



ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In just a few days' time, the Holy Father will go to the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in Rome and strike it three times asking for admission. The Door will then open, the Pope will pause in prayer, and then pass through, thus inaugurating the Jubilee Year of 2025.

He has decreed that the forthcoming 'Holy Year' should be marked as a 'Jubilee of Hope' and that we should live it as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

More than three decades ago, moved by the deep *hopelessness* and poverty he saw within our communities, the late Cardinal Winning established the St. Nicholas Care Fund to provide aid and hope to those in need throughout the Archdiocese of Glasgow. His compassionate response to the suffering he witnessed has continued to bear fruit, and the Care Fund remains a vital lifeline for many.

In 2024, the St. Nicholas Care Fund has continued to bring hope and practical assistance to individuals and families facing hardship. But also to:

- Vulnerable people battling addiction, isolation, and discrimination;
- Refugees fleeing from wars and the effects of climate change;
- Those without homes or families who are struggling to survive in the harsh realities of today's world

These are not distant strangers but people in our own communities who may view the upcoming Christmas season with fear and uncertainty, rather than the joy and hope that should mark the birth of our Saviour.

The challenges of this year have been immense. Requests for assistance from the Care Fund have surged, and it is only through your donations that we can meet these needs.

So, I ask once more for your generosity, trusting that together, we can continue to direct our aid to where it is most needed—providing grants to community groups, schools, and churches that are at the forefront of helping those in need.

As we prepare for the Holy Year of Hope, let us turn our hearts to the figure of John the Baptist, who proclaimed, "Prepare the way of the Lord." We too can prepare the way for Christ by reaching out to those in need and giving them the gift of hope.

I thank you for your continued faith, generosity, and trust.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+Most Reverend William Nolan
Archbishop of Glasgow