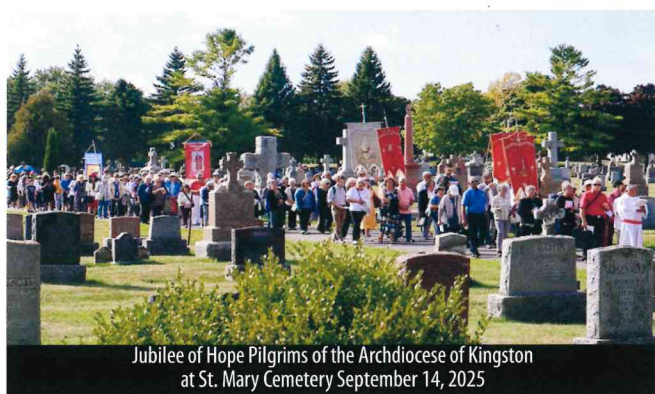


Jubilee Year of Hope Exaltation of the Holy Cross Pilgrimage



Jubilee of Hope Pilgrims of the Archdiocese of Kingston at St. Mary Cemetery September 14, 2025

A beautiful fall day offered the perfect conditions for Sunday, September 14th, to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This holy day was chosen by the Central Deanery to organize a Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage open to all of the faithful of the archdiocese. In keeping with a tradition observed by many generations in the history of the archdiocese, a Eucharistic Procession was held at 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kingston, led by Archbishop Mulhall. The Blessed Sacrament was carried by Archbishop Mulhall in procession through the cemetery to an altar for Adoration and Benediction, accompanied by priests, deacons, and consecrated religious. The altar was positioned in close proximity to the graves of the three founding religious orders: the Congregation of Notre Dame, the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, and the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. Following Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, all present were invited to venerate the Holy Cross, which contained a relic of the True Wood of the Cross.

The Holy Cross was carried throughout the streets of Kingston from St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral to St. Mary Cemetery by students involved in the Catholic Christian Outreach community at Queen's University. Many pilgrims from local parishes walked in this procession from the Cathedral with the Holy Cross.

Representatives from numerous parishes attended, including Catholic Women's League, Legion of Mary, and Knights of Columbus members, as well as visitors from other dioceses. Many families and children of all ages participated reverently and joyfully in the procession, waving flags and carrying banners.

Hymns of praise, led by a music ministry team comprised of members of different parishes in Kingston, resounded joyfully throughout the cemetery grounds. The Rosary was prayed in unison by those seated near the altar as the Eucharistic Procession progressed along the designated route. "This pilgrimage provided the opportunity for everyone to praise and worship God in the Blessed Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood and to receive the indulgences associated with Benediction, visiting a cemetery, and undertaking a pilgrimage in this Holy Year, the Jubilee of Hope", stated Fr. John Brennan. Fr. Brennan is Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Kingston, Dean of the Central Deanery, and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Kingston. Fr. Brennan, as well as Fr. Shawn Hughes, Fr. Jan Kusyk, Fr. Brian Russell, and their teams spent several months planning and organizing this Jubilee of Hope pilgrimage celebration.

This joyous celebration commemorating the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was a great sign of hope for the Archdiocese of Kingston. As the Jubilee Year of Hope comes to a close, Archbishop Mulhall reminds the faithful, "As pilgrims of hope, strengthened in our true identity, our task in 2026 will be to deepen our knowledge of Christ. I hope that the graces and fruits of 2025 will serve as a fitting introduction to our anniversary celebration 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."



Archbishop Mulhall carries the Monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament to the altar set up in St. Mary Cemetery, following a Cross containing a relic of the True Wood of the Cross.

Photo: Paul Hibbard