



ARCHDIOCESE of KINGSTON

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

23-24 November 2024

My Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese,

As we celebrate Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, and begin a new liturgical year, the Archdiocese of Kingston prepares to begin to celebrate two important events. In 2025, at the invitation of Pope Francis, the Universal Church will celebrate a Jubilee Year. The last Jubilee was celebrated in 2000. Just as this year-long celebration ends, the Archdiocese will commemorate the **200th Anniversary** of its foundation in 1826, which will last throughout the year and form a foundation for our apostolate for the coming decades.

Our Holy Father has chosen the theme – **“Pilgrims of Hope”** – for the **2025 Jubilee Year**. This theme will invite each of us to reflect upon and accept our identity as pilgrims. This pilgrimage is marked by hope rooted in Christ. How important will this foundation be! We know from our own experience how frustrating and often disappointing our hopes and initiatives are when they are rooted in ourselves. But with hope founded in Jesus Christ and His grace, we allow ourselves to be precious instruments in the hand of the Lord.

I pray that this time of the Jubilee Year will be a good introduction for the second important event, the 200th Anniversary of the Archdiocese in 2026. For this celebration, I have chosen a phrase from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians – **“To know Christ and the power of His resurrection.”** As pilgrims of hope, strengthened in our true identity, our task in 2026 will be to deepen our knowledge and love of Christ. This invitation is open to each of the baptized, an invitation to deepen our personal relationship with the Risen Christ. Over the months ahead, consider how you may accept this invitation by participating in devotions and activities planned within your parish, local deanery, and the broader Archdiocese. We rejoice that Jesus is a living reality in the Church and our lives. He desires that each soul He has created comes to know Him and live in intimate communion with Him, like the vine and the branches of St. John’s Gospel.

I hope that the graces and fruits of 2025 will serve as a fitting introduction to our Anniversary celebrations in 2026. Let us pray that the Lord will bless our preparations, make holy our celebrations, and give His life-giving Spirit to our parishes now, and in future years as He has in the past.

With prayerful best wishes for a holy and fruitful Advent Season, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston