



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 6th July 2025

Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell
Wednesdays,
Thursdays & Fridays
10am – 2pm

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. 9.15am (ST*)

*1st Wed Mass of Anointing
@10am*

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

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

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

YAM GROUP - 1st & 3rd Wed.
each month at 7pm
at St Luke's Presbytery

Isaiah 66:10-14. Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. Galatians 6:14-18.

Gospel Reflection on Luke 10:1-12,17-20.

The first thing that is striking about this gospel passage is the fact that there are 72 disciples whom Jesus sends out on mission. We can have an image of Jesus strolling around Galilee with just a small group of followers but this passage makes it clear that a significant number of people were engaged in his ministry. And the gospel writer has not just made an error in naming 72 rather than the Twelve because just one chapter earlier the Twelve were sent out. This sending out to mission is a significant element of the gospel of Luke. The first sending of the Twelve represents the mission to the Jews – the twelve tribes of Israel are frequently used symbolically to represent all of the Jewish people. The sending of the 72 then represents the mission beyond the Jewish people to all nations and all people.

Another theme that is significant in the gospel of Luke is the message of hospitality. Jesus teaches on it frequently and tries to convey a message that the hospitality of God is available to all. In the sending of both the Twelve and the 72, Jesus tells them to take nothing with them for the journey. He is telling them to rely on the hospitality of strangers. If they are welcomed and shown hospitality then they are to bless the household and carry out their ministry. The ability to show hospitality to the messengers of God is a sign that the household will welcome the message of God. However, wherever they do not receive hospitality they are to leave the town, shaking the dust from their feet, as their ministry will not be welcomed by people who are not ready to hear it. It is an excellent message about not wasting your efforts in unproductive ways – not hitting your head against a brick wall!

Gospel Focus – Blessing and Curse

The 72 who are sent out are given very clear instructions about how to respond when their message is welcomed and when it is rejected, but in both cases they are to tell the town, 'The kingdom of God is very near.' In the case of a welcoming town, these words serve as a blessing, but for an unwelcoming town the same words are a threat or curse. For those who welcome the kingdom it will be a blessing but for others it will be a curse: changing boundaries and redistributing power; bringing down the mighty and lifting up the lowly.

Living the Gospel – Discipleship

Today's gospel passage immediately follows the passage used last week that spelt out the difficulties of discipleship. Having explained how hard it is to be a disciple, Jesus sends his followers out to 'have a go' at being a disciple. When they come back successful he tells them not to be boastful or proud at their achievements but rather to be happy that their 'names are written in heaven'. In other words, anything they accomplished was because they were 'known' by God and that God was working through them. Disciples make themselves 'known' to God and God works through them to accomplish great things!

Have you thought? – The harvest

This gospel is often used to make a point about the need for vocations to priestly and religious life. Jesus makes the comment that 'the harvest is rich but the labourers are few'. This image of labourers in the harvest is often applied to the work of priests and other religious vocations. However apt the image may be, when we read it in the context of the whole passage we can see that this sending out of the 72 was a general challenge to live out the call to discipleship – to go out into the world and bring about the kingdom.

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Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

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 7 July - 13 July

MONDAY, July 7 Gen 28:10-22,
Ps 90:1-4, 14-15, Mt 9:18-26

TUESDAY, July 8, Gen 32:23-33
Ps 16:1-3, 6-8, 15 Mt 9:32-38

WEDNESDAY, July 9 Gen 41:55-57; 42:5-7,
17-24 Ps 32:2-3, 10-11, 18-19: Mt 10:1-7

THURSDAY, July 10 Gen 44:18-21, 23-29;
45:1-5, Ps 104:16-21 Mt 10:7-15

FRIDAY, July 11 Gen 46: 1-7, 28-30, Ps 36:3-4,
18-19, 27-28, 39-40 Mt 10:16-23
ST Benedict, abbot

SATURDAY, July 12 Gen 49:29-33; 50:15-26,
Ps 104:1-4, 6-7 Mt 10:24-33

SUNDAY, July 13 Deut 30:10-14 Ps 68:14, 17,
30-31, 33-34, 36-37 Col 1:15-20
Lk 10:25-37

15th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

*(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.

SOME USEFUL CATHOLIC RESOURCES:

PRAY AS YOU GO (<https://pray-as-you-go.org/daily-meditation>)

HALLOW (<https://hallow.com>):#1 prayer Catholic App

UNIVERSALIS website and App. (<https://universalis.com/index.htm>)

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

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

5 and 6 July

Edna Lee
Maria Deayton
Shirley Prabha
Genevieve Hemsley
Thuan Tran & Hoa Doan

12 and 13 July

Melina Barcellona
Peggy D'Cruz
Kana Chelliah
Trevis Yee
Ha Cao & Chi Nguyen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Lucy Ferris
Rachel Grealy
Margaret Gearon
Eleanor Mendes
Hung Dinh

Godfrey Thong
Owen Grealy
Beryl Chelliah
Daphne Hickman
Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
Michelle Chen
David Prabha
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

Choir
Michelle Chen
Megan McLean
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 5/6 JULY

5pm Edna Lee
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

19th July - To be advised

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

5th July: Ellen Donoghue
12th July: To be advised

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Easter flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 12/13 JULY

5:00pm John Ryan
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

12th July @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 2:
Raj & Violet Fonn
Next week Team 3:
Peter Deayton & Kelvin Chen

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Ronda Smith, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, Bernadine O'Meara, 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.

All who have died, especially Christine Blanchfield, Tonino D'Intini & Pam Ellingworth who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Klaus Clahsen, Madeleine Bradley, Caterina Cannestra, Michael J. Kelly, Gregoria Gonzales, Giovanna Pinzone, Joseph Pinzone, Doreen MacDonald, Giuseppe Muscatello, Kate Scott, Joan Donohue, Ellen Drysdale and Max Miller. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY:

For formation in discernment. Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

ST LUKE'S SCHOOL ENROLMENTS OPEN: Enrolments for Prep 2026 are open NOW! Please contact the school on 9877 4023 or visit the new website <https://www.slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au/>

CHURCH FLOWERS & CLEANING ROSTERS S.L.: Calling for volunteers once again to assist with cleaning and flowers at St Luke's for the coming year. Sign-up sheets are in the church foyer. Thanks in advance for your support.

FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION: Calling all parents of children who don't attend a Catholic school and who would like to receive this sacrament this year to please contact the parish office.

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST LUKE'S: Next weekend, July 12 & 13th - please bring a plate to share if you can.

TRIVIA NIGHT: St Luke's School Parents' and Friends Association invite you to their Sports Trivia Night on Sat. 26th July at 7pm in the parish hall. More details at: www.trybooking.com/DBSNJ. Discounted tickets are available for parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to attend.

BAPTISM: We warmly welcome our newest member of the parish, Declan Xavier Tauro who will be presented this weekend and baptised on Saturday 12th July at the 5pm Mass at St Luke's. Congratulations to parents Nigel and Janice and to his big sisters Teagan and Sierra!

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Steps taken in faith](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Celebrating NAIDOC Week](#)

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 Total Collection: \$389.25

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$411.90

Vietnamese Donation: \$179

Direct debit & credit card donations to Presbytery in June: \$360

Direct debit & credit card donations to Church in June: \$815

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$371.80

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$450.95

Direct debit & credit card donations to Presbytery in June: \$2,010

Direct debit & credit card donations to Church in June: \$2,071.50

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

SL: 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: Miguel Ilagan & 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: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Response to the Psalm: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

DIVINE RENOVATION INVITATION

Invitation Changes Everything: Build a Parish that Reaches Out

Can a simple invitation really change a life? According to Micheal Harvey, it absolutely can and often does. In this powerful, interactive session, renowned speaker and founder of Back to Church Sunday, Michael Harvey, will invite us into a bold new vision: a parish culture where invitation is second nature, not second thought.

Join us at St Benedict's, Burwood on Saturday 19th July from 6.30pm to 9pm

Register at: <https://divinerenovation.org/calendar/%f0%9f%87%a6%f0%9f%87%ba-invitation-changes-everything-build-a-parish-that-reaches-out-5/>

The LukTim YAM (18 to 35yrs) is an outreach ministry of St Luke the Evangelist and St Timothy's, Forest Hill.

When: Wed 16 July @ 7pm

Where: 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South



'A GOD WHO SPEAKS?'

The hiddenness of God. Discovering the face of God?'

An evening of nibble, praise & worship, talk, sharing, games to deepen our relationship with Christ in a fun, safe and inclusive environment.

Further enquiries to Jersy or Sarah at luktimyam@gmail.com or QR Code for catering purposes



6.30PM VIGIL MASS AT ST TIMOTHY'S

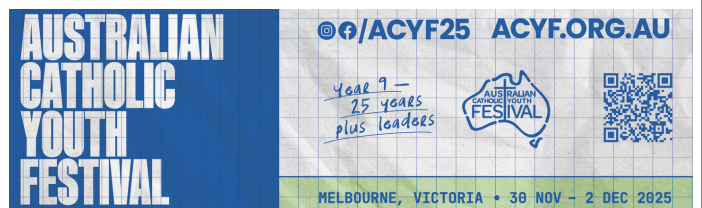
Due to various reasons including consolidation of resources between St Luke's and St Timothy's and journeying together as a parish towards a missionary church, the PPC has proposed to discontinue this Mass from August 1st 2025. All parishioners are welcome to attend the 5pm Vigil Mass at St Luke's or the 10.30am Sunday Mass at St Timothy's. If you have any concerns about this, please email directly to Fr Alex by 6 July at the latest (alexander.chow@cam.org.au) with your contact details for a discussion if required. Thank you.



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

Dates: 20 April – 5 / 9 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. 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>. Places are still available, please email to info@olivetreetravel.com.au



Encounter: ACYF edition

Join hundreds of young pilgrims across the Archdiocese of Melbourne for a powerful night of prayer, talks and live music in the lead-up to the ACYF. Bring a friend and experience a glimpse of what the Festival will offer! Fr Rob Galea will headline this special edition of Encounter at Cathedral Hall, Australian Catholic University on Saturday August 9th from 7pm to 9.30pm.

Already registered for ACYF? This is your first stop on the pilgrim journey. Not registered yet? Join us, Age: Year 9 - 25 years. Note: Parents/guardians of under-18 participants will be required to 'sign in' and 'sign out' their children. Sign-in commences at 7.00pm.

Register at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1408994>

Jesus sends out his followers

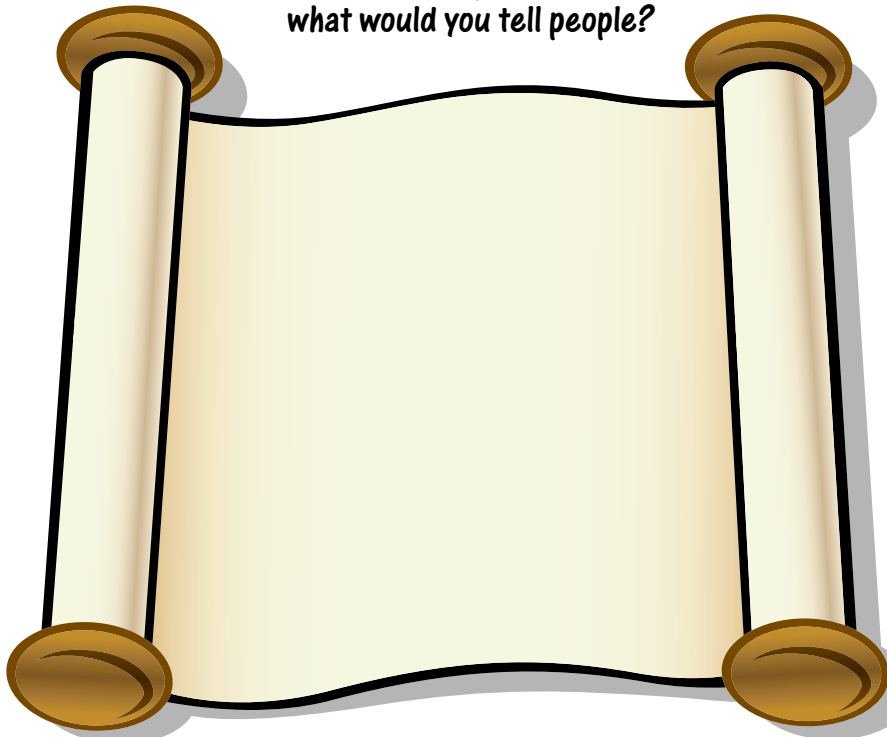


14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Jesus sent his disciples out two by two. Who would you have taken as your partner to go on such a journey? Draw yourself and that person spreading the good news to the people below.



If Jesus sent you out to proclaim his good news, what would you tell people?

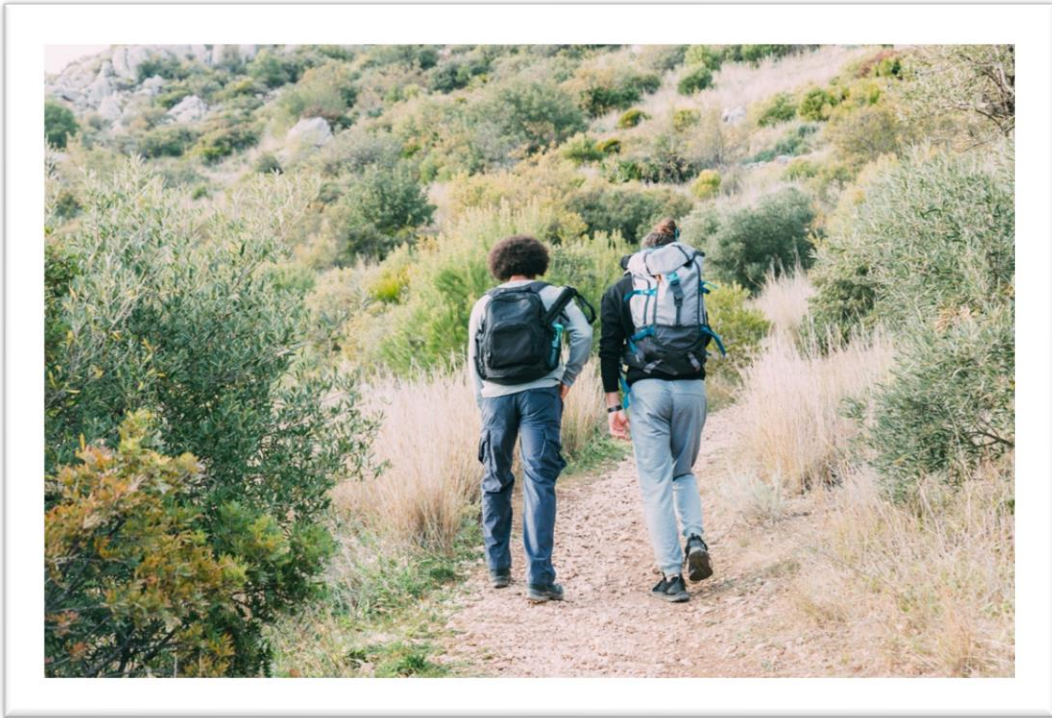


Unscramble the tiles below to find out what Jesus told his disciples to say when they entered people's homes.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| ITH P | OME W |
| GOD B | HIS H |
| LESS T | EACE |

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14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 6 JULY 2025



COLLECT

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.
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

We have skipped a few weeks since we last followed the Ordinary Time cycle before Lent. We pick up Luke's gospel at Chapter 10 and read it in a semi-continuous way until November. This year the cycle is interrupted by three feast days: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14 September), All Saints (1 November) and The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (9 November).

At this point in Luke's gospel, Luke begins to arrange the story of Jesus' ministry, his teaching and actions, around a great 'Journey to Jerusalem'. This has a theological purpose – everything is to be seen in light of Jesus' death and resurrection. Discipleship (following Christ) is a recurring theme.

The sending of the seventy-two disciples is a good example of 'missionary discipleship'. Note that they come back rejoicing. It may be hard work but, as Pope Francis writes, it does bring happiness. He sees the Church as a joy-filled 'community of missionary disciples'. *It is filled with joy; it knows how to rejoice always. It celebrates at every small victory, every step forward in the work of evangelisation. Evangelisation with joy becomes beauty in the liturgy, as part of our daily concern to spread goodness... Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the joy of evangelisation"* (The Joy of the Gospel 24, 83).

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 66:10–14

Rejoice, Jerusalem,
be glad for her, all you who love her!
Rejoice, rejoice for her,
all you who mourned her!

That you may be suckled, filled,
from her consoling breast,
that you may savour with delight
her glorious breasts.

For thus says the Lord:
Now towards her I send flowing
peace, like a river,
and like a stream in spate
the glory of the nations.

At her breast will her nurslings be carried
and fondled in her lap.

Like a son comforted by his mother
will I comfort you.

And by Jerusalem you will be comforted.

At the sight your heart will rejoice,
and your bones flourish like the grass.

To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.

First Reading

The rejoicing of the seventy-two disciples in the gospel is well set up by Isaiah and the psalmist, both of whom speak eloquently of joy.

The image is sensual, warm and intimate: a mother is breast-feeding her baby. Suckled, fondled, comforted, the infant is contented and delighted. At first the 'mother' is Jerusalem, symbol of the celestial city where God dwells with her people. Then in the fourth stanza, the image shifts to God as our mother. God's maternal care is the source of our rejoicing.

A second connection with the gospel comes in the third stanza where a river of flowing peace is promised. When Jesus' disciples are sent out, their first words are to be 'Peace to this house!'

The imagery here is strong: *consoling breast, glorious breasts, fondled in her lap...* Readers should not be afraid to give the extended imagery its full power. It is a passage to be read with great warmth and tender love.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1–7, 16, 20

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,

○ sing to the glory of his name.

○ render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**

'Before you all the earth shall bow:
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **R.**

Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul.

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 65/66 is a joyful hymn of praise and thanksgiving for God's '*tremendous deeds*' (a phrase mentioned twice!). We sing, we cry out, our admiration of all God's great works.

The next two verses give examples. The first is communal, the story of the people's Exodus from slavery, across the Red Sea to freedom under God's protection. The second is an individual who had recourse to God's help and who was blessed with acceptance and love.

This text is regular in structure, positive in content and easy to proclaim for the cantor/reader. 'Men' in the second stanza could become 'people'.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Galatians 6:14–18**

The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God.

I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers. Amen.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke 10:1–12, 17–20**

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you."

[But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, "We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near." I tell you, on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.]

The seventy-two came back rejoicing. 'Lord,' they said, 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.'

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

Second Reading

Paul writes to the churches of Galatia passionately defending himself against agitators who complained first that he was not commissioned by Christ for his preaching and second that he was weak in not following the requirements of the Jewish law. These are his final remarks in this letter.

To the last, he is speaking firmly: *I want no more trouble from anybody after this.*

Overall, however, his message offers a powerful insight: what matters is not following the requirements of the Jewish law, but rather following the crucified and risen Lord.

Paul uses his own scars and sufferings to indicate his union with the cross of Christ. Thus in the resurrection, the disciple becomes an altogether new creature. It is here that peace and mercy are revealed.

The final blessing should be expanded to include 'brothers and sisters'.

Gospel

This passage is important for a Church that seeks to become a community of missionary disciples.

- The purpose of this missionary venture is to bring peace to households and to announce in word and action that *the kingdom of God is very near to you!*
- The need is great, for the harvest is rich but the labourers few.
- Missionary disciples are vulnerable (*lambs among wolves*); they will therefore need to rely entirely on God's providence (*no purse, no haversack, no sandals*).

The longer version is important for the phrase: *the seventy-two came back rejoicing*. This theme of the joy of discipleship – whatever the difficulties and trials the disciple might have encountered – has been well established by the other readings today.

'The work of evangelisation enriches the mind and the heart; it opens up spiritual horizons; it makes us more and more sensitive to the workings of the Holy Spirit, and it takes us beyond our limited spiritual constructs. A committed missionary knows the joy of being a spring which spills over and refreshes others. Only the person who feels happiness in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness, can be a missionary (Francis, The Joy of the Gospel 272).

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time I)

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

Amen.

May he let his face shine upon us
and show us his mercy.

Amen.

May he turn his countenance towards us
and give us his peace.

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 Ordinary Time I, Roman Missal p. 714)



ST. LUKES SCHOOL
BLACKBURN SOUTH



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO
BOOK A
TOUR





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: AU\$ 8,490*
per person (twin share)

OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AU\$ 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.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



'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)

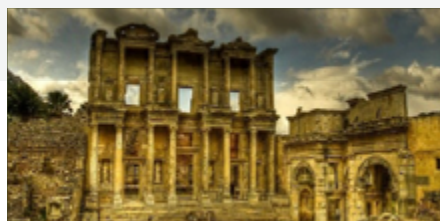
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written. 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!

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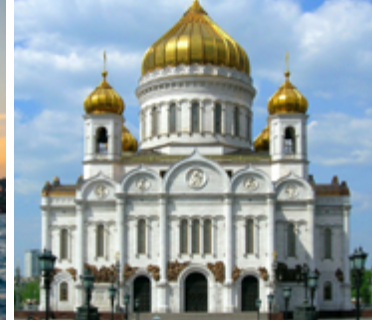
Itinerary subject to change **

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

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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 |

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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
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 Mobile: 0431 075 674



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Term 2

THURSDAY 01 MAY, 9.30 AM | MONDAY 23 JUNE, 9.30 AM

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2025



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of
hope

By
Olivia
Dawson