



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Third Sunday of the Easter, Year C - 4th May 2025

Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

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SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL) &
6.30pm (ST)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL),
10:30am (ST),
5pm (ST, Vietnamese)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm (SL*)

Wed. 10am

*1st Wed Mass of Anointing
@10am*

Thurs.

Fri.

Sat.

*Rosary after Mass at SL

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30-6:10pm

ST: Fri

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

Second weekend of each
month - bring a plate to
share (optional)

Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32, 40-41. Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13. Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel Reflection on John 21:1-19

Scholars suggest that the 21st chapter of the Gospel of John is a later addition to the gospel, especially given the finality of the language at the end of chapter 20. The style of chapter 21 is much more church-oriented than the earlier chapters. The barbeque breakfast on the beach takes on a Eucharistic feel and the passage is at pains to portray Peter as the leader of the disciples and the one chosen by Jesus to provide leadership into the future. We must remember that the Gospel of John was written almost 70 years after the death of Jesus and if this final chapter is indeed an addition then it is likely written some time in the 2nd century. It was only in the late 1st and early 2nd centuries that the church began to adopt a structure of bishops as leaders of communities and it was important to clearly establish the authority of Peter as the first leader of the Church and the authority of his successors. Obviously, a scriptural reference to Jesus' choice of Peter would have cemented the case and so this later addition to the Gospel of John may have been constructed to serve this purpose.

Regardless of its original intended purpose, this passage provides a wonderful account of the appearance of the resurrected Jesus to his disciples. Like other post-resurrection accounts, the disciples do not at first recognise Jesus and it is not until the miraculous catch of fish that the beloved disciple declares, 'It is the Lord'. In a beautifully everyday touch, the risen Jesus prepares breakfast on the beach for the disciples and blesses the simple food in the same way as he did the bread and wine at their last supper.

Gospel Focus – Do you love me?

Three times Jesus asks Peter, 'Do you love me?' and three times Peter answers, 'You know I do'. Some writers suggest that the three-fold question by Jesus and the three-fold reply by Peter is intended to balance out the triple denial of Jesus by Peter at the time of the arrest and trial of Jesus. Where once Peter denied even knowing Jesus, he now declares his love for Jesus in no uncertain terms. It is a reminder to all of us that there is no act that we can perform that cannot be forgiven by God and from which we cannot come back.

was the first to go with him to Jerusalem at Passover time. The apostle Thomas was a natural pessimist. When Jesus proposed that they visit Lazarus after receiving news of his illness, Thomas said to the disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). While Thomas deeply loved the Lord, he lacked the courage to stand with Jesus in his passion and crucifixion. After Jesus' death, Thomas made the mistake of withdrawing from the other apostles. He sought loneliness rather than fellowship in his time of trial and adversity. He doubted the women who saw the resurrected Jesus and he doubted his own fellow apostles.

Historical Context – Feed my sheep

When Jesus asks Peter, 'Do you love me?' and Peter repeatedly assures Jesus that he does, Jesus instructs Peter to 'Feed my sheep'. This image of feeding sheep is used to describe the caring leadership Peter is to take over the other disciples and the other followers of Jesus. The image of a shepherd has carried through the years and finds expression in the stylised shepherd's crook (crosier) that is carried as a symbol of office by bishops. The people of the church are often referred to as the bishop's flock – further carrying on the image of a shepherd and his sheep.

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St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au / Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

Next Week's Daily Readings 5 May - 11 May 2025

MONDAY, May 5 Acts 6:8-15, Ps 118:23-24, 26-27, 29-30, Jn 6:22-29

TUESDAY, May 6, Acts 7:51 - 8:1: Ps 30:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21, Jn 6:30-35

WEDNESDAY, May 7 Acts 8:1-8, Ps 65:1-7 Jn 6:35-40

THURSDAY, May 8 Acts 8:26-40, Ps 65:8-9, 16-17, 20 Jn 6:44-51

FRIDAY, May 9 Acts 9:1-20, Ps 116: Jn 6:52-59

SATURDAY, May 10 Acts 9:31-42, Ps 115:12-17, Jn 6:60-69

SUNDAY, May 11 Acts 13:14, 43-52, Ps 99:1-3, 5, Rev 7:9, 14-17 Jn 10:27-30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

*(Taken from
ORDO 2025, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2024)*

The Jubilee Prayer



Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

3 and 4 May

Lucy Ferris
Patrick Kelly
Darren McLean
Genevieve Hemsley
Gia Nghi & Ha Cao

10 and 11 May

Godfrey Thong
Peggy D'Cruz
Joe Ferlazzo
Molly Hemsley
Loc Le & Tuyet Nguyen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Edna Lee
Mary Italiano
Megan McLean
Pat Kawalewski
Hung Dinh

Lucy Ferris
Owen Grealy
Melina Barcellona
Daphne Hickman
Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Choir
Michelle Chen
Rosemary Donaldson
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

Choir
Michelle Chen
David Prabha
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 3/4 MAY

5pm Volunteer
8.30am Volunteer
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

10th May - Sonya's team
Sonya O'Farrell, Netty Solomon,
Anthony Fernandez & Eng Peng Sim

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

3rd May: Jenny & Vanessa Marino
10th May: Kate Skowronska

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Easter flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 10/11 MAY

5:00pm Catherine Koh
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

10th May @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 1:
Owen Grealy & Anthony Yeo
Next week Team 2:
Raj & Violet Fonn

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Margaret Anderson, Hazel Greal, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, Bernadine O'Meara, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially Richard Clements & Filomena Manley who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Vincenzo Vincitorio, Victor Nicoli, Emmanuel Raj, Pius Marian Pereira, Marian Williams, Julieta Gutierrez, Richard Hammett, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Maureen Withers, Nicholas Bito, Robert Mead, Charles Strachan, Aida Chan, Craig James, Joyce Greal, Carlo di Salvatore, Josefina Flores, Maria Phan Tran, Christina Pickett, Mary Peters, Felicitas Monzon, Jude Hickman, Assanta di Paola, Joan Heland, Tom Odlum, Ruby Coutt, Ivor Fraser and Ivan Rozario. May they rest in peace.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL:

For the use of the new technologies: Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

CATHOLIC CARE SUNDAY APPEAL: A collection will be taken up this weekend for Catholic Care, who work with the underprivileged in our society. Envelopes will also be available in both churches. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Baskets are available on the altars of both churches for parishioners to leave their Project Compassion boxes/ donations. Thanks for your generosity.

WEEKDAY MASS: NO MASS on Thurs. 8th May (9.15am S.T.), Fri. 9th May (9:15am S.L.) or Sat. 10th May (9.15am S.L.) as Fr Alex is away.

LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP: Archbishop Peter Comensoli has written a letter about the pledges of help by both major political parties to the restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral. It is on the notice boards in the foyer of both churches for everyone to read and can be accessed online [HERE](#).

HOSPITALITY NEXT WEEKEND AT ST LUKE'S: Please bring a plate to share

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY PLACES COLLECTION: Thanks to all parishioners for your very generous support of the Holy Places collection. A total of \$1,270.65 was collected at St Luke's and \$1,025.60 at St Timothy's.

BIBLE TIMELINE: Registrations for the Bible Timeline close on May 5th. Please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/DARVL> or pick up a registration form in the foyer of both churches. The first session is on Thurs. 22nd May at St Timothy's.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Praying and giving thanks for Pope Francis](#) 🙏

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Pope Francis Farewelled](#)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests. The Second collection is for parish expenses.

ST: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$117

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$220

Vietnamese Donation: \$238.75

April credit card & direct debit donations to Presbytery: \$360

April credit card & direct debit donations to Church: \$845

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$291

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$384

April credit card & direct debit donations to Presbytery: \$1,537.50

April credit card & direct debit donations to Church: \$1,981.50

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalewski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Response to the Psalm: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation; he has shown pity on all people. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for my your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

DILEXIT NOS - He Loved Us

Pope Francis' encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus

“‘He loved us’, St Paul says of Christ (cf. Rom 8:37-39), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever “separate us from that love”: Pope Francis’ fourth Encyclical, which takes its title from the opening words, *Dilexit nos*. Here Pope Francis reflects on “the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ,” calling for a renewal of authentic devotion to avoid forgetting the tenderness of faith, the joy of serving, and the fervour of miss. In a time when many have become disconnected from authentic spiritual life and love, we are called to the Core of the Gospel - the love of Christ as revealed in His Sacred Heart.

Jesus’ open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us His love and friendship, the Pope writes in the introductory paragraph. “For ‘He loved us first’ (cf. 1 Jn 4:10). Because of Jesus, ‘we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us’ (1 Jn 4:16).”

The Sacred Heart of Jesus represents God’s tender, incarnate, and transformative love for humanity. In a world driven by consumerism, rationalism, and disembodied spirituality, the Pope calls for a return to the heart—to rediscover the true meaning of life, identity, and relationship. The heart is where we meet God and discover our deepest identity. Modern society has devalued the heart in favour of reason, control, and productivity. The Sacred Heart teaches that love is the only force that unites and gives meaning. It reflects God’s desire for intimacy and mercy with humanity through personal encounters, compassion, and ultimately, His suffering and death on the Cross. The devotion to the Sacred Heart is rooted in Scripture and tradition—not just private revelations nor is it a nostalgic religious practice. It represents divine and human love, showing Jesus’ deep emotional and spiritual connection to humanity. It should lead to personal transformation, communal renewal, and a mission of mercy in the world. The love of Jesus satisfies a soul thirsting for authentic of love and connection. From Christ’s pierced side flows the water of the Spirit, an open fountain of love and healing. Saints and mystics have rested in this Heart, finding peace and purpose.

To read more, hardcopies of *Dilexit Nos* available in the church foyer for \$5 per copy. Or <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html>



The Footsteps of St Paul Pilgrimage in Greece, Turkey and Rome.

Dates: 20 April – 05/09 May 2026 with Fr Alex Chow

‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres’. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which this passionate letter and many other were written. It will be an opportunity of spiritual renewal, deepen our relationship with God as we reflect and experience the incredible journey of Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles.

Come and join us for **an information evening** at St Luke the Evangelist Church, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South, starting at 7pm on Thursday 05 June 2025

For more information please go to <https://www.olivetreetravel.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Flyer-for-14-day-Itinerary-to-Greece-Turkey-for-Fr-Alex-Chow-low-res.pdf> . To secure your place, a deposit of \$500 per person is payable by 16th June 2025 (unless sold out prior). Take a copy of the flyer at the church foyer or contact Father Alex directly at alexander.chow@cam.org.au.

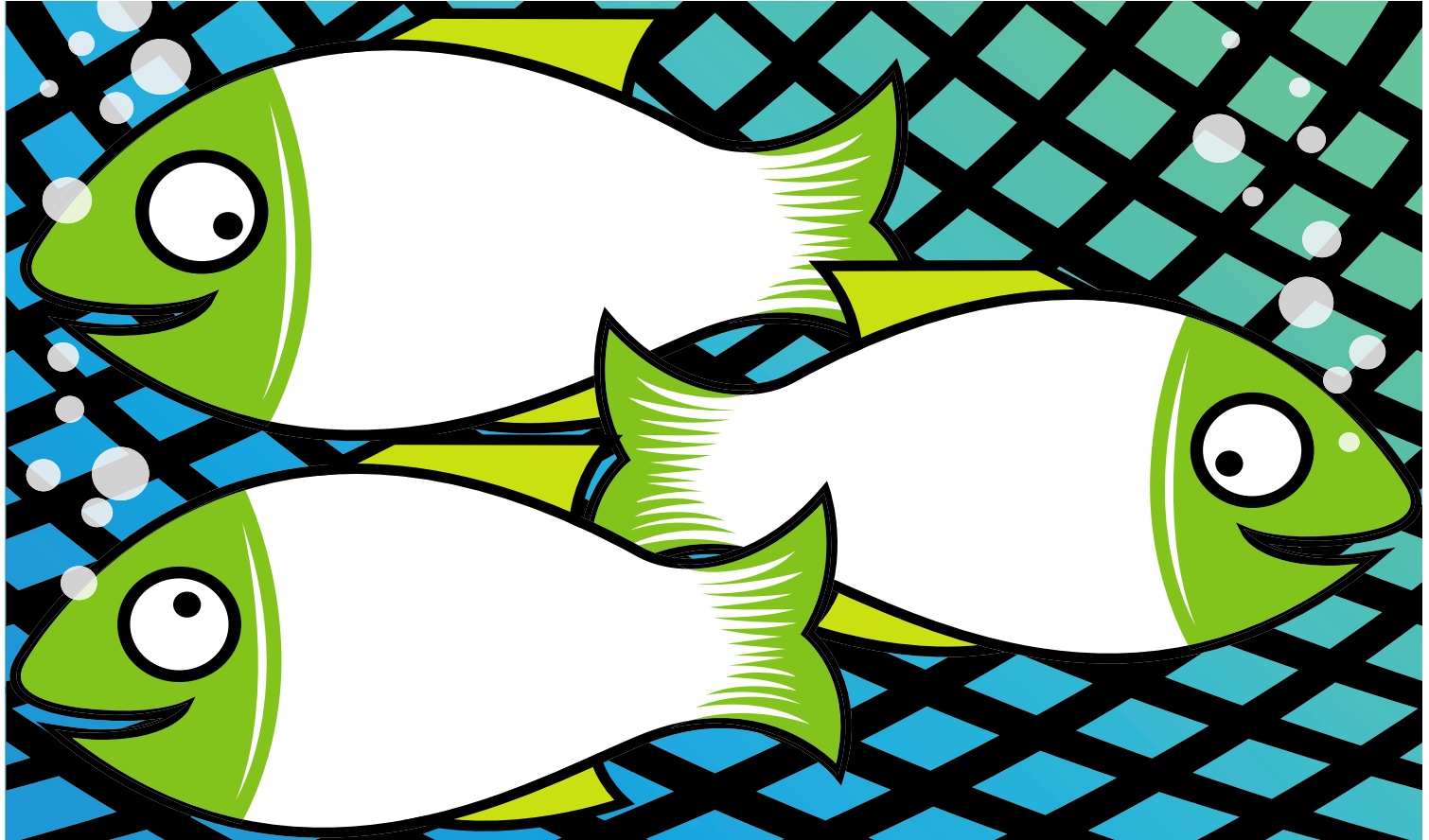
ROSARY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

The rosary will be prayed at St Timothy’s at the following times during the month of May:
Wed. 7/5 at 9.30am (before the 10am Anointing Mass)
Wed. 14/5, 21/5 & 28/5 after the 9.15am Mass
Friday 9/5, 16/5 & 30/5 from 5.45pm to 6.15pm



3rd Sunday of Easter, Year C

The disciples had almost given up on catching fish when Jesus appeared to them and told them to let down their nets one more time. Write down about times in your life when Jesus has given you hope.



Jesus asked his disciples to let down their nets and they were rewarded. What are some things that Jesus asks us to do? How are we rewarded?

Help Peter swim to shore to be with Jesus.



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER— 4 MAY 2025



COLLECT

May your people exult for ever, O God,
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,
we may look forward in confident hope
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

There is no question, the gospels can be confusing. John 21 seems to be an appendix (the previous chapter had a concluding paragraph). In this chapter, the risen Lord feeds his disciples with bread and fish by the Sea of Tiberias – on the only other occasion when this place was mentioned, Jesus feeds the crowd with bread and fish (John 6). Luke 24 has a short version of last week's gospel (John 20) but then adds that Jesus eats a piece of grilled fish. John 21 incorporates the story of a great haul of fish; there are many similarities with the story of the miraculous haul of fish found in Luke 5, but this one happens at the beginning of Jesus' ministry when he first calls Peter, James and John to follow him. The same figures are present in John 21 which ends with the injunction: 'follow me.' The commissioning of Peter here reminds us of the commissioning given in Matthew 16. How are all these elements related? There is plenty of work for biblical scholars to make the connections and to enlighten us!

Peter is a key figure in today's readings. The first half of the Acts of the Apostles focusses on Peter (before the spotlight is turned on Paul). In the first reading, we hear his fearless witness. In the gospel, he is the one who gets the fishing trip going and he is at the centre of the encounter with the risen Lord. Then he is commissioned by the Lord to care for the flock of Christ. With Peter and the other disciples, we are drawn to understand the reality of the resurrection and to encounter the risen Christ.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
5:27–32, 40–41

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. ‘We gave you a formal warning,’ he said ‘not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man’s death on us.’ In reply Peter and the apostles said, ‘Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.’ They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

First Reading

The jealousy of the Jewish authorities led to the apostles being arrested, jailed, miraculously freed, re-arrested and brought for trial. In response to a formal warning not to preach about Christ, what does Peter do? He witnesses fearlessly to the resurrection! All the apostles and the Holy Spirit testify to the saving work of Christ.

The apostles get another warning and are released. The key to this surprising outcome is found in the verses that have been omitted from the reading. The Pharisee Gamaliel argued that if the Christian movement was merely human, it would fail; if it was of God, they could not prevail against it. So the apostles are flogged and set free.

A key message of the Acts of the Apostles is thus made clear: the invincible power of the Holy Spirit is driving the growth and spread of the Christian way.

The reader should present this courtroom drama with all the vigour of Peter’s response in the Spirit. “Men” should be read as “human beings”.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 29:2, 4–6, 11–13

R. I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.
or

R. Alleluia.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. **R.**
Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. **R.**
The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing;
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

In Psalm 29/30, someone finds themselves in mortal peril. They pray, crying out for help and deliverance. God hears their prayer and lifts up the afflicted person. This is a psalm of thanksgiving.

It is used today as a response to Peter’s proclamation of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Many of the phrases evoke for Christians the Easter mystery: vindicated enemies, soul raised from the dead, restored to life. Remembering the discovery of the empty tomb early on the first day of the week, we hear: *At night there are tears, but joy comes with the dawn.* It was one of the psalms we may have heard at the Easter Vigil after the fourth reading from Isaiah.

It is a beautiful psalm to pray whenever we seek God’s help in time of tribulation.

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 5:11–14

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, 'The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.'

Then I heard all the living things in creation – everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, 'To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.' And the four animals said, 'Amen'; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

21:1–19

Jesus showed himself again to his disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No,' he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord,' Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

[After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?'

Second Reading

The Lamb of God is Christ, crucified and risen. In this majestic vision, all of creation – not just human beings but every creature – offers praise at the throne of Christ. As Eucharistic Prayer IV says, our proclamation is *giving voice to every creature under heaven*. The reader has a big responsibility to capture this sense of grandeur and wonder.

There are two long lists in this reading. They should not be spoken in a staccato manner, but slowly with a gradually falling pitch so that the assembly is caught up in the splendour of the heavenly worship.

Gospel

This extraordinary story of the disciples' encounter with the risen Christ emphasises that Jesus is real and yet... somehow different. They knew him well but still did not recognise him when he stood on the shore. (In the garden by the tomb, Mary mistakes him for the gardener!) The big haul of fish causes John to exclaim, *It is the Lord!* Perhaps he was remembering the haul of fish when he and the others were first called to follow Christ (Lk 5). Even later during the breakfast, the gospel remarks, *none of them was bold enough to ask, 'who are you?' They knew...* Recognising the risen Lord is a wondrous experience of faith.

Yet the gospel is also at pains to emphasise the physical reality of the risen Lord. He's built a fire and is cooking fish. He adds some of the disciples' fish to the breakfast meal which he shares with them. Perhaps by now they were remembering the earlier feeding of the crowd with bread and fish at the waterside at Tiberias (Jn 6). For us, the story evokes the eucharistic meal which we too are about to share with the risen Christ.

After breakfast, Jesus gives Peter special attention, calling forth from him a threefold profession of love (perhaps to echo Peter's threefold denial?) which is accompanied by a threefold commissioning to care for the flock of God's people. Discipleship and mission go together.

Appendix this chapter may be, but the narrative is filled with energy and drama and is a powerful opportunity for the assembly to encounter the risen Lord and to profess their love with Peter.

He replied 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.

'I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt around you and take you where you would rather not go.'

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.']

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

BLESSING FOR EASTER

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son was pleased to confer on us the gift of redemption and of adoption, give us gladness by his blessing.

Amen.

May he, by whose redeeming work we have received the gift of everlasting freedom, make us heirs to an eternal inheritance.

Amen.

And may we, who have already risen with Christ in Baptism through faith, by living in a right manner on this earth, be united with him in the homeland of heaven.

Amen.

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

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Easter Time, Roman Missal p. 712)



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

30 April 2025

*Letter to Clergy, Religious, and Laity of the
Archdiocese of Melbourne*

St Patrick's Cathedral
Light into the City

Dear Friends in the Risen Christ,

For many years now, I have spoken of our beloved mother Church, St Patrick's Cathedral, as a place that must always be a source of light for the wider community — a beacon along the path of communion, formation, and mission, that brings the Gospel to life in all its fullness.

Since its earliest days as a sanctuary and home for the faithful, St Patrick's has stood at the heart of Melbourne's story. Its stones hold not only a deep spiritual and cultural history but also a history of faith, hope, and resilience — a living testimony that has shone brightly through both joyful and challenging times.

Each week, more than 10,000 people walk through the doors of this sacred space. In seasons of great celebration, that number swells to over 3,000 gathered together at any one time — with many thousands more joining through liturgical broadcasts.

After 127 years, this grand matriarch continues to welcome and serve an ever-growing community of faithful and visitors alike, and does so with grace and beauty.

Yet, as with all things that endure, care and stewardship are needed. It is no secret that after more than a century, St Patrick's now requires significant restoration and renewal. But this is about more than simply repairing stonework or mending tiles. It is about ensuring that this living Church — this light in the heart of our city — remains strong, vibrant, and ready to serve future generations.

In the dynamic, cosmopolitan city that Melbourne has become, we hold the responsibility of keeping this light shining brightly — not only for ourselves but for all who seek hope, beauty, and a spiritual home here.

Monday's announcement from the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Tony Burke MP, of a \$60 million commitment to begin the restoration and revitalisation of St Patrick's Cathedral and its precinct; and Tuesday's announcement from the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship,

and the Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Shadow Minister for Social Services, the NDIS, Housing and Homelessness, offering similar support of the Liberal-National Coalition for this important project should they form government after the upcoming election, marks the beginning of a new chapter.

It is a bold and generous investment in the future — a sign of confidence that this place of faith, history, and community will continue to shine at the heart of Melbourne for many years to come.

There is much work ahead in this significant undertaking for our Archdiocese. Firstly, there is some urgency for remedial and restoration works on the historic structures of the site to make them safe and enduring. Flowing from that, the Cathedral precinct's current form cannot adequately support the growing expressions of faith, culture and community that it is being called to. Public amenities (such as accessible toilets), parish and community gathering spaces, and dedicated locations for outreach, healing, and faith formation need to be addressed for our responsible stewardship of this spiritual treasure.

St Patrick's was, and remains, a work of love and hope. It is also an investment not only in bricks and mortar but in the life and heart of our people, and their place in the story of this city. This is a life-giving project that will involve us all.

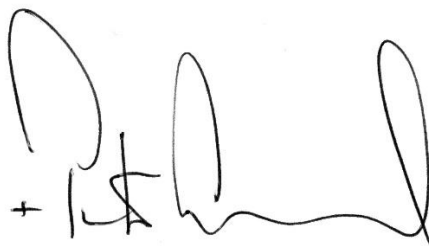
I look forward to providing regular channels of communication that will share how our Light into the City vision unfolds, and how you might be a part of it.

As we journey through this Easter season, I ask for your prayers for this work in the days and months ahead – that the hope and promise of the risen Christ will continually nourish the renewal of our faith and inspire us to sow seeds of life, light, and faith within ourselves and into the world around us.

St Patrick — shepherd, missionary, visionary, and teacher, pray for us.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A Comensoli', with a small cross symbol to the left of the first name.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



**20TH APRIL –
3RD MAY 2026**

LED BY
FR ALEX CHOW

14
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE:
per person (twin share)

**OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:**

AUD\$ 8,490*

AUD\$ 1,150

**FULLY
ESCORTED**

*Conditions apply. Subject to change.
Price estimated based on group
size of 20 pilgrims. Actual pricing
will be known in late May 2025.

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'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres'. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love'

(Ephesians 4:2)

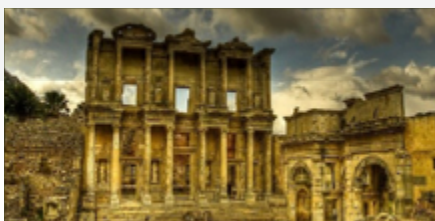
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written. It will be an opportunity of spiritual renewal, deepen our relationship with God as we reflect and experience the incredible journey of Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

REGISTER FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION at 7pm ON THURSDAY, 5th JUNE

* Enjoy full travel briefing * Meet your fellow Pilgrims * Have your questions answered

CONTACT FR ALEX OR OLIVE TREE TRAVEL TO REGISTER & GET THE DETAILS



NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Alex or Olive Tree Travel or by [CLICKING HERE.](#)
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$500 per person is payable by 16th June 2025 (unless sold out prior)
3. Final balances will be due by late February 2026.



Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696
info@olivetretravel.com.au www.olivetretravel.com.au
103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



DAY 1 MONDAY 20TH APRIL

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Melbourne this evening on your Emirates flight to Dubai. On arrival, transfer to your connecting flight to Athens.

DAY 2 TUESDAY 21ST APRIL

ARRIVE ATHENS

Arrive in Athens today. Athens is the thriving capital of Greece but more importantly, we have entered into the world of the New Testament where St Paul and his companions established the first Christian communities throughout his four missionary journeys. On arrival in **Athens** we will be met and transferred to our centrally located hotel for the remainder of the day at leisure. Athens overnight (D)

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL

ATHENS - CORINTH - ATHENS

Journey out to **Ancient Corinth** where the Apostle Paul lived for almost two years, teaching the people the Word of God and converting many. We visit the ancient ruins and see the site where he preached the Gospel from the **Rostrum**. Also visit the Peirene fountain, and the 6th century BC **Temple of Apollo** before an outdoor Mass in this stunning pilgrimage setting. Finally we come to **Cenchreae**, the ancient port from where Paul said farewell to the believers and departed for Ephesus (Acts 18:18). Return to Athens in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 4 THURSDAY 23RD APRIL

ATHENS

When St Paul first came to Athens it was predominantly a city that worshipped pagan gods. St Paul was taken before the city council at the Areopagus Hill, a rough outcrop of limestone rock from which he preached the Gospel message to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:16-21). We begin our day with a tour of **Christian Athens** including the **Acropolis**, the **Areopagus** where St Paul delivered his famous sermon about the identity of "the Unknown God" (Acts 17:15-34) and the **Parthenon**. Continue for a visit the **Ancient Agora** and a bus tour to see the highlights of the city including the Kallimarmaro Stadium, dating back to 330 B.C. and restored for the first modern Olympic Games held here in 1896. Visit to the New Acropolis museum. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Athens. (BD)

DAY 5 FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

ATHENS - METEORA - KALAMBAKA

Depart this morning and travel north to the small town of **Kalambaka** built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of **Meteora**. Marvel at this unique phenomenon of nature – 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their Monastic community of Meteora. We visit two of the Byzantine Meteora monasteries. Among striking scenery and perched on top of huge rocks, the ageless monasteries of Meteora seem to be suspended in mid-air. The monasteries contain beautiful Byzantine art and offer an insight to the mystic world of the monks still residing there. Mass this evening, will be held in a private room at the hotel before dinner and overnight in Kalambaka (BD)

DAY 6 SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

KALAMBAKA - VERGINA - VERIA - THESSALONIKI

Depart this morning to **Vergina**, the first capital of the Macedonian Kingdom. Here we visit the "Vergina findings", treasures of Ancient Macedonia and the tomb of King Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. A few minutes away is Veria, located on the ruins of **Ancient Beroea**, is one of Apostle Paul's stops. Here we see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. Continue our drive to Thessaloniki. Dinner & overnight in Thessaloniki. (BD)

DAY 7 SUNDAY 26TH APRIL

THESSALONIKI

Today is for Thessaloniki exploration. Welcome to Greece's second city, founded in 315 BC, and where St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. See the ramparts of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius and the Roman Agora where St Paul once preached. We shall visit St Demetrios' Church with its valuable mosaics and frescoes and will drive up to the upper town, which offers a marvellous view of the city. We will also have the chance to celebrate Mass at the Catholic Church. Dinner & overnight in Thessaloniki. (BD)

DAY 8 MONDAY 27TH APRIL

PHILIPPI - KAVALA - THESSALONIKI

Arise and journey along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul to nearby Philippi, named after Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. It was here that St Paul won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira (Acts 16:12-40). Visit the Baptistery of Lydia for a beautiful outdoor Mass on the River Zygaktis, and renew

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our Baptismal vows. Visit the market place (where St Paul and St Silas were brought before the rulers) and the cistern which tradition identifies as the place where St Paul was imprisoned. We will also see the famous Acropolis, Basilica and the theatre. It was here that he established the first Christian Church in Europe. Visit the Octagonal church, an early Christian monument thought to be built on the site where St. Paul had established a house of prayer. Finally, we drive to the port in Kavala (Neapolis in New Testament times), where Paul landed with Timothy, Silas, and Luke. Return to your hotel in Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 9 TUESDAY 28TH APRIL **THESSALONIKI – IZMIR (SMYRNA) - KUSADASI** This morning, we depart Thessaloniki Airport for our flight to Izmir (via Istanbul or Athens). Upon arrival we will be met by our Turkish guide and commence our touring programme by visiting the Ruins of Ancient Smyrna, one of the 7 Churches. After the Agora visit we will drive to the coastal city of Kusadasi. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (D)

DAY 10 WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL **EPHESUS PILGRIMAGE**
 Today we visit the famous city of Ephesus. Ephesus, as we will see, is in a very good state of preservation and the overall existing view of this ancient city will make it evident that she was a wealthy, cultural, and commercial centre in the 1st century. Paul's preaching in the area resulted with the uproar of the Guild of Silversmiths and the evangelisation of the whole province of Asia. Highlights include the ancient temple to the Roman Emperor, the 'slope' houses, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Fountain of Trajan, the brothel, and the large theatre in which the riot of Acts 19 took place. Not far from the theatre, we visit the Church of St Mary, where it is said that Mary spent the later years of her life. Celebrate Mass. Finally you will visit the restored remains of the 6th century Basilica of St John at Celcuk where a small church was originally built over the tomb of St John the Evangelist. Return to your hotel in Kusadasi for dinner and overnight (BD)

DAY 11 THURSDAY 30TH APRIL **KUSADASI - ISTANBUL** After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for Izmir Airport to catch our flight at 10:00AM. On arrival, we will be met and transferred to old city to visit Basilica Cistern, the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns that lie beneath the city. We'll also get to see one of the Eastern Orthodox Churches. This afternoon visit the Byzantine Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque and nearby Hagia Sophia (meaning 'Holy Wisdom'). Built in 548 AD, Hagia Sophia was the greatest Church in Christendom until 1453 when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire. Onwards then to the Grand Bazaar, with over 4000 exotic tiny shops. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

DAY 12 FRIDAY 01ST MAY **ISTANBUL**
 Commence the day with a special morning cruise along the Bosphorus River, where you will sail past the Ottoman Palaces, Byzantine fortresses, Beylerbeyi Palace and Suleiman's Mosque. An opportunity to celebrate Mass at a Catholic Church. Enjoy a brief visit to Topkapi Palace. After the visit, transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

DAY 13 SATURDAY 02ND MAY **ISTANBUL - AUSTRALIA**
 End your pilgrimage with a transfer to Istanbul Airport for your departure flight to Dubai. Transfer to your connecting flight back to Melbourne. (B)

DAY 14 SUNDAY 03RD MAY **ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**
 Arrive back to Melbourne this evening with wonderful memories from your pilgrimage!

**

Itinerary subject to change **

Interested in continuing the Footsteps of St Paul and visiting other amazing sites in Rome?

Instead of flying straight home from Istanbul, we will hold a limited number of seats out of Rome, allowing pilgrims to enjoy an independently arranged Rome Pilgrimage in the Eternal city and surroundings as organized with/by Fr Alex Chow.

Fr Alex has lived in Rome as a seminarian for 4 years. Fr. Alex has offered to assist pilgrims in finding

[REGISTER HERE](#)



modest but clean and comfortable accommodation. The Roman stay will consist of the following (depending on time availability):

1. Sites of St Paul: Basilica of St Paul Outside the Wall, Tre Fontana (where St Paul was imprisoned and executed), via Ostiense (where St Peter and St Paul met in Rome)
2. 3 major Pontifical Basilica: Basilica of St Peter, Basilica of Mary Major, Basilica of John Lateran
3. Churches of Saints of the Roman Canon: St Cosmos and Damian, St Clement, St Agnes in Agony, St Cecilia, St Bartholomew
4. Beautiful Rome: Colosseum, Rome Forum, Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza di Popolo, etc...
5. Churches of the Passion of Jesus Christ: Church of the Holy Steps, Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem, Basilica di Santa Prassede (Column of the Flagellation)
6. Elegant Churches: San Luigi dei Francesi (Caravaggio - calling of Matthew), Basilica of Saint Mary of Minerva (the tomb of St Catherine of Siena), Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria (Bernini's dramatic carving "The Ecstasy of Teresa."), Chiesa del Gesu.

****Olive Tree Travel will arrange your flight from Istanbul – Rome****

PRICE INCLUSIONS:

- Emirates Flight from Melbourne to Athens via Dubai and then return Istanbul to Melbourne via Dubai
- One way flight from Thessaloniki to Izmir
- One way flight from Izmir to Istanbul
- 11 nights in total: 7 nights in Greece and 4 nights in Turkey in hotel accommodation in twin share rooms.
- Breakfast and Dinner daily. Breakfasts and Dinners at hotels unless otherwise specified.
- All tips, gratuities and portorage (where available)
- Whisperer headsets
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- Air-conditioned coach

NOT INCLUDED:

- Drinks with meals
- Travel insurance
- Incidentals, laundry
- Lunches
- Turkey Visa – currently US\$66 and obtained privately before departure

HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

• Hotel Luwian	Athens	3 nights
• Hotel Amalia	Kalambaka	1 night
• Hotel Imperial Plus	Thessaloniki	3 nights
• Korumar Hotel	Kusadasi	2 nights
• Port Bosphorous Hotel	Istanbul	2 nights

NEXT STEPS

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2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$500 per person is payable by 16th June 2025 (unless sold out prior)
3. Final balances will be due by late February 2026.

WHO TO CONTACT:

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Administrator of St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn
South and St Timothy Forest Hill
Phone: 03 9412 8499
Mobile: 0431 075 674



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close 15 August 2025

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Be GOOD SHEPHERD THE



By
Olivia
Dawson