



**Parish of St Edward, King and Confessor**  
Mary Help of Christians Church

## *60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canonical Erection of St Edward's Parish South Tamworth*



**P**ope Francis has granted a jubilee year with the inherent plenary indulgences during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the canonical erection of St Edward's Parish, South Tamworth. The document was signed by the head of Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, which officially started on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The jubilee is an opportunity to increase the virtues of faith, hope and charity.

### **What is a Jubilee Year?**

It's a celebration that is observed on certain special occasions. It's also a year of remission of sins and pardon.

### **What is a Jubilee Church?**

A Jubilee Church, is a church selected where pilgrims can visit and pray to gain plenary indulgence.

# Treasures of the Church: Plenary Indulgences

## What is an Indulgence?

The following "General remarks on Indulgences" from Gift of the Indulgence summarizes the usual conditions given in the Church's law (cf. Apostolic Penitentiary, Prot. N. 39/05/I):

1. This is how an indulgence is defined in the Code of Canon Law (can. 992) and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 1471): "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints".
2. In general, the gaining of indulgences requires certain prescribed conditions and the performance of certain prescribed work.
3. To gain indulgences, whether plenary or partial, it is necessary that the faithful be in the state of grace at least at the time the indulgenced work is completed. One must be a Catholic, not excommunicated or in schism.

Indulgences may be gained for oneself or for the poor souls, but they cannot be applied to another living person.

This cancelling of punishment comes from the treasury of Christ's infinite merits and the saints' participation in his passion and glory. In the early Church, the intercession of those awaiting martyrdom could reduce severe penance imposed on repentant sinners.

## What is the difference between Plenary and Partial Indulgence?

A plenary indulgence remits all temporal punishment (a punishment which will have a definite end, when the soul is purified and is permitted into heaven), whereas a partial indulgence removes only a part of it. Plenary indulgence can be acquired but once a day, and three conditions are necessary besides the actual work itself, namely:

- a) Sacramental confession,*
- b) the reception of Holy Communion,*
- c) and prayer for the intention of the Pope, which can be satisfied by one Our Father and Hail Mary, though one may choose another prayer out of piety or devotion.*

When Anointing of the Sick takes place in conjunction with Viaticum, a plenary indulgence may be given by the priest after the Penitential Rite. Though some indulgences are attached to objects, gaining the indulgence is dependent upon the action of the faithful. No longer is an amount of time attached to partial indulgence.

## How is indulgence a way in which the Church helps its members do Penance?

To understand the origins of penance, it helps to recall that very early the Church distinguished between the forgiveness of sins committed before and after baptism.

1. The ritual cleansing with water in Baptism was believed to signify the effect (by the power of Christ's death and resurrection) a rebirth involving forgiveness of all past guilt as well as all punishment due to it. For neither was there need to the penance after baptism. Not to be repeated, baptism was supposed to be followed by a life in which future sin is avoided. but even the New Testament (v.g. 1 Corinthians 5:1-6) attests to the fact that this ideal was not realized (cf. Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians (110-30 cc)).
2. A triple conviction grew with regard to those who sin after baptism:
  - a. *They are brought to forgiveness by God's grace but not without personal engagement in a process of prayer and self-denial.*
  - b. *Other Christians can help them because of the solidarity existing between the disciples of Jesus;*
  - c. *Through the ministry of the Church such repentance after baptism leads to divine forgiveness of guilt as well as pardon with regard to eternal punishment deserved for serious offenses or "mortal" sins, but with the possibility or even likelihood that penance must yet be done before the forgiven sinner can be united with the Trinity in heaven. Indulgences arose as a way in which the Church helped its members who needed to do a kind of penance (known as temporal punishment).*

In other words, that Christians who committed certain serious sins after Baptism should undergo a ritual of Reconciliation gradually became normative. After Baptism and Reconciliation, Christians continued to experience both temptation and sin. To resist this call to sin, they prayed and performed penitential works. They also prayed and fasted for each other. These prayers and fasting were seen as helpful because of their connection to Christ. Thus, 1) the Christian belief in the abundance of God's forgiving love through Christ and 2) the unity of all Christians in a communion of saints form the major foundation of the theology of indulgences.





## **Is there a Plenary Indulgence for the 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of St. Edward's Parish?**

Pope Francis, in a decree issued on May 24, 2021 to the Bishop of Armidale, Most Reverend Michael Kennedy, has granted a jubilee year with the inherent plenary indulgences for the 60th anniversary of the canonical erection of St Edward's Parish, South Tamworth.

The document signed by the head of Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, said the celebration, is an opportunity for the strengthening of Parish life and the increase of the virtues of faith, hope and charity.

## **Who receives the Plenary Indulgence during the 60<sup>th</sup> Parish Jubilee?**

1. The faithful when they make a devotional pilgrimage to St Edward's Parish [Mary Help of Christians Church], South Tamworth from 24 May 2021 to 9 November 2022.
2. Amid the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the gift of plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, and all those who for serious and legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes. They too can obtain the plenary indulgence if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of amendment, according to the three following conditions, if they shall spiritually join themselves to the jubilee celebration, they offer prayers of sorrow, also offering the sufferings of their life to the mercy of God. of fulfilling the three usual conditions (Confession, Communion, Prayer for the Intentions of the Pope) as soon as possible – “they join themselves spiritually to the celebration, offering their prayers and sufferings, or the inconvenience of one's own life to the merciful God through Mary.
3. The plenary indulgence can also be applied for the souls of the faithful departed.

## How to receive the Plenary Indulgence during the 60<sup>th</sup> Parish Jubilee?

To receive the plenary indulgence in the celebration of the Parish Jubilee year, starting 24 May 2021:

1. Make a devotional pilgrimage to St Edward's Parish [Mary Help of Christians Church] South Tamworth and participate in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, devotions or at least devoutly take part in a suitable period of time in reflection.
2. Have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
3. Go to Sacramental Confession. Sacramental confession, usually within 20 days before or after obtaining the indulgence. One sacramental confession is sufficient for several indulgences.
4. Receive Holy Communion. Unlike confession, only one indulgence may be obtained for each Communion. It is certainly better to receive it while participating in Holy Mass, but for the indulgence only Holy Communion is required. This Communion may be fulfilled several days before or after obtaining the indulgence, it is preferable that this condition be fulfilled the same day.
5. Pray for the Pope's intentions and:

For the intentions of the Holy Father Pope Francis. May the Lord preserve him, and give him life, and make him to be blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies *Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

6. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith (i.e. Nicene or Apostle's Creed) and an invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary (e.g. Hail Mary) and St Edward:

Most glorious St. Edward, you showed your devotion to God with patience, gentleness and generosity. Like you, may I serve to strengthen the Kingdom of God through patient prayer and charity. Amen.

