

# 7. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND PILGRIMAGE



As we celebrate 400 years since the birth of St. Oliver Plunkett and 50 years since his canonisation, we are invited to deepen our faith through pilgrimage, prayer, and community gatherings. This Jubilee Year of Hope, called by Pope Francis for 2025, inspires us to reflect on St. Oliver's courage, faith, and enduring hope.

## 1. Pilgrimage to the National Shrine to St. Oliver Plunkett,

Visit St. Peter's Church, Drogheda, home to the National Shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett and designated as a Jubilee Church for this special year. Here, pilgrims can pray beside the head of St. Oliver Plunkett, reflect on his life, and find inspiration in his faith and witness.

## 2. Visit Other Sites Connected to St. Oliver

Explore places that shaped St. Oliver's life:

- Loughcrew, Co. Meath – Near his birthplace.
- St. Oliver's Shrine, Ballybarrack, Dundalk – A site of devotion.
- Ardpatrick, Louth - His Church, St. Oliver lived nearby. Also location of St. Oliver Oak tree in which he hid.
- Mural to St. Oliver Plunkett, Dundalk, located near the place he was jailed before transportation to Tyburn.
- Tyburn, London - Site of St. Oliver Plunkett's Martyrdom
- Downside Abbey, Somerset – Where his remains rest.
- St. Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent – Where he was ordained Archbishop in 1669.
- Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome - Where St. Oliver taught before returning to Ireland.
- Lamspinge, Germany - St. Oliver Festival is held at the end of August each year.

## 3. Community and School Prayer Initiatives

Parishes and schools are encouraged to:

- Hold prayer services inspired by St. Oliver's life.
- Organise acts of service, reflecting his commitment to peace.
- Learn from his writings, fostering faith and hope in today's world.

## 5. Embracing Family Prayer

Families are invited to:

- Pray together, asking for St. Oliver's intercession.
- Share his story, reflecting on his courage and faith.
- Practice acts of kindness, inspired by his example.

## 6. Supporting Parents in Passing on the Faith

Communities are asked to help parents to:

- Introduce children to St. Oliver's life through stories and activities.
- Encourage conversations about faith, courage, and justice.
- Join family-friendly pilgrimages and parish events celebrating his legacy.

## 7. Engaging Youth and Young Adults

Parishes are asked to help teenagers and young adults to connect with St. Oliver through:

- Pilgrimages and events, like St. Oliver's Camino for families.
- Creative projects, including art, music, murals, and other creative projects..
- Reflection activities that help them explore how his faith speaks to today's challenges.