishness when relationships are broken.
- A period of preparation in prayer maybe required before the gift/grace of forgiveness can be received from the Holy Spirt.
- Forgiveness is recognised when we are at peace with ourselves and others.
- A time for letting go and being free of the burden of judgement both personally and collectively.
- This can be a time for enlightenment resulting in a change of heart in our attitude toward others.

Rest & worship subtheme

- Parishioners could be encouraged to set aside more time for silent prayer. Parents of young families might like to incorporate silent periods into family prayer. Perhaps there could be more opportunities for Exposition and Adoration. Might it be possible to add a couple of minutes of silent prayer at the end of the Homily ?
- To have the virgin Mary hosted from house to house in our Lady's months – November and May and have a service on her feast day and procession.
- Bring the saints to life.
- Going on Pilgrimage even in the UK
- Host the jubilee Icon

Final Notes – some general words and comments

- Commitment – try to get people to commit just for the Jubilee year, and see what happens after that.
 - Recruitment day – on a Sunday after Masses to show Parish groups, have a captive audience after Mass
 - West London – Justice and Peace Group
 - "Capture the Charisms"- approach people who have special skills
 - <http://Toilettwinning.org>
 - Prayer for teens group already in the Parish
 - There is a lot already being done in the Parish, what else can we do.
 - Need to consider multi-faith involvement.
 - Have a jubilee banner in the church, and possible boards explaining what it means. History, Jubilee today, what it means spiritually.
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- What is the point of the Jubilee? The six issues listed are all familiar in the wider world and seen as 'good issues' to address.

- Someone described the Jubilee in terms of the Jewish tradition of a time of reparation for our sins with the indulgences acquired from the works of the saints
- We naturally think how can the Jubilee be a help for me?
 - We're called to see that we are unworthy and to put God first, to be able to see the needs of the other person.
 - Prayer as seen as a service for individuals, the church and the world.
 - Partaking in the current prayer groups, the rosary, stations of the cross exposition of the blessed sacrament etc.
 - Prayer as an antidote to the worldly followings of the occult, new age, alternative life styles etc.
 - Confession helps us enter into this time – it is a gift we receive from God through the priest.
 - Confession as a principal element in the Christian life and to attend more regularly

Items that come to mind are reparation, atonement for sin, graces, hope, indulgencies although 'back in fashion' have historically had a bad reputation and further explanation is needed.

Benefits of the Jubilee

- An opportunity to put God first
- Challenge our own attitudes – giving our time and money for the other person
- We need to convert every day, the Jubilee provides an opportunity, a 'big event'.
 - This Jubilee year is a gift offering a time to think more deeply about our Christian way of life and a time for reflection about our own life our behaviour and Gods love for us and to receive the graces to benefit us in the Jubilee year

Summary from the six issues

- Shopping – 'shop-lite' do I really need it? How much did it cost to make?
- People gave their experience charities and foodbanks
- Small actions of giving to others – to have love for the other, to give your time
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- We can feel the problems are insurmountable and we can make no difference. Someone gave the example of overcoming apartheid in South Africa, where the small works of people were able to change a society.
- Rest is important not just for the body and mind but also the soul. Prayer restores the soul and nourishes our relationship with God – a good consideration for the coming year.

Events

Flame March 2025

[The Jubilee icon \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk)

CAFOD resource also attached.

Walsingham

CAFOD Resources

[Pilgrims of Hope reflection guide – CAFOD Shop](#)

[Jubilee 2025: Pope Francis issues new call for debt cancellation \(cafod.org.uk\)](#)

[Jubilee icon for England and Wales blessed \(cafod.org.uk\)](#)