St Timothy's, Forest Hill & St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South

ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 3rd August 2025

Parish Priest
Fr Alex Chow

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

========

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL)

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

Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23, Psalm 89(90):3-6,12-14,17;Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

Gospel Reflection on Luke 12:13-21.

Meditation: Have you ever tried to settle a money dispute or an inheritance issue? Inheritance disputes are rarely ever easy to resolve, especially when the relatives or close associates of the deceased benefactor cannot agree on who should get what and who should get the most. Why did Jesus refuse to settle an inheritance dispute between two brothers? He saw that the heart of the issue was not justice or fairness but rather greed and possessiveness.

Death and the Rich Man by Frans II Francken (circa 1610) © Galerie Lowet de Wotrenge, Antwerp, Belgium

Loving possessions rather than loving my neighbour: The ten commandments were summarized into two prohibitions - do not worship false idols and do not covet what belongs to another. It's the flip side of the two great commandments - love God and love your neighbour. Jesus warned the man who wanted half of his brother's inheritance to "beware of all covetousness." To covet is to wish to get wrongfully what another possesses or to begrudge what God has given to another. Jesus restates the commandment "do not covet", but he also states that a person's life does not consist in the abundance of his or her possessions. August of Hippo (354-430 AD) comments on Jesus' words to the brother who wanted more: Greed wants to divide, just as love desires to gather. What is the significance of 'guard against all greed,' unless it is 'fill yourselves with love?' We, possessing love for our portion, inconvenience the Lord because of our brother just as that man did against his brother, but we do not use the same plea. He said, 'Master, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' We say, 'Master, tell my brother that he may have my inheritance.'(Sermon 265.9)

The fool who was possessed by his riches: Jesus reinforces his point with a parable about a foolish rich man (Luke 12:16-21). Why does Jesus call this wealthy landowner a fool? Jesus does not fault the rich man for his industriousness and skill in acquiring wealth, but rather for his egoism and selfishness - it's mine, all mine, and no one else's. This parable is similar to the parable of the rich man who refused to give any help to the beggar Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). The rich fool had lost the capacity to be concerned for others. His life was consumed with his possessions and his only interests were in himself. His death was the final loss of his soul! What is Jesus' lesson on using material possessions? It is in giving that we receive. Those who are rich towards God receive ample reward - not only in this life - but in eternity as well.

Where is your treasure?: In this little parable Jesus probes our heart - where is your treasure? Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. What do you treasure above all else?

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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 4 Aug - 10 Aug

MONDAY, Aug 4 Num 11:4-15
Ps 80:12-17 Mt 14:13-21
St John Vianney, priest

TUESDAY, Aug 5 1 Num 12:1-13
Ps 50:3-7,12-13 Mt 14:22-36

WEDNESDAY, Aug 6 Dan 7:9-10, 13-14
Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 9 Lk 9:28-36
The Transfiguration of the Lord

THURSDAY, Aug 7 Num 20:1-13
Ps 94:1-2, 6-9 Mt 16:13-23

FRIDAY, Aug 8 1 Kg 17:8-16 Ps 62:1-8
Col 3:12-17 Mt 6:25-34
St Mary of the Cross

SATURDAY, Aug 9 Deut 6:4-13
Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51 Mt 17:14-20

SUNDAY, Aug 10 Wis 18:6-9 Ps 32:1, 12, 18-20,22 Heb 11:1-2,8-19 Lk 12:32-48

19th 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	**2 and 3 August**	**9 and 10 August**
Saturday 5pm SL	Olive Hammill	Marg Yore
Sunday 8:30am SL	Darren McLean	May McKeown
10:30am ST	Alfred Lee	Alfred Lee
5pm ST	Gia Nghi. Loc Le. Van Truong	Thu Ngo. Ha Cao. Hoang Nguyen.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST		
Saturday 5pm SL	Melina Barcellona	Melina Barcellona
Sunday 8:30am SL	Megan McLean	Margaret Gearon
10:30am ST	Pat Kawalevski	Pat Kawalevski
5pm ST	Hung Dinh	Hoang Nguyen
SLIDE OPERATORS		
Saturday 5pm SL	Choir	Choir
Sunday 8:30am SL	David Prabha	Megan McLean
10:30am ST	Lee Min Yee	Manny Gonzalez
5pm ST	Toan Tran	Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 2/3 AUG
5pm Catherine Koh
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

SL WELCOMERS 9/10 AUG
5:00pm John Ryan
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING
16th August - Bernard's team
Bernard O'Malley, Joanne Nolan, Melina Barcellona & Anne Allsopp

ST CHURCH CLEANING
9th August @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh, Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

SL CHURCH FLOWERS
2nd Aug: Edna Lee
9th Aug: Jo Adams

ST CHURCH FLOWERS
Flowers: Parishioners

ST COUNTERS
This week Team 6:
Peggy & Ngery D'Cruz
Next week Team 7:
Barry & Christine Silvester

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Agatha Wink, 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 Kerri Amos who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Dorothy Lillian Holmes, Rene & Mirella Pekish, Michael Suqiarto Djojoiswanto, Ashlea Catherine Roney, John Percy Leach, Antonio Paglia, Francisco Tenorio, Andrew Klyne, Raffaelle Mazzeo, Norman Warway, Ella Grace Dixon & Adrienne Wood.
May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST:
For mutual coexistence. Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

THANK YOU: Thank you to the many parishioners who have helped with the Carlo Acutis First-Class Relic & Exhibition this week and continuing into next week. Many hands make light work and your support is truly appreciated!

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK (3-10 August): Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

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

FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION: The first preparation session for First Eucharist candidates who do not attend Catholic schools will be on Wed. July 30th from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. The sacrament of First Eucharist will be celebrated on Sunday August 24th. For more information or to join in the preparation, please contact the parish office.

EMMAUS COLLEGE INFORMATION EVENING: Tuesday, 5th August, Senior Campus, 503 Springvale Road, Vermont South. 6.30pm School Tours, 7pm Presentation. Visit www.emmaus.vic.edu.au for more information or to book

Resources ....

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: A message of hope for every stage of life

MAJELLAN MEDIA: Importance of Friends

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: $599.80
Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: $243.10
Vietnamese Donation: $225

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: $439.70
Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: $437.85

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 Kawalevski
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: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.
Response to the Psalm: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!
Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again,
Communion Antiphon: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

SAVE THE DATE
ST TIMOTHY'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday 17th August we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the current St Timothy's church.

Mass at 10.30am will be followed by a celebration BBQ lunch in the parish hall with music provided by Emmaus College.

There will be Face-painting & an Animal Farm from 12.30pm to 2pm.
All past and present parishioners and school families are welcome!

Helpers required: please volunteer via the clipboard in the foyer of both churches this weekend.

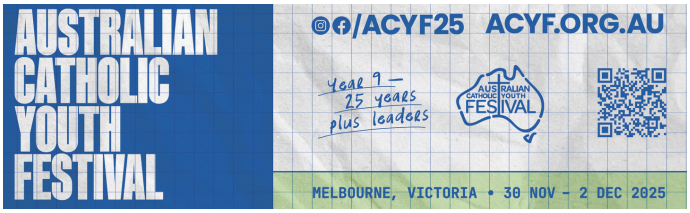
The LukeTim YAM (18-35 years)is an outreach ministry of St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South and St Timothy's, Forest Hill.
When: Wed. 6 Aug @ 7pm
7pm: Mass at the church
7:30pm : Gathering at
Where: St Luke's Presbytery,
46 Orchard Grove,
Blackburn South

GOD'S GREATEST LOVE STORY
Story of the Eucharist

An evening of nibbles, 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

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



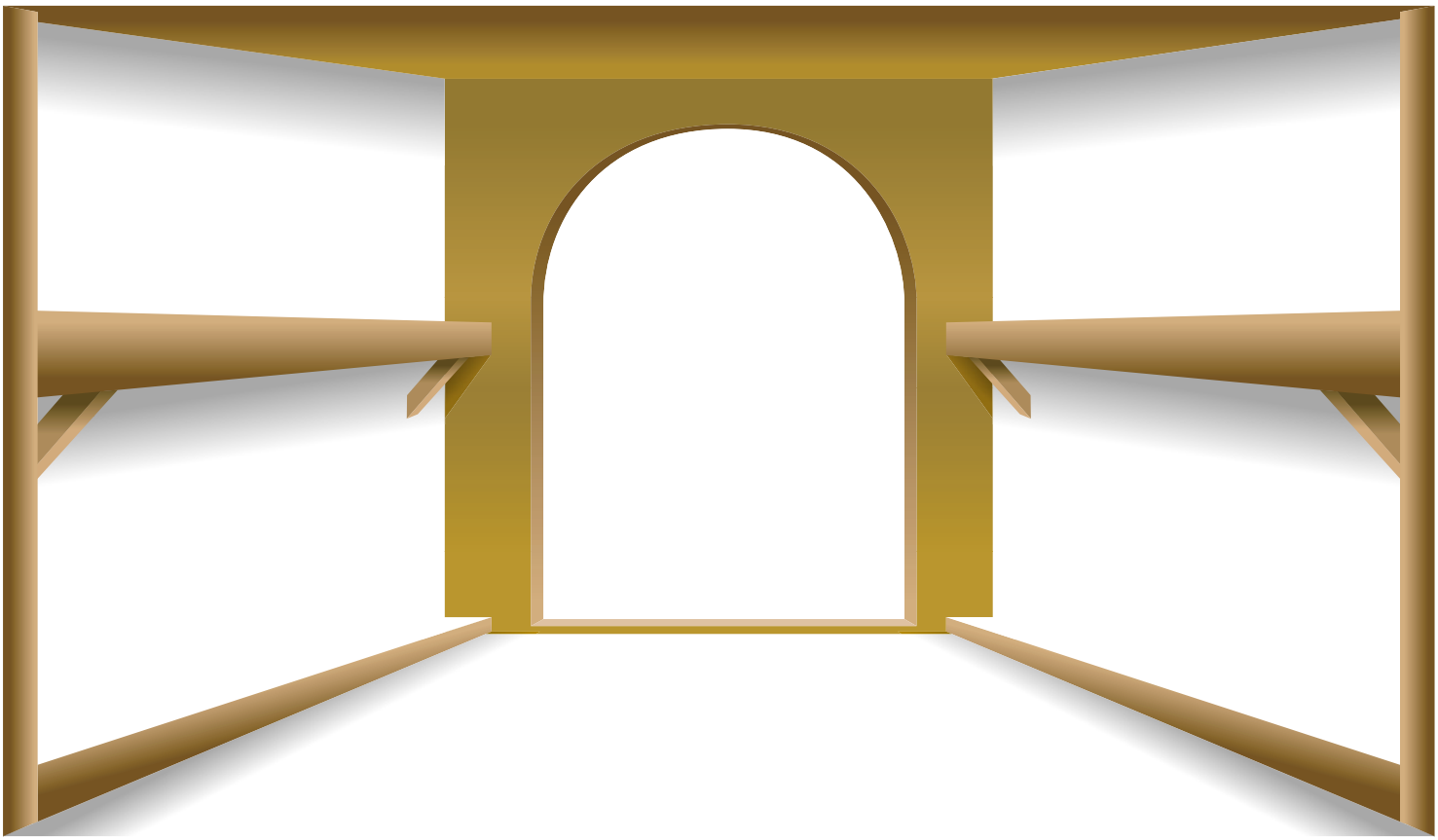
Encounter: ACYF edition

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

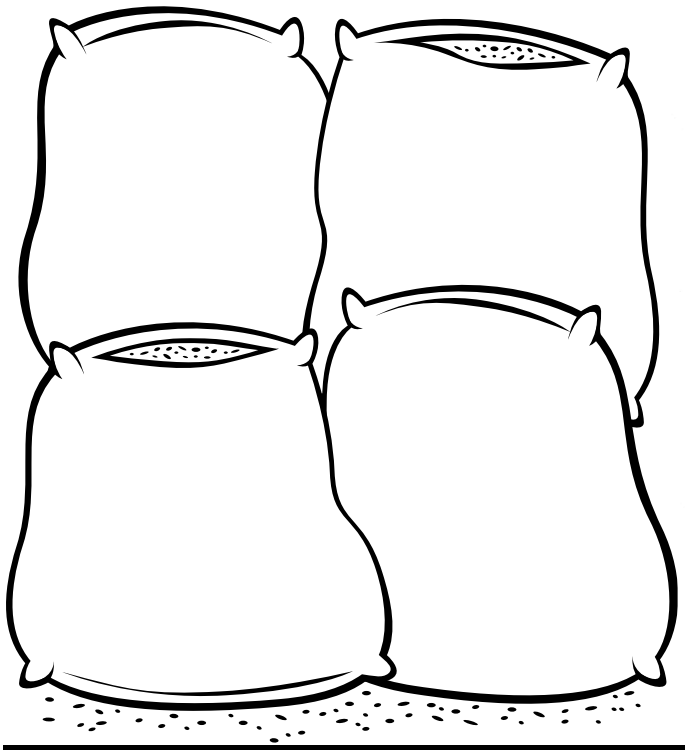
Earthly wealth does not last

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Instead of wealth and riches, what are the important things in our lives that are worth storing up?



In what ways can we be "rich" rather than "poor" in the sight of God? Write an answer on each sack of grain.



Which two of these farmers are the same?

Luke 12:16-21

© Creative Ministry Resources

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 3 AUGUST 2025

COLLECT

Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness,
that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide,
you may restore what you have created
and keep safe what you have restored.
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

Today's readings offer us a great opportunity to reflect on our relationship with creation, the world given to us not to possess or exploit, but to share as our common home. The encyclical of Pope Francis released ten years ago will stimulate our thought:
"An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them. In those countries which should be making the greatest changes in consumer habits, young people have a new ecological sensitivity and a generous spirit, and some of them are making admirable efforts to protect the environment. At the same time, they have grown up in a milieu of extreme consumerism and affluence which makes it difficult to develop other habits. We are faced with an educational challenge.

Environmental education has broadened its goals. Whereas in the beginning it was mainly centred on scientific information, consciousness-raising and the prevention of environmental risks, it tends now to include a critique of the 'myths' of a modernity grounded in a utilitarian mindset (individualism, unlimited progress, competition, consumerism, the unregulated market). It seeks also to restore the various levels of ecological equilibrium, establishing harmony within ourselves, with others, with nature and other living creatures, and with God. Environmental education should facilitate making the leap towards the transcendent which gives ecological ethics its deepest meaning. It needs educators capable of developing an ethics of ecology, and helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care." *Laudato Si'* (2015) 209-210.

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21–23

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

First Reading

This anonymous work by someone who calls himself Qoheleth is quite sceptical in tone. First, however, we need a definition of 'vanity' which occurs seven times in as many lines. Its usual meaning is an excessive self-esteem, a narcissistic overestimation of what people think of us. But that is not what it means here. 'Vanity' in Ecclesiastes refers to the transitory nature of the things of this world which makes all human endeavour futile and empty.

This brief text sets up the listener for the message of the gospel, not in its pessimistic assessment of human achievement, but in circumscribing the value of material possessions and the things of this world.

The reader could make the text inclusive by saying 'those, their, they' instead of 'man, his, he'.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 89:3–6, 12–14, 17

R. In every age, O Lord,
you have been our refuge.

You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. R.

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. R.

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. R.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. R.

Responsorial Psalm

These verses selected from Psalm 89/90 underline the fragility of human life and its passing nature. This leads the psalmist to express trust in God our refuge.

For God, a thousand years are like yesterday; for us, our short lives are all we know. So we are encouraged to hold fast to wisdom of heart and God's love – these ultimately lead to everlasting joy.

The psalm sets a more positive tone than the first reading. In the final stanza, Morning has Broken! For the word 'men', the cantor/reader should substitute either 'people' or 'us' (following stanzas 3 and 4). 'Sons of men' might be rendered 'children of Adam'.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:1–5, 9–11

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and, in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

Second Reading

The second reading in Ordinary Time is independent of the other Scripture texts in the Liturgy of the Word. Today there is a felicitous link when the people of Colossus are urged purge themselves of what belongs only to earthly life, notably greed.

We belong to Christ and Christ 'is everything and is in everything'. Yes, by his incarnation, Christ shares our earthly existence, but risen to glory, he directs our attention to the things of heaven. We have transcended earthly life when we were brought back to new life with Christ.

It is precisely this life in Christ which leaves no room for distinctions between Greek and Jew, slave or free. In our baptism, we strip off the old and clothe ourselves in the new so that we become a new creation. Embracing Christ and the gospel reveals to us a new dimension to human existence, namely, the promise of glory.

The reading has a U-shaped format. It begins and ends with the heavenly Christ. In between, it descends to the depths of 'old-self' behaviour. The reading builds to a strong conclusion and a triumphant final sentence.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 12:13–21

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to, do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say, to my soul: 'My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God."

Gospel

'Avarice' is a strong word: it is one of the seven deadly sins. It refers to extreme greed or attachment to wealth and possessions. It is well illustrated by Jesus' parable of the rich man building bigger barns. Regrettably this vice is often seen in prosperous materialistic societies.

The ecological principles of *Laudato Si'* provide an ideal antidote to avarice. In this encyclical, Pope Francis calls on us to recognise the goods of this world as God's gift to be held in trust for the common good of all. Our stewardship of material things is not directed to selfish ends but to creating a more just and equitable society. This is how we become rich in the sight of God.

In reading the phrases 'a man's life' and 'a man stores up' it would be good to use 'someone's life' and 'someone stores up'.

Concluding Prayer

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time VI)

May God bless us with every heavenly blessing,
make us always holy and pure in his sight,
pour out in abundance upon us the riches of his glory,
and teach us with the words of truth;
may he instruct us in the Gospel of salvation,
and ever endow us with fraternal charity.
Through Christ our Lord.
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 VI, Roman Missal p. 717)

ONE Mission, Two Churches

St. Timothy's, Forest Hill
St. Luke's the Evangelist, Blackburn South

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

FRIST CLASS RELIC AND EXHIBITION OF EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES REPORTS

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH
46 ORCHARD GROVE, BLACKBURN SOUTH

ABOUT CARLO ACUTIS

Carlo Acutis was a young Italian boy with a deep devotion to the Eucharist, who used his self-taught computer skills to create a website and exhibition on Eucharistic miracles. Diagnosed with leukemia at 15, he offered his suffering to God, saying, "I'm happy to die, because I've lived my life without wasting a minute on things that don't please God."

Carlo Acutis will be canonised a Saint on September 7th 2025.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

29TH JULY - 6TH AUGUST 2025

JULY 29th

3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration of Relics, Adoration & Confession with contemporary Christian music
7:00pm: Mass
7:30pm: TALK: ***'It is always the era of Saints'*** *by Josephine Plazzer, Proclaim Team*
8:15-8:45pm: Veneration, Adoration & Confession with contemporary Christian music

JULY 30th

3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
7:00pm: Mass
7:30-8:45pm: Eucharist Workshop I: **God Is with Us** video, group discussion, Q&A.

JULY 31st

3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
7:00pm: Mass
7:30pm: TALK: ***Holy Wild- The wildness and the adventure of holiness of Blessed Carlo Acutis*** by Stephanie Sullivan, MGL.
8:15-8:45pm: Veneration, Adoration, Confession with Music

AUGUST 1st

3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
7:00pm: Mass
7:30pm: ***Carlo's weakness: Devotion to Divine Mercy*** by by John Canavan,
8:15-8:45pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet lead by Gary Pinto

AUGUST 2nd

3:00-4:45pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition, Veneration & Adoration
3:00-4:30pm: **Youth Gathering** by Youth Mission Team (Parish hall)
5:00pm: Vigil Mass
6:00-7:00pm: Light dinner and fellowship (QR Code rego).
7:00-8:30pm: **Eucharist Night** - Praise & Worship, Adoration, Reconciliation & testimonies - by YMT

AUGUST 3rd

3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
7:00pm: ***The Evangelisation of Carlo Acutis*** by Anna Krohn, OAM
7:45-8:45pm: Adoration & Confession with Music Ministry

AUGUST 5th

3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
7:00pm: Mass
7:30-8:30pm: Eucharist Workshop II: **The Story of the Eucharist** video, group discussion, Q&A.

AUGUST 6th

3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
7:00-7:30pm: Mass

SCAN ME

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OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

JOSEPHINE PLAZZER

Presenting ''It is always the era of Saints', Tuesday 29th July

Josephine received her formation in Rome and has extensive experience in ministry, evangelisation and spiritual formation across the U.S. and Italy and now works as a Discipleship Specialist with the Archdiocese of Melbourne, helping others encounter Christ.

STEPHANIE SULLIVAN

Presenting 'Holy Wild - The wildness and the adventure of holiness', with reference to Carlo Acutis and Pierre Giorgio Frassati.', Thursday 31st July

Stephanie is in her fifth year with the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters, studying theology in Melbourne and passionate about helping others encounter God's healing love and live fully in Him.

JOHN CANAVAN

Presenting 'Carlo's weakness: Devotion to Divine Mercy', on Friday, 1st August

John Canavan, a professional comedian of 20 years, experienced a life-changing conversion in 1989 and has since shared the message of Divine Mercy across Australia and Oceania.

GARY PINTO

Leading the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Friday 1st August

Gary Pinto is an ARIA Award-winning, multi-platinum Soul and R&B artist, frontman of CDB, co-writer of the 2008 World Youth Day Anthem, and vocal director on The Voice, X Factor, and Eurovision, with his latest release out now via Sony Music.

DISCOVER THE STORIES BEHIND OUR SPEAKERS

Scan the QR Code below for more.

ANNA KROHN

Presenting Blessed Carlo Acutis: Evangelist', on Sunday 3rd August

Anna Krohn is Executive Director of the Thomas More Centre, a writer and educator in theology and ethics, and recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for her contributions to the Catholic Church.

YOUTH MISSION TEAM

Leading Youth Gathering on Saturday 02 Aug 2025

YMT is one of Australia's leading youth ministry organisations, with Melbourne's team of six young volunteers dedicating a year to full-time ministry through school retreats, youth groups, and mentoring programs.

Parents of children under 18years are required to provide consent by using the QR Code for the Youth Gathering

EMAIL US:
Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au

CALL:
Parish Office Tel: 03 9412 8499
Presbytery Tel: 03 9877 2292

WEBSITE:
blackburnsouth.org.au
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K-12 Catholic Co-educational College
Senior Campus:
503 Springvale Road, Vermont South
Ph: 9845 3211

INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday, 5 August 2025
Senior Campus

School Tours - 6.30pm | Presentation - 7.00pm

For Tour Bookings or more information, visit our College website:
www.emmaus.vic.edu.au

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) AUD$ 8,490*

OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: 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.

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.*

OLIVE TREE Travel

Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696
info@olivetreetravel.com.au www.olivetreetravel.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 morining 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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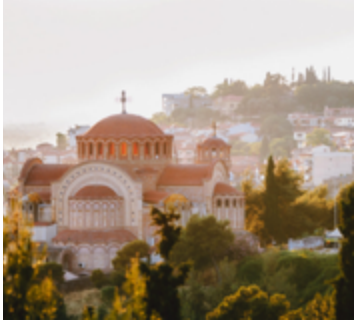

our Baptismal vows. Visit the market place (where St Paul and St Silas were brought before the rulers) and the cistern which tradition identifies as the place where St Paul was imprisoned. We will also see the famous Acropolis, Basilica and the theatre. It was here that he established the first Christian 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

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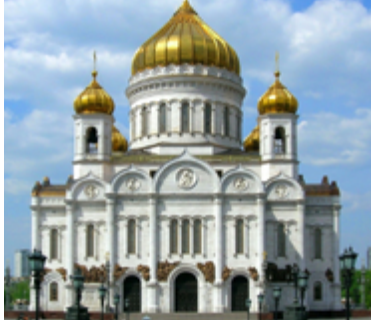

modest but clean and comfortable accommodation. The Roman stay will consist of the following (depending on time availability):

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 Populo, 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 porterage (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:

Father Alex Chow
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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Term 2

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

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