



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A - 25 October 2026



Exodus 22:20-26, Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
Matthew 22:34-40

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets



Meditation: What is the purpose of God's law and commandments? The Pharisees prided themselves in the knowledge of the law of Moses and the numerous ritual requirements of the law. They tested Jesus to see if he correctly understood the law as they did. Jesus startled them with his profound simplicity and mastery of the law of God and its purpose.

God's love rules all: Jesus summarized the whole of the law in two great commandments found in Deuteronomy 6:5 - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" - and Leviticus 19:18 - "you shall love your neighbour as yourself". God's love directs all that he does - His love is holy, just, and pure because it seeks only what is good, beneficial, and life-giving - rather than what is destructive, evil, or deadly. That is why he commands us to love - to accept and to give only what is good, lovely, just, and pure and to reject whatever is contrary.

The nature of love - giving to others for their sake: What is the nature of love? Love is the gift of giving oneself for the good of others - it is wholly other oriented and directed to the welfare and benefit of others. Love which is rooted in pleasing myself is self-centred and possessive - it is a selfish love that takes from others rather than gives to others. It is a stunted and disordered love which leads to many hurtful and sinful desires - such as jealousy, greed, envy, and lust. The root of all sin is disordered love and pride which is fundamentally putting myself above God and my neighbour - it is loving and serving self rather than God and neighbour. True love, which is wholly directed and oriented to what is good rather than evil, is rooted in God's truth and righteousness (moral goodness).

God puts us first in his thoughts: God is love and everything he does flows from his love for us (1 John 3:1, 4:7-8, 16). God puts us first in his thoughts and concerns - do we put him first in our thoughts? God loved us first (1 John 4:19) and our love for him is a response to his exceeding goodness and kindness towards us. The love of God comes first and the love of neighbour is firmly grounded in the love of God. The more we know of God's love, truth, and goodness, the more we love what he loves and reject whatever is hateful and contrary to his will. God commands us to love him first above all else - his love orients and directs our thoughts, intentions, and actions to what is wholly good and pleasing to him. He wants us to love him personally, wholeheartedly, and without any reservation or compromise.

How God loves us: God loves us wholly, completely, and perfectly for our sake - there is no limit, no holding back, no compromising on his part. His love is not subject to changing moods or circumstances. When God gives, he gives generously, abundantly, freely, and without setting conditions to the gift of his love. His love does not waver, but is firm, consistent, and constant. He loves us in our weakness - in our fallen and sinful condition. That is why the Father sent his only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to redeem us from slavery to sin and its disordered cravings, desires, passions, and addictions. God the Father always seeks us out to draw us to his throne of mercy and help. God the Father corrects and disciplines us in love to free us from the error of our wrong ways of thinking and choosing what is harmful and evil rather than choosing what is good and wholesome for us. Do you freely accept God's love and do you willingly choose to obey his commandments?

We do not earn God's love - it is freely given: How can we possibly love God above all else and obey his commandments willingly and joyfully, and how can we love our neighbor and willing lay down our life for their sake? Paul the Apostle tells us that "hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). We do not earn God's love - it is freely given to those who open their heart to God and who freely accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord Jesus to flood your heart with his love through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Love grows with faith and hope: What makes our love for God and his commands grow in us? Faith in God and hope in his promises strengthens us in the love of God. They are essential for a good relationship with God, for being united with him. The more we know of God the more we love him and the more we love him the greater we believe and hope in his promises. The Lord Jesus, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives us a new freedom to love as he loves. Paul the Apostle writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free... only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh [sinful inclinations], but through love be servants of one another" (Galatians 5:1,13). Do you allow anything to keep you from the love of God and the joy of serving others with a generous heart?

Photo by Fr Alex Chow, 04 April 2025, 4th Station - Jesus Meets his mother, Mary, St Luke the Evangelist Primary School, VIC.
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Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Admin/Bookkeeper

Claire Clark Tuesday &
Thursday 10am - 2pm
Friday 3.30pm - 5.30pm

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL)

10:30am (ST)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm (SL)

Wed. 9:15am (ST)

1st Wed. Mass of Anointing @
11am

Thurs. 9:15am (ST)

Fri. 9:15am (SL*)

6.30pm (ST)

Sat. 9.15am (SL*)

*Rosary after Mass

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9.45 - 10.15am

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

HOLY HOUR

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

HOSPITALITY AT ST. LUKE'S

2nd weekend of each month
- BYO

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Sat. 7th November, 10:30am
to 2:30pm, 1000 Steps,
Kokoda Memorial Walk,
Upper Ferntree Gully

SALT YOUTH GATHERING

Thu. 5 Nov @ 7pm, Library
St Luke's Primary School.

LEGION OF MARY -

Tuesday 27th Oct @ 9am
at St Luke's Parish Hall
Kitchen

0419 591 423

Next Week's Daily Readings 26 Oct - 1 Nov Ordinary Time

MONDAY Oct 26 Eph 4:32 - 5:8
Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 13:10-17

TUESDAY Oct 27 Eph 5:21-33
Ps 127:1-5 Lk 13:18-21

WEDNESDAY Oct 28 Eph 2:19-22
Ps 18:2-5 Lk 6:12-19
Sts Simon and Jude, apostles

THURSDAY Oct 29 Eph 6:10-20
Ps 143:1-2, 9-10 Lk 13:31-35

FRIDAY Oct 30 Phil 1:1-11
Ps 143:1-2, 9-10 Lk 14:1-6

SATURDAY Oct 31 Phil 1:18-26
Ps 42:2-3, 5 Lk 14:1, 7-11

SUNDAY Nov 1 Rev 7:2-4, 9-14
Ps 23:1-6: 1 Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12

ALL SAINTS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY / FAMILY MASS

ST TIMOTHY'S: Sunday 25th October @
10.30am Mass

ST LUKE'S: Next Family Mass will be on
Nov. 8th and on the second Saturday of
each month



PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY

This beautiful statue of our Lady is available for parishioners to have in their homes for a week at a time. You are encouraged to pray a daily rosary with family and friends. You have the option of a rosary with members of the Legion of Mary on delivery. Contact Lucy Ferris to book in for your preferred week on 0419 591 423.



The next event for the LukTimYAM group will be held on Sat. 7th Nov.

We will meet at St Luke the Evangelist car park at 10.30am and we will travel together to the 1,000 steps, Kokoda Memorial Walk in Upper Ferntree Gully.

For more information please email the parish office:
blackburnsouth@cam.org.au

Volunteers for this week & next week:

<u>This Week</u>	<u>Slides</u>	<u>Min. of Eucharist</u>	<u>Min. of Word</u>	<u>Welcomers</u>
Sat 24/10 5pm SL	Choir	Lynda KS	Steve K	Edna L
Sun 25/10 8.30am SL	Paul T	Megan McL	Darren McL	Janette C
Sun 25/10 10.30am ST	Manny G	Chin L.T	Sarah A	Volunteer
<u>Next Week</u>				
Sat 31/10 5pm SL	Choir	Marg Y	Lucy F	Libby T
Sun 1/11 8.30am SL	Rosemary D	Kana C	Margaret G	Sarah S
Sun 1/11 10.30am ST	Lee Min Y	Anico Y	Venola A	Volunteer
<u>This Week</u>	<u>Church Cleaners</u>	<u>Flower Arrangers</u>	<u>Counters</u>	
St Luke's	No cleaners	Jenny and Vanessa M	Claire C	
St Timothy's	Susan/Marina/Isaac	Volunteers	Mary C & E Chang	
<u>Next Week</u>				
St Luke's	Kellie's Team	Marie P	Claire C	
St Timothy's	Anico/Ryan/Trevis	Volunteers	Fela C & Chin L.T.	

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Terry Wells, Sarah, Peter & Maria Lazzari, Seng Chan, Fran Davidson, Filomena Italiano, Derek Koh, Ann Jones, Shirley Prabha, Helen MacKay, Kevin Ryan, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. ***Please inform the Parish Office if anyone listed here should be removed from the Sick List.***

All who have died, especially those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Joanna Wong, Kathleen McLoney, Luigina Isola, Carmella Zuccarello, James Mascarinas, Gina Gangi, Alleluia Mendes, Priscilo Nengasea, Merlyn Alwis, Faye libern, Margaret Curtain, Angelina Viola, Filomena Cigana, Edward Joseph Bevans, Lorraine Oakman, Margie Ratcliff, Lola Lazzari, Mary Julia Morton, Kevin John Pretby and Maria Hguyen Thi Lanh. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER:

For mental health ministry. Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

ROSARY AT ST TIMOTHY'S: Rosary after the morning Masses on Wednesdays and Thursdays will start at St Timothy's from this week. Thanks to our Legion of Mary members for leading this ministry.

SILVER CIRCLE WINNER: Congratulations to Maria Taranto who won the \$500 prize at the fete and to Megan McLean who won the second prize of a bottle of champagne. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES: The next sets of thanksgiving envelopes are available in the foyer of both churches this weekend. Thank you to all parishioners for your financial support of our parish.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS ON SALE AT ST TIMOTHY'S: 2027 Columban Calendars are now on sale at the St. Timothy's Piety Stall for \$10.00 each

NO SATURDAY MORNING MASS ON NOV. 14th: Please note that there will be no 9.15am Mass at St Luke's on Sat. Nov. 14th due to priestly ordinations at St Patrick's Cathedral. All parishioners are invited to attend the ordinations from 10am to 1pm.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: Speaking up for our common humanity.

MAJELLAN MEDIA: Call for Stronger Families

FETE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who assisted with our fabulous school and parish fete last Sunday. The weather was perfect and the atmosphere was amazing. It was a wonderful celebration of our fabulous St Luke's and St Timothy's community. We are still working through the financials so will update everyone as soon as we can. However, the community spirit on display on the day was priceless. Special thanks to the fete committee who have worked tirelessly to make the fete such a fabulous event.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses.

Please note that collection totals will no longer be published each week in the newsletter. Presbytery and Church donations will be reported on a monthly basis at all weekend Masses. To donate regularly via envelope, credit card or bank account, please contact the parish office.

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters:

Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),

Margaret Gearon (SL)

Baptism Preparation: *Fr Alex*

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Parish Safeguarding Committee

Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,

Darren McLean & Janette Clark

Parish History

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL & ST: Hall Hire

Claire Clark @ 9412 8499

Church Sacristan

ST: Roster of Parishioners

SL: Greg Grant

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

ST: Susan Chen

Church Linen: *SL: Beryl Chelliah*

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Miguel Ilagan

SL: Fr Alex

Bible Timeline: *Chris Lim*

ALPHA: *Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

Young Adult Ministry:

Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto

RCIA: *David West*

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

ST: John McCoy

SL: Margaret Gearon &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Response to the Psalm: I love you, Lord, my strength.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your death O Lord and profess your resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

AMALGAMATION – One Mission, Two Churches:
A Journey Towards One Parish

The following are some comments from the parishioners from the first forum on 11th October.

What words would you use to describe your parish right now? The parish is described as an active, welcoming, and vibrant community, rich in faith, prayer, fellowship, and service. Parishioners value its warm hospitality, diversity, collaboration, and opportunities to connect and participate. There is a strong sense of belonging, support, and care, alongside growing energy, hope, and excitement for the future. The parish is on a journey of transition and renewal, with a changing identity and a forward-looking spirit. While acknowledging significant changes from the past, parishioners appreciate the efforts to reconnect with both familiar and new faces, creating a more inclusive and engaged community.

What would you like to describe your parish in 5 years? In five years, parishioners hope to see a vibrant, welcoming and missionary parish that is growing in faith, numbers and spiritual maturity. We envision one united community, filled with energy, enthusiasm, prayer and holiness, where people of all ages feel they belong and are invited to encounter God. We hope to see more young people actively involved in parish life, supported by youth leadership and ministries. The parish would be life-giving, respectful of diversity, open to new ideas and rooted in faith. We also aspire to develop parish land and facilities to serve the wider community and support future growth.

To achieve this what things would we need to shift / grow / be better at? To achieve our vision, we need to become a more outward-looking, welcoming and missionary parish, focused on inviting people, connecting with newcomers and identifying those who may be missing from our community. We need to build one united community that values the strengths, traditions and diversity of both churches. This requires strong leadership, ongoing leadership development, and equipping parishioners to understand, share and defend their faith. We must increase participation, particularly among younger people, families, schools and volunteers, through meaningful programs and opportunities for involvement. Prayer, open hearts, mutual acceptance and a willingness to embrace significant change are essential. We also need to strengthen relationships with aged-care facilities, steward our properties wisely, use our resources creatively, grow parish income and attract more people to our faith community.

Next Forum: 12 Nov, St Luke's Church Hall, (7pm-8:30pm)



Discover Five Keys to Freedom

*Repentance & Faith,
Forgiveness,
Renunciation,
Authority,
The Father's Blessing*

Come away for a time of prayer, reflection and practical steps towards freedom, hope and renewal in Christ.



Cost \$35 includes Saturday lunch and dinner.

Space is limited (Rego closed on 06 November 2026).

To Register, scan QRC Code for email to unbound@dojmelbourne.org.au

RCIA is starting soon!

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or know someone who is? Want to learn more about the faith in a friendly environment? We will be meeting at St Luke's on Tuesday nights at 7pm, continuing on the 27th of October.

To join us or for more information, contact Fr Alex (alexander.chow@cam.org.au) or simply scan the QR Code.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



WYD27 Information Session: Syndal (repeat session)

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

7:00pm – 9:00pm

St Christopher's Parish, Syndal

Join us as we unpack the three pilgrimage options (direct to Seoul, via Incheon, via Japan) along with costs, what to expect, past pilgrims' stories and an opportunity to ask questions.





Jesus' law of love

God

your
neighbour

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Show your love

I show love for God when I

I show love for others when I



Whenever we show kindness, love and respect for others, we are loving God.
Draw a picture of yourself doing something that shows love for God.

Fill in the missing words to complete the story.

love
second
God
answered
yourself
teacher
heart
first
test
commandment

An expert in the Jewish law tried to ____ Jesus. He asked, "_____, what is the most important _____?"



Jesus _____: "Love the Lord your ____ with all your _____, soul and mind." This is the _____ and most important commandment. The _____ is like it: "_____ your neighbour as much as you love _____".



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 25 OCTOBER 2026



COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

THE LION IN LOVE is one of Aesop's Fables; it is a cautionary tale of Greek origin. It is ambiguous in its meaning which, over the centuries, has led to multiple interpretations in both literature and art.

'A lion falls in love with the farmer's daughter and asks her father's permission to marry her. Afraid to refuse outright, the man sets the condition that the beast should first have its claws clipped and its teeth filed. The lion agrees. But once this is done, the father attacks the lion and drives it away, since it could now no longer defend itself.'

The love commanded by the gospel is total: all your heart, all your soul, all your mind. It is a self-sacrificing love – after the model of Christ himself.

A reading from the book of Exodus

22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.
I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were

First Reading

The message given to Moses by the Lord is wonderfully concrete and very direct! It urges a deep and engaging empathy. It is a call to love one another.

Do not molest or oppress a stranger – you have been strangers yourselves. Do not be harsh with widows and orphans – my anger will flare... and your own wives will be widows and your children orphans!

Such a colourful reading can be proclaimed as an upbeat challenge. The punishments should not be laid upon the assembly as dark threats. Rather enjoy the clever turn of phrase and notice that the reading is a series of hypotheticals (*if you...*). The reading invites us to do what is right and encourages us, like the Lord, to be ‘full of pity’.

The NRSV version is more inclusive.

Responsorial Psalm

These verses from the beginning and the end of Psalm 17/18 take up the idea from the first reading that God listens to our pleas and responds with pity and love. It also follows on from Exodus in using strong concrete images – God is our rock and fortress, our refuge and shield. These images speak of the strength and reliability of God’s help.

The poetry of these lines will facilitate a vivid proclamation by the cantor/reader. The response will touch people’s hearts. However, care will be needed to cue the assembly’s response with the uneven six-line and four-line stanzas.

Second Reading

For Paul, the Christian community at Thessalonika is a most impressive group of believers. They had watched Paul to see what made him tick. With his example, they took to the gospel with the joy of the Spirit and became renowned throughout the Mediterranean for their faith in the face of opposition. This is truly inspiring. As he travels, Paul does not need to tell people about it – they tell him! Paul is delighted with the witness they are giving.

The reading can be delivered with a sense of positive joy and gratitude. Some of the

converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

sentences are long, but they are not difficult because they are mostly a sequence of ideas linked by 'and'.

Well-presented, the reading should stimulate the hearers themselves to give good example by the lives they lead.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew**

22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

Gospel

The Great Commandment of love is very well-known. With total engagement of our person (heart, soul and mind), we are called to love God and one another.

It is beautiful, inspiring but, in this form, also rather abstract. We need to take the lead of the first reading and make it concrete. The stranger, the widow, the orphan, the poor person: they give the commandment some traction. To translate it into our own culture, we bring to mind the unemployed, those living with a disability or domestic violence, those who encounter prejudice or discrimination. This is where the commandment to love plays out.

The text should be read warmly and with fresh enthusiasm.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time III)

May almighty God bless you in his kindness
and pour out saving wisdom upon you.

Amen.

May he nourish you always with the teachings of the faith
and make you persevere in holy deeds.

Amen.

May he turn your steps towards himself
and show you the path of charity and peace.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son,⁺ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III, Roman Missal p. 715)

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ARCHITECTURE



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SAVED A
PLACE FOR
YOU



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

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SCAN TO
BOOK A
TOUR



We are Companions on The Journey

2026

