

Towards the Jubilee of the Resurrection

Jesus Celebration 2033

Martin Hoegger

The Jesus Celebration 2033 (JC2033) project was created with the intention of accompanying Christian churches towards the two thousandth anniversary celebration of the resurrection of Christ, the founding event of Christian faith and the theological foundation of ecclesial hope. It aims to stimulate, in an ecumenical spirit, a common witness articulated around three main axes: unity, witness and celebration. Martin Hoegger, one of the main protagonists behind the project and a pastor of the Reformed Church in Switzerland, is passionate about Sacred Scripture and active on the front line of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, especially with Jews and Muslims.

A consensus in an inter-ecclesial context. Since 2016, an interconfessional team has embarked on a path of listening and consultation in light of the two thousandth anniversary of the redemption, involving over 60 countries and more than 1000 ecclesial leaders. The proposal was welcomed as a providential opportunity to manifest a form of visible communion between the Churches and to put the Easter proclamation back at the centre of Christian witness: *Christ is risen! He is truly risen!*

A three-phase journey:

Years 2024–2030: A time of listening and community discernment, in which the Churches are invited to rediscover together the call to visible unity.

Years 2030–2033: A time of public witness, in which proclamation of the Gospel is renewed through words and concrete signs of charity and justice.

Easter 2033: A joint celebration open to the world, a celebration of the Paschal Mystery in the multiplicity of Christian traditions.

Emmaus as a theological paradigm. The biblical symbol that inspires JC2033 is the story of the disciples of Emmaus (Lk 24:13–35). The journeying community recognizes the Risen One in sharing the Word and the Bread. In this spirit, JC2033 promotes an annual ecumenical journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus that involves various local communities, and thus promotes encounters between different confessions, and the rediscovery of fraternity in Christ.

Global collaborations and networks. Over the years, JC2033 consolidated an ecumenical network through international meetings (Brussels 2019, Anafora (Egypt) 2021, Cartagena (Colombia) 2023, Geneva 2025), with representatives of various Christian denominations,

especially young people and leaders of movements participating. Among the most significant collaborations is that with the Focolare Movement, which has accompanied and supported this journey from its earliest stages.

Towards a shared agenda for 2033. In the context of preparation for the Jubilee, Pope Francis entrusted *Charis*¹ with the task of fostering a shared ecclesial agenda. The "Agenda 2033" initiative, launched in 2024, brings together Catholic, Evangelical, Pentecostal and Anglican movements. Meetings in Krakow, New York and Rome marked decisive steps towards an ecclesial convergence that intends to overcome confessional logic, in order to offer the world a unified paschal witness.

Easter common to all the Churches. JC2033 has joined the *Easter Together initiative* that favors a common Easter date. In view of 2033, the desire is that the proclamation of the resurrection may resonate simultaneously in every language, culture and nation as a sign of our shared faith and a common mission.

An invitation to ecumenical co-responsibility. JC2033's approach is one of an "ecumenical synodal journey" challenging all baptized persons to become ambassadors of the resurrection. It is not a centralized organization, but a platform open to the creativity of the Holy Spirit and co-responsibility among the Churches. The year 2033 can thus become an *ecumenical kairos*, in which the shared commemoration of the event of Jesus' resurrection is translated into a renewed impulse towards unity and mission.

¹ *Charis* was established in 2017 by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life at the behest of Pope Francis, as a body at the service of all the realities of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.