



Pilgrimage of Hope

A journey around Birmingham
City Centre



#FHCPilgrimage





Introduction

This Jubilee Year is an invitation to reflect on signs of hope in a world facing huge challenges. Father Hudson's Caritas invites you to take part in this pilgrimage around Birmingham City Centre. This is a call to journey around the city in a time of reflection and renewed hope in our ability to inspire action rooted in justice.

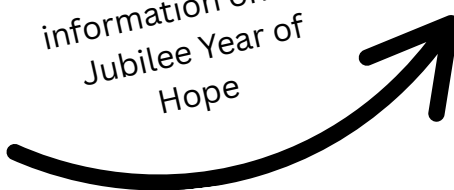
You are welcome to do this walk at any time; it might be that you just do a few of the stops or that you complete the whole route. However you want to make use of this resource is great.

Whilst walking, why don't you consider some of the following:

- Take this opportunity to slow down, observe the city around you, look up at the buildings, and notice things.
- Take time to pray for the people and situations around you.
- Are there any things that bring you joy or sorrow in what you see?
- Does the city feel overwhelming or calm?
- How would the city feel different to you if you had a physical disability or did not speak English?



For more
information on the
Jubilee Year of
Hope



A note from the CEO

Father Hudson's Caritas is pleased to launch our first Pilgrimage around Birmingham for Jubilee 2025. Our name 'Caritas' means love and charity, and in this Year of Hope, we are sharing this pilgrimage walk to bring local people together and initiate reflection, discussion, and action around love, hope, and charity in the City. Please do tell us about how your pilgrimage has been, who you did it with, your reflections, and actions.

Our mission at Father Hudson's Caritas is to respond to need across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Our inspiration is the example of Jesus in the Gospel and the Catholic Social Teaching that flows from this. As part of Catholic Social Teaching, we promote the use of the 'see, judge, act' method in this Year of Hope pilgrimage walk:

See - what is happening across the City to give us hope, celebrate Birmingham, and the good work across the City, and those playing their part in social justice.

Judge - evaluate and discern on the impact and hope, along with the needs of those in the City who are marginalised, more vulnerable, and isolated, those experiencing poverty. Discern what we can do.

Act - calls to action are listed throughout this booklet. Examples are the power of prayer, along with volunteering, donating, calling on policy makers, being welcoming, and helping others.

We would love to see photos from your pilgrimage! Tag us on social media and use #FHCPilgrimage



@FatherHudsons



@FatherHudsons



@FatherHudsons



@Father-Hudsons



@FatherHudsonsCaritas

Joanne Watters



A note from Archbishop Bernard Longley

I am very pleased to be invited to share some words with you and to thank you as you begin your pilgrimage walk around Birmingham City Centre during this special Jubilee Year with its focus on hope.

In St Luke's Gospel, we are told about two disciples walking along the road to Emmaus who are joined by Jesus, though they do not immediately recognise him until he breaks bread with them. Recognising the presence of Jesus is at the heart of any pilgrimage we make.

When we go on pilgrimage, we begin a journey of faith and devotion. Throughout history, people have made pilgrimages to holy sites and places for various reasons, to pray for something or someone, to pray for themselves, to ask God for strength, guidance or for healing or simply in thanksgiving. Whatever the reason, an essential element of pilgrimage is the journey that we make together with Jesus in our hearts.

Pope Leo has reminded us recently that this Holy Year 'inspires us all and invites us all to look for hope, but also to be signs of hope.' He tells us that our faith enables us to see the light of Jesus Christ in our lives and how important it is to live our faith every day.

Each of the locations that you will visit on your pilgrimage around the city helps to remind us of our call to serve others, particularly those who are in need and who are vulnerable. Charities such as Fr Hudson's Caritas enable us to reach out and support people in a practical way as we live out the gospel message of love and hope.

May God bless you as you begin your pilgrimage around Birmingham City Centre.

+ Bernard Longley

Archbishop of Birmingham



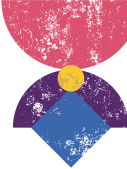


Table of Locations

LOCATION	DISTANCE AND ESTIMATED TIME TO NEXT LOCATION
St Chad's Cathedral	0.4 Miles - 9 Mins
St Philip's Cathedral Church Yard	0.3 Miles - 6 Mins
Victoria Square	0.3 Miles - 7 Mins
Library of Birmingham	0.4 Miles - 8 Mins
Registry Office	0.3 Miles - 7 Mins
Peace Garden	0.3 Miles - 7 Mins
Tabor Living	0.8 Miles - 18 Mins
Digbeth Coach Station	0.8 Miles - 20 Mins
Crown Courts	0.2 Miles - 5 Mins
Birmingham Children's Hospital	0.2 Miles - 5 Mins
St Chad's Sanctuary	You did it!

Click here for instructions to travel between locations on our route map



St Philip's Cathedral Church Yard

Our first stop is Pigeon Park. In this small patch of green in the city, we invite you to stop and observe what is going on around you. What do you notice about the people? The buildings? The trees?

Cities are a beautiful example of a coming together of communities; however, in the midst of a city with all the people and tall buildings, it is easy to forget that we're part of a bigger creation.

In this moment of reflection, call to mind all of God's beautiful creation. How can you renew your commitment to caring for our common home? What are the signs of hope you see in this?

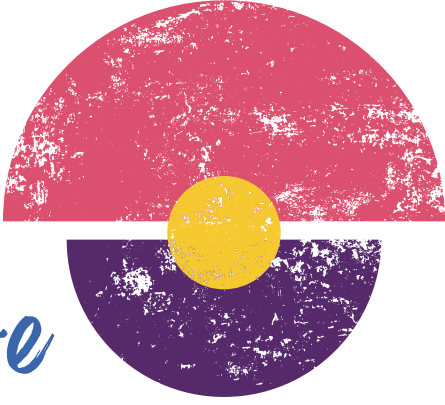


Call to action

In Laudato Si - Pope Francis called us to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Can you commit to a small lifestyle change to reduce your environmental impact? Here are some easy ideas...

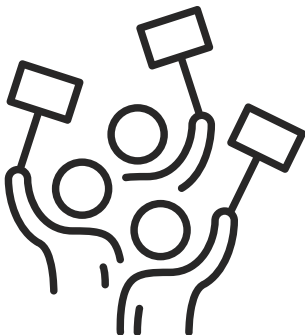
- Eat less meat
- Buy second hand clothes rather than fast fashion.
- Reduce your use of single use plastics.



Victoria Square

Here in Victoria Square, we can see the Council House, the seat of our local government in Birmingham. What do you notice in the square? How does the grand building make you feel?

Whilst you're spending time here, call to mind public leaders; locally, nationally, and internationally. Pray for those making critical decisions relating to people's lives. With our shared humanity in mind, think of examples in your own communities of people working together in the hope of a more just and compassionate world. What role can you play in engaging with decision-making in your local community or more broadly?



Call to action

Is there an injustice issue you feel particularly passionate about? Write to your local MP about this issue to call for change. Use your voice to advocate for policy that upholds dignity, equality and the common good.

To find out who your local MP is and how to contact them scan this QR code.





Library of Birmingham

Welcome to Centenary Square, which is home to the Library of Birmingham. If you have a bit of extra time, you might want to go into the library and visit one of the garden terraces, which have wonderful views over the city and can be a great place to pray.

Whilst here in or around the library, we invite you to honour the wisdom, experiences, and contributions of older people to our communities. The library is a vast collection of stories, history, and learning – an amazing symbol of memory and intergenerational connections. What impact have the older people in your life had on you? What signs of hope do you see in this?



Is there an older person in your life or community who you could connect with this week? Can you offer companionship, help with errands or a listening ear? Make space for their stories, wisdom and presence. Karis Neighbour Scheme in Ladywood has an older person's befriending scheme - find out more here...



Call to action



Registry Office

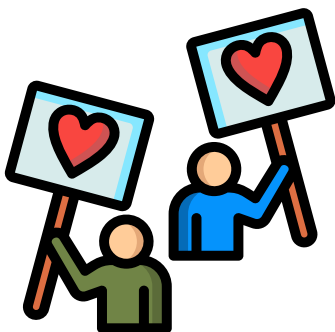
This is Birmingham's registry office. This is a place symbolic of so many different life stages, from registering births to deaths and many more significant life moments in between. Whilst you're here and standing on a junction with many crossroads, we invite you to pray for those who are at stages of transition in life.

Pilgrimage calls us to journey with hope. For some, the future feels overwhelming and uncertain. At this stage, we pray that those for whom the future feels scary, may be inspired by the hope of God's love.



Call to action

We never really know what is going on behind the scenes in the lives of people around us. With this in mind, be intentional about your interactions with both friends and strangers. How can you show kindness and compassion? Is there a friend you haven't heard from in a while who you could reach out to? Do you tell the people around you what they mean to you? Actions and words can be powerful reminders of how valued they are in moments that feel overwhelming.





Peace Garden



In the peace garden, we give thanks for the peace that we experience in our country. So much of what we hear in the news relates to conflict, violence, and war. Here, we invite you to pray for peace. This can feel such an overwhelmingly huge prayer. Perhaps there is a country you know of that you would like to focus on, or you could pray for those countries which do not make the headlines, or a particular group affected by conflict. In this moment of reflecting on peace, we also encourage you to pray for perpetrators of violence and hatred – in the midst of so much brokenness, we pray that light, love, and hope may flood these situations.

In his early greetings to the world as Pope, Pope Leo XIV has placed a huge emphasis on peace. ..*'We are followers of Christ. Christ goes before us. The world needs his light. Humanity needs him as the bridge that can lead us to God and his love. Help us, one and all, to build bridges through dialogue and encounter, joining together as one people, always at peace.'*

Call to action

Can you commit to learn about a country experiencing conflict, which is not in the headlines, and pray for that place?

Consider whether your bank invests in arms, and if so, could you move to an alternative?

Pax Christi is a Catholic organisation working for peace, you can find out more about them here....



Tabor Living

As you have been walking through the city, you will have encountered people who are homeless. Homelessness is such a huge issue, and whilst there are visible signs of homelessness, there is also much hidden homelessness. Many people, including families are in inadequate temporary accommodation.

You are at Tabor Living which is an amazing project supported by the Catholic Church seeking to support those facing homelessness through a night shelter and then supporting people into first tenancy accommodation. At this stop, we encourage you to pray for those who are homeless or whose accommodation is insecure or unsafe.



Call to action

Do you know how to take action to support someone who is sleeping rough? Scan here to find out more about Street Link.



Tabor Living is looking for volunteers, for more information on how you can get involved scan here.



Digbeth Coach Station

Here at the coach station, we call to mind people who are journeying. We remember particularly those who are forced to take journeys in order to find safety. We pray that Birmingham will be an open and welcoming place for those who find themselves seeking sanctuary here. Just a little further down the road is Fatima House, which is a project supporting migrant women in need of protection who are facing destitution. Further out of the city, Brushstrokes and Hope Community Project offer support to newly arrived communities as they navigate unfamiliar systems and structures to rebuild lives in a completely new place.



 **Brushstrokes**
Community Project



**FATIMA
HOUSE**



Call to action



How many languages can you learn “welcome” in? Have you noticed new people in your church or community lately? Can you offer a friendly face and welcome? Commit to getting involved in a befriending scheme offering welcome to newly arrived communities?

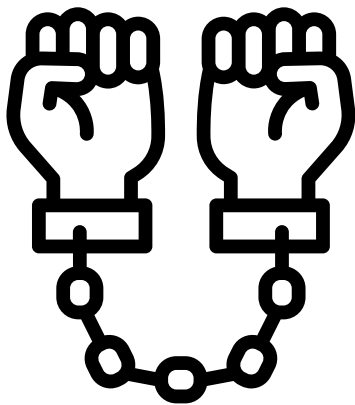
Befriend a refugee
or asylum seeker
with Restore.



Crown Courts

Here at The Crown Courts, we remember all those affected by the criminal justice system. We pray for those who have criminal convictions and their families, as well as those whose lives are affected by crime.

We pray for the work of organisations who offer support to prisoners, people with convictions and their children and families – we pray for their work and that we may be inspired to recognise the innate worth and dignity of every human being.



Call to action

Challenge the stigma in the way that you talk about the criminal justice system and advocate for systems that restore rather than punish.

Pact is an organisation working with those in prison and their families - learn about the work of Pact and think about how you might be able to support the work.

Another organisation supporting people affected by the criminal justice system.

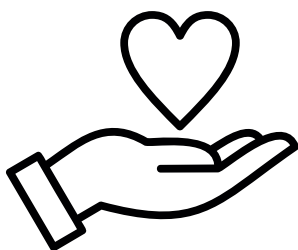


Birmingham Children's Hospital

In front of the children's hospital, we think of all those affected by illness, particularly children and families. We give thanks for the hope that medical professionals and those working in the NHS provide to families facing huge challenges. We call to mind any of our own family and friends who are unwell at this time, we pray for hope in dark situations and for God's healing presence.



Call to action



There are lots of practical ways that you can support the healthcare system. Can you give blood? Or platelets? Are you on the stem cell register?



St Chad's Sanctuary

Our final stop is St Chad's Sanctuary, a beautiful example of welcome in our city. St Chad's Sanctuary provides welcome, practical support, English lessons, and sign posting to newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers. At this final stop, we focus on the signs of hope that we have witnessed across our city and give thanks for the amazing communities that make up this wonderful place.



Call to action

There are lots of campaign actions you can get involved with relating to the asylum system. Asylum Matters are a great way of keeping up to date with current issues.



St Chad's Cathedral

Weekend Masses :

Saturday 4.30 pm

The Cathedral opens at 11.00 am and closes soon after Mass and Confessions

Sunday 9.30 am and 11.30 am Mass

The Cathedral opens at 9 am and closes soon after the 11.30 am Mass

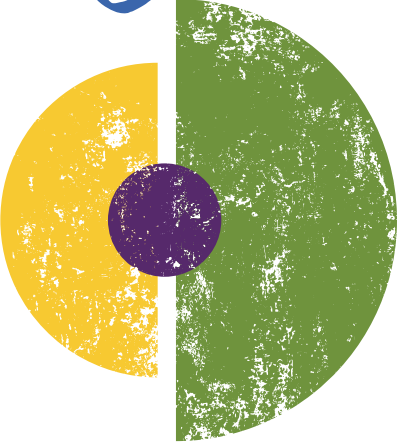
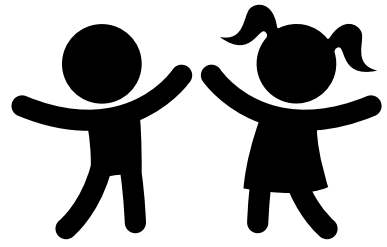
Monday- Friday:

Monday to Friday: 12.15 pm

The Cathedral opens at 9.30 am and closes at 4.00 pm



Children's Corner



Questions to discuss on your pilgrimage:

What is a pilgrim?

What does “hope” mean?

What do pilgrims of hope carry in their hearts?

How can we show hope to others?

When someone is sad, what can we do to bring them hope?

Who walks with us on our journey of hope?

How does it feel to give someone hope?

What can we do every day to be a pilgrim of hope?



H O P E



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

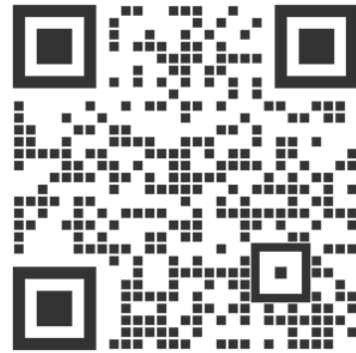
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

Official prayer from Pope Francis for the Jubilee year
2025, "Pilgrims of hope"

Find out more about Father Hudson's Caritas...

Visit our website here, to find out more about the work of Father Hudson's Caritas and how you can get involved.



My name is Emily Pugh, and I am the Caritas Development lead for Father Hudson's Caritas. My role is to support parishes and schools in getting involved in social action.

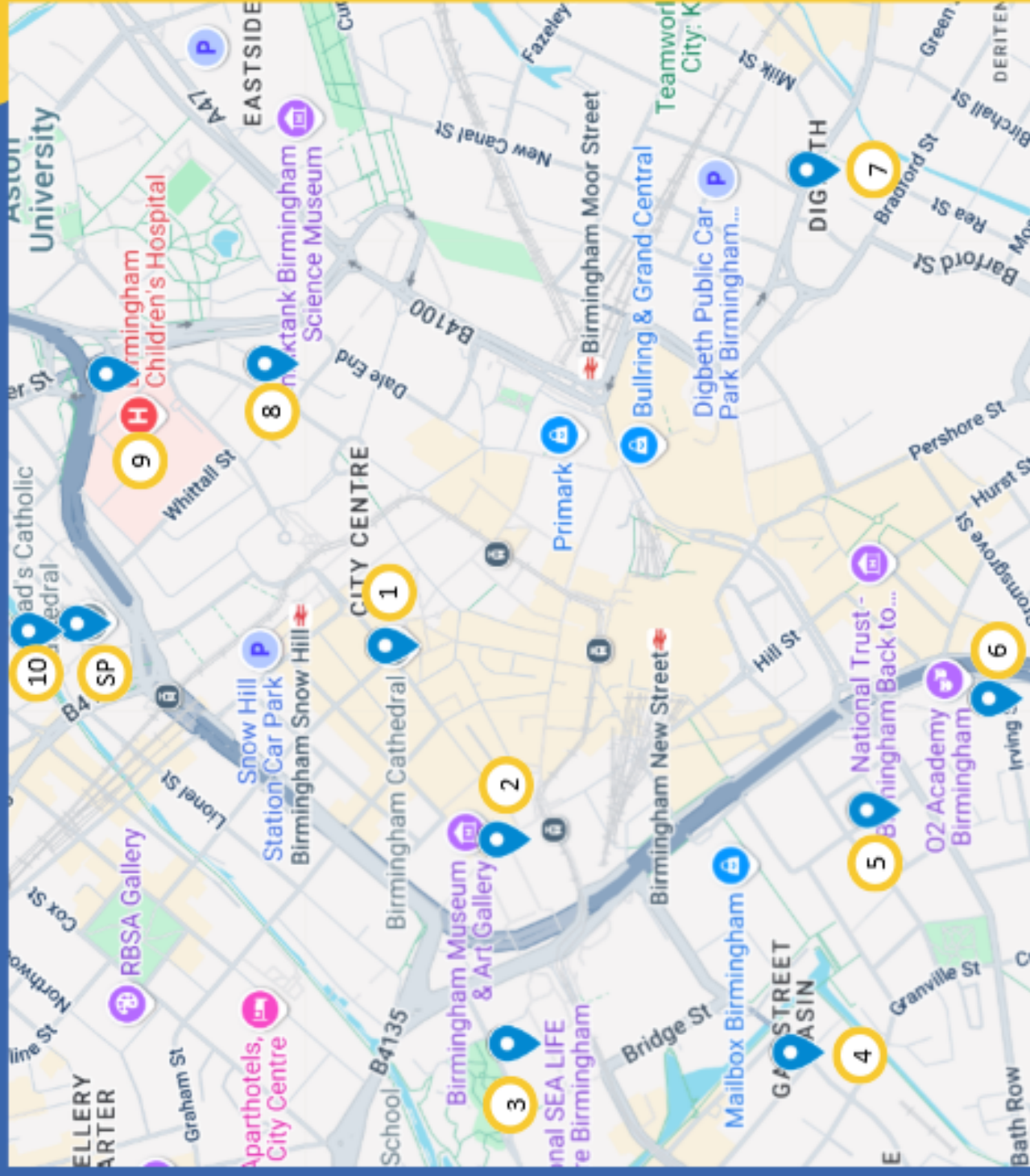
Thank you for taking part in our pilgrimage of Hope around Birmingham city centre. Create your own design of the word Hope at the bottom of the Children's corner page. We would love to see them; either email photos or tag us on social media.

If you would like to get in touch about social action in your parish or school:

emilypugh@fatherhudsons.org.uk

07385472924





Starting point- St Chad's

Cathedral

1. St Philip's churchyard

2. Victoria Square

3. Library of Birmingham

4. Registry office

5. Peace Garden

6. Tabor Living

7. Digbeth coach station

8. Crown courts

9. Birmingham Children's

hospital

10. St Chad's Sanctuary