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THE HOLY YEAR - Nineteenth centenary of the
Cruxifixion of Christ inaugurated by ceremonial
opening of the Holy Door in St Paul's, Rome.

-Italy-

Picture:-

The nineteenth centenary of the death of
Christ is--

--commemorated by reverent rites at the four Roman
basilicas. Hitherto the ceremony of the opening--

--of the holy doors has been performed only once
every twenty-five years. Cardinal Geranio Di
Belmonte, supported by--

--a large number of mitred arch-bishops and bishops,
presides over the service preceding the--

--impressive knocking at the Holy door, which door
is surmounted by a--

--black marble cross. The Cardinal carries--

--a small silver hammer with which he knocks three
times. Thrice he appeals for the door to be opened
in the Lord's name; each time with greater submissiveness.

At the third appeal, the door commences to open,
and the service--

--of praise is resumed by psalm singing and prayer--

As it proceeds, the door is gradually removed by
chains and -

--pulleys, and penitentiaries wash the thresh-hold--

--of the Church with holy water. The procession of
prelates have been moving reverently through the holy
doorway into the basilica,

--kissing the door post as they go, thus concluding
the festival of glittering pomp and splendour.