

## What is a jubilee?

The term "**jubilee**" comes from the Hebrew term "yôbel", the sound of the horn that announced the jubilee year. The law of Moses had instituted the sabbatical year returning every seven years. After seven times seven years (50 years) the jubilee year was celebrated. In the Bible, the number seven symbolizes harmony and fullness.

Four meanings can be given for the word "jubilee":

- That of the biblical tradition
- The "holy years" during which Christians are invited, by the Catholic Church, to go on pilgrimage to emblematic places such as Rome, Compostela, etc. to reinvigorate their faith (the next one will be in 2025).
- A third meaning is given for important anniversaries such as years of marriage, religious profession, priestly ministry
- A fourth meaning may surprise... It concerns the world of sport : a celebration organized in honor of a champion who retires from competition.

On all occasions, it is a question of giving thanks, an essential function of the Christian faith. This annual diocesan celebration allows the priests concerned to review the path taken, to renew their commitments and to give thanks for all the gifts received and for the ministry exercised during these years. The Christian communities that have benefited from their ministry join in their "jubilation".