



# THE JUBILEE CROSS

## PRAYER & REFLECTION

Jesus Youth UK - Silver Jubilee 2026





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Introductory hymn

The Cross is lifted. Any appropriate Hymn is sung.

## 1. Gathering and Opening Rite

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Lord, teach us to pray.

**All:** Lord, fill us with your holy spirit.

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**All:** As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen.

**Leader:**

Brothers and sisters, as we are in the Jubilee Cross procession, we walk in the footsteps of Christ. We carry His Cross as a sign of our desire to **repent of sin, be reconciled in love, and rebuild the Church** in faith and hope. Let us assemble in His name and venerate the Holy Cross which is both the sign and symbol of our redemption in Christ.

**Any Apt hymn is sung which leads to short time of praise and worship**

## 2. Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for twenty-five years of missionary zeal, for every heart touched, every life renewed, and every young person formed to proclaim Your love. **Grant us the grace to repent**, to turn away from every sin that weakens our witness and every fear that keeps us from living the Gospel boldly. Cleanse our hearts, renew our minds, and make us worthy to carry Your Cross with humility and joy. Heal the wounds within us, reconcile divided communities, and make us instruments of Your peace in our homes, parishes, campuses, and workplaces. As You once spoke from the Cross of San Damiano: **“Go, rebuild my Church, which you see is falling into ruin”**, inspire in us a new missionary fire—to reach out to the lonely, the lost, and the



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forgotten; to accompany the young with compassion; to bring Your light into the cultural and spiritual deserts of our time. Bless this procession and all who take part in it, that Your mercy may renew our hearts in peace, love and joy. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### 3. Proclamation of the Word

**Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

"We are ambassadors for Christ... be reconciled to God."

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### 4. Short Reflection

**Reflection: Ambassadors of Reconciliation and Rebuilders of God's House**

In today's reading from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, St. Paul reminds us of a profound truth: **"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."** God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and—astonishingly—has entrusted to us the **ministry of reconciliation**. We are called to be His ambassadors, His representatives, His living instruments of healing in a broken world. This mission is not abstract or distant. It is deeply personal and urgently needed. We live in a world hungry for peace, for understanding, for unity. And Paul tells us that God chooses to work through our voices, our actions, our forgiveness, and our love to rebuild what sin and division have torn apart.

This call echoes powerfully the experience of St. Francis of Assisi at the little church of San Damiano. Kneeling before the crucifix, Francis heard the Lord speak: **"Francis, go and rebuild my Church, which as you can see is falling into ruin."** At first, he thought God literally meant stone and wood. And indeed, he began to repair the broken chapel. But soon he understood: Christ was calling him to renew the entire Church—through humility, mercy, compassion, and radical Gospel living.



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The message to Francis is the message to us. Christ still speaks from the Cross.

He still calls each of us by name.

He still says: “Rebuild my Church.”

Rebuild it through reconciliation.

Rebuild it through forgiveness.

Rebuild it by seeing every person as a new creation in Christ.

To be an ambassador of reconciliation means refusing to let anger have the last word. It means reaching across divides, listening with compassion, breaking the walls and building bridges, healing wounded relationships, and bringing God’s peace where the world expects conflict. It means allowing Christ to rebuild us first—our hearts, our priorities, our way of seeing others—so that we can help rebuild His Church from the inside out. Brothers and sisters, may we accept this mission with the same courage and humility as St. Francis. May we become instruments of Christ’s peace, workers for unity, and faithful ambassadors of the God who reconciles all things to Himself. And may the Church—beginning in each one of us—be renewed, restored, and rebuilt in the love of Christ. Amen.

### 3. Bidding prayers for use during the procession.

Each petition ends with:

**Lord, in your mercy.**

**All:** Hear our prayer.

#### **For the Holy Catholic Church**

Let us pray for the Holy Catholic Church throughout the world: that guided by the Holy Spirit she may remain faithful in proclaiming Christ, courageous in witnessing the Gospel, and steadfast in her mission of mercy and reconciliation.

Lord, in your mercy...

**All:** Hear our prayer.



  
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**For the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, and Priests**

For our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV,  
and for all cardinals, bishops, priests, and deacons:  
that the Lord may strengthen them in holiness,  
sustain them with wisdom,  
and make them faithful ambassadors of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy...

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**For Jesus Youth UK in its Silver Jubilee Year**

For the **Jesus Youth movement in the UK**, celebrating twenty-five years of missionary presence: that every member may be renewed in zeal, faithful to the movement's call that "**once a missionary, always a missionary**," and empowered to bring Christ to the peripheries of society.

Lord, in your mercy...

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**For the Jubilee Cross Procession**

For the Jubilee Cross that journeys across our land, and for all who participate in, pray with, or guide this procession: that each step may be filled with the grace of Jubilee, bringing repentance, healing, and deep renewal to every heart it touches.

Lord, in your mercy...

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**For Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life**

For an increase in holy vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and missionary service: that young men and women may listen to the Lord's call with generosity and courage, and become living witnesses of Christ's love in the world.

Lord, in your mercy...

**All:** Hear our prayer.



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**For Renewal in Families and Among Youth**

For our families, youth, and children: that the Holy Spirit may rekindle unity in homes, purify relationships with forgiveness, and guide the rising generation to live their faith with conviction and joy.  
Lord, in your mercy...

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**To Live the Message of the Jubilee Cross: Repent, Reconcile, Rebuild**

For the grace to fully receive the message of the Jubilee Cross—to repent of sin and turn wholeheartedly to God; to reconcile with one another as Christ reconciled the world to Himself; and to rebuild the Church with renewed love and missionary commitment. May we become true “**new creations**” in Christ, entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation.  
Lord, in your mercy...

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**For Transformation Through Christ**

That this Jubilee season may deepen our identity as ambassadors of Christ, strengthen our faith, and renew our mission to bring the light of the Gospel to all we meet.  
Lord, in your mercy...

**All:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

Let us surrender our personal intentions and the prayers of our loved ones, together with these intentions, and offer them up to the Father in Heaven as we pray together.

Our Father...



  
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**Leader:**

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus,

You have walked with us on this pilgrimage of the Cross. May the seeds of repentance take root, may reconciliation flourish, and may Your Church be rebuilt through our witness, our service, and our love. Remain with us, Lord, and make us living signs of Your mercy. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

#### 4. Final Blessing

**Leader:**

May the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:**

May the Holy Spirit guide our steps as we go forth to live the gospel, bringing Christ's light to the world.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:**

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to the everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Concluding Hymn**