



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 10th 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** - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.

each month at 7pm  
at St Luke's Presbytery

Wisdom 18:6-9; Psalm 32:1, 12, 18-20, 22; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19.

### Gospel Reflection on Luke 12:32-48.

### The Lord knocks at our door - will we answer him?

What is the meaning of the parable of the master who returns from a wedding feast to his home in the middle of the night (Luke 12:35-40)? The door to one's house in the ancient world was usually bolted from the inside, especially at night to keep out thieves and troublemakers. It was not possible to enter from the outside without help from someone inside. Household attendants (domestic servants) who knew their master's voice were expected to be always vigilant and prepared to unbolt the door and let him in without a moment's delay. This required an attentive watchfulness and listening ear for any sign of the master's approach. No distraction, not even sleep, could be allowed to interfere with the preparation for the master's return. If the servants failed to hear the voice of their master's return, they literally shut him out since he could not unbolt the door from the outside - only they could open the door from within and allow him to enter. Their failure to welcome and serve the master on his return brought shame and dishonour.

If the Lord Jesus knocked on your door today would you be ready and eager to receive him? He wants us to be prepared for his coming - today, tomorrow, at the hour of our departure from this life (our death), and when he comes again at the end of this present world to judge all the living and the dead. The Lord will reward those who have believed in him. The Lord Jesus knocks on the door of our heart each and every day. Do you listen to his word and receive it with trust and joy. The Lord calls to each one of us and he says, "Listen! I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will feast together" (Revelations 3:20). Do you hunger for the Lord and for the treasure of his kingdom?

### The Lord comes to reward his faithful servants

Jesus' parable adds an unexpected reward for those who have faithfully served and watched for the master's return. When the master finally arrived home from the wedding feast at a late hour of the night, he did the unthinkable for his servants who were present to welcome and let him in. He then puts on a servant's apron and tells his servants to be seated at his own banquet table. Once they are all seated the master then personally waits on them and serves them with his own rich food and drink (Luke 12:37). Jesus' parable turns the world's way of thinking upside-down. The master rewards his faithful servants by serving them himself with the best he has to offer - a royal feast fit for a king and his loyal subjects. Are you prepared to feast with the Lord at his banquet table?

Jesus' parable has an important lesson for each one of us. Just as Jesus was faithful and ready to obey his Father in everything - even to the point of laying down his life on the cross for us, we too are called to be faithful and obedient to the Lord's will for our lives. How can we grow in faithfulness and obedience to the Lord? The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit who frees us from pride and fear, so we can hear the Lord and embrace his way of love and faithfulness. If we fail, the Lord will not fail us. He gives strength to the weak and to those who turn to him with trust in his mercy and help. Ask the Lord Jesus to fill you with his Holy Spirit and with a holy desire to seek the Lord and his kingdom first above all else.

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*Burglar Rats by Banksy (1974),  
2019 © Pest Control – Banksy*

Office (for both Churches): 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133 (St Timothy's)

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 11 Aug - 17**

**Aug**

**MONDAY, Aug 11** Deut 10:12-22  
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Mt 17:22-27  
**St Clare, virgin**

**TUESDAY, Aug 12** Deut 31:1-8  
Duet 32:3-4, 7-9 Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

**WEDNESDAY, Aug 13** Deut 34:1-12  
Ps 65:1-3, 5, 16-17 Mt 18:15-20

**THURSDAY, Aug 14** Josh 3:7-11, 13-17  
Ps 113A:1-6 Mt 18:21 - 9:1  
**St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest, martyr**

**FRIDAY, Aug 15** Rev 11:19, 12:1-6, 10  
Ps 44:10-12, 16: 1 Cor 15:20-26  
Lk 1:39-56

**The ASSUMPTION of the  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**SATURDAY, Aug 16** Josh 24:14-29  
Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11 Mt 19:13-15

**SUNDAY, Aug 17** Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 Ps 39:2-4, 18  
Heb 12:1-4 Lk 12:49-53

**20th 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  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST  
5pm ST

**9 and 10 August**

Marg Yore  
May McKeown  
Joelle Rousetty  
Thu Ngo. Ha Cao. Hoang Nguyen

**16 and 17 August**

Lucy Ferris  
Kana Chelliah  
Alfred Lee  
Youth Group

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

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

Melina Barcellona  
Margaret Gearon  
Eleanor Mendes  
Hoang Nguyen

Edna Lee  
Beryl Chelliah  
Chin L Tay  
Youth Group

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

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

Choir  
Megan McLean  
Manny Gonzalez  
Toan Tran

Choir  
Paul Tierney  
Lee Min Yee  
Theresa Nguyen

**SL WELCOMERS 9/10 AUG**

5pm 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

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

9th Aug: Jo Adams  
16th Aug: Marie Parker

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Flowers: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 16/17 AUG**

5:00pm Libby Theodore  
8.30am Margaret Gearon  
10.30am Volunteer

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

23rd August @ 8am  
Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,  
Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen

**ST COUNTERS**

This week Team 7:  
Barry & Christine Silvester  
Next week Team 8:  
Fela Colasanti & Chin L Tay

## 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 Django Ong who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Adeline Jenner, Albert Carabez, Magdalena Narciso, John Benetti, Connie Guglielmino, Paola Raudino, Fabian Simon Walsh, Frank Donohoe, Agatha Loh, Gloria Curtain, Norman Joseph Ritchie, Trevor & Benita Loos, Marie Siqueira, Noni Moore, Pat Goble, Angelito Pelayo, John Lazzari, Norman Cox, Colin Wagg, Maria Monteiro, Margaret Fernandes, Daniel Watson, Richard Gebbie and Kelly Weire. May they rest in peace.

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## 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 over the past two weeks. Many hands make light work and your support is truly appreciated!

**NO WEEKDAY MASSES:** From Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August there will be NO WEEKDAY MASSES at either St Luke's or St Timothy's as Fr Alex will be attending the annual clergy conference.

**CHANGE IN SUNDAY MASS TIMES:** On **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August** we will have the **8.30am Mass AT ST TIMOTHY'S** and the **10.30am Mass AT ST LUKE'S** due to the Sacrament of First Eucharist at 10.30am on that day at St Luke's.

**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 next preparation session for First Eucharist candidates who do not attend Catholic schools will be on Wed. August 13<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 8pm. The sacrament of First Eucharist will be celebrated on Sunday August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**CARLO ACUTIS REFLECTIONS:** All are warmly invited to send their feedback and reflections on the Blessed Carlo Acutis First Class Relic and Exhibition of the Eucharistic miracles to the parish office via email (addresses on the bottom of the front page) or directly by speaking to Fr Alex. These can be anonymous if you prefer.

Resources ....

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** [God's overwhelming love](#)

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** [Spotlight on the Young](#)

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### **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: \$436.10

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$253.70

Vietnamese Donation: \$93.15

**SL:** Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$595.25

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$507.10

## 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 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:** Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

**Response to the Psalm:** Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready: You know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

**Eucharistic Acclamation:** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

**Communion Antiphon:** O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

## SAVE THE DATE ST TIMOTHY'S 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> 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!

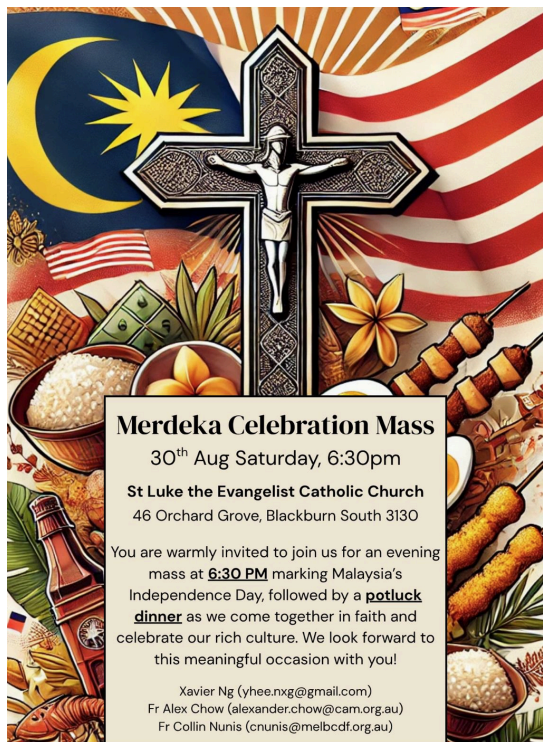
Helpers required: please volunteer via the clipboard in the foyer of both churches this weekend.



**The 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](mailto:info@olivetreetravel.com.au)



### Merdeka Celebration Mass

30<sup>th</sup> Aug Saturday, 6:30pm

St Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church  
46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South 3130

You are warmly invited to join us for an evening mass at 6:30 PM marking Malaysia's Independence Day, followed by a **potluck dinner** as we come together in faith and celebrate our rich culture. We look forward to this meaningful occasion with you!

Xavier Ng ([yhee.nxg@gmail.com](mailto:yhee.nxg@gmail.com))  
Fr Alex Chow ([alexander.chow@cam.org.au](mailto:alexander.chow@cam.org.au))  
Fr Collin Nunis ([cnunis@melbcdp.org.au](mailto:cnunis@melbcdp.org.au))



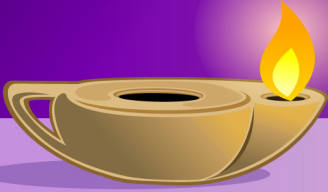
Catholic Mission sincerely thanks the parish communities of St Luke the Evangelist and St Timothy's for your generous and compassionate support of this year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal.

Your contribution of \$998.00 has been gratefully received and will help provide vital care for mothers in Zambia, and empower local Church workers across more than 1,000 mission dioceses around the world.

Through your partnership, countless families will find not only practical help, but also spiritual accompaniment, hope, and dignity. Your gift is more than charity - it is a concrete act of solidarity, and a sign of God's love reaching out to those on the margins.

Thank you for being a living witness of Christ's mission to the world.

Always be ready and keep  
your lamps burning



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Below are some things we can do that will help us to always be ready for Jesus.

## PRAY

What are some things we can pray for?



Write a prayer about  
one of them.

Dear God,

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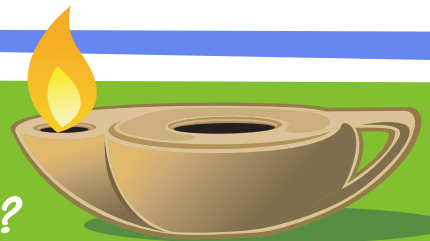
. Amen.

## CARE FOR OTHERS

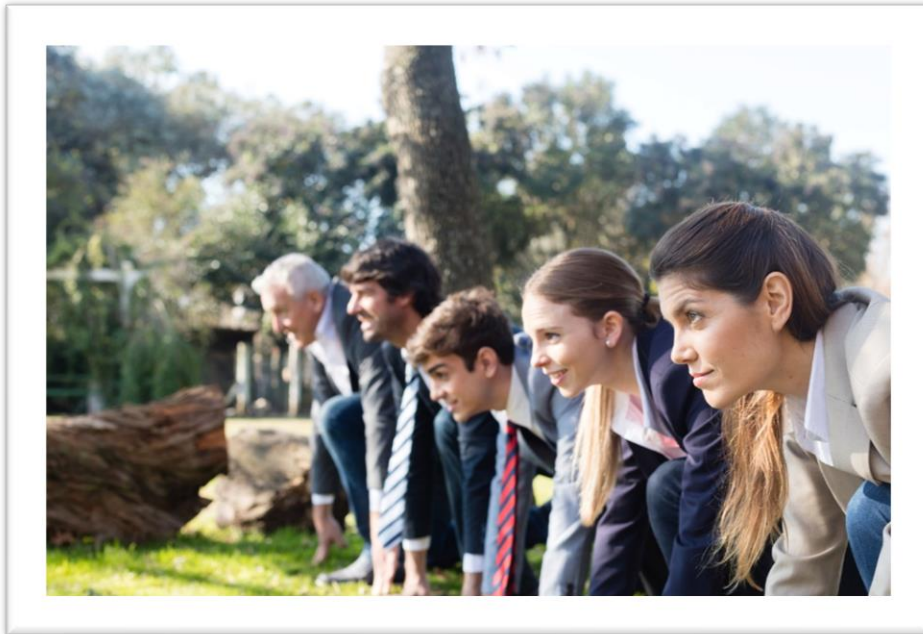
Draw a picture of yourself caring  
for someone you know

## ASK FOR FORGIVENESS

When do we need to say "I'm sorry" to others or God?



# 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 10 AUGUST 2025



## COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,  
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,  
we dare to call our Father,  
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts  
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,  
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance  
which you have promised.  
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

Ordinary Time is very prominent in the liturgical cycle in the Southern Hemisphere. In the Northern regions of the world, once the Lent-Easter cycle is over and Ordinary Time begins, people are getting ready for the long Summer holidays; afterwards, the beginning of the academic year is quickly followed by the Advent-Christmas cycle. For us, at this point in the year, we are midway through the third school term. Yes, Winter is drawing to a close, but it is still three weeks till Spring. It may all seem rather 'ordinary' but it is never routine. In fact, throughout the course of the year, the Church unfolds the entire mystery of Christ. Without the specific focus of incarnation or resurrection, it is the mystery of Christ itself which is honoured in its fullness in Ordinary Time (*Liturgical Year and Calendar 1, 43*). This offers us a unique opportunity to encounter Christ by concentrating on Jesus' ministry and teaching as we follow through each of the Gospels in turn. Today we are offered a significant slab of Jesus' teaching from the Gospel of Luke.

It is also an opportunity to review parish liturgical patterns: training for cantors and readers, for example, which will improve the power of the liturgical proclamation of the Scripture which, in turn, will help parishioners to encounter Christ more easily.

### A reading from the book of Wisdom 18:6–9

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1, 12, 18–20, 22

**R.** Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his own. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

11:1–2, 8–19

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

### First Reading

The second half of the Book of Wisdom, from which this piece is taken, is a meditation on scripture largely embellishing the stories of the Exodus. This makes sense of these rather obscure lines.

“That night” is the night of the Exodus when they celebrated the meal with the Passover lamb, marking the lintel with its blood to escape from the final plague (“offered sacrifice in secret”). They ate standing up to be ready to leave and cross the Red Sea. This foundational event established the pact or covenant with God. “The ruin of their enemies” and “vengeance on our foes” refer to the Egyptian army drowned in the Red Sea. “Saving the virtuous” and “made us glorious” refer to the liberation of the people from slavery. The people respond with hymns of praise.

### Responsorial Psalm

In these verses, Psalm 32/33 takes up the hymns the people are chanting in thanksgiving at the end of the first reading. The chosen people of the covenant rejoice that God looks out for them, rescuing their souls from death – God is their help and shield.

The cantor/reader should not find it difficult to convey the mood of happiness and trust as they proclaim this well-structured passage.

### Second Reading

There is a longer and a shorter version of this reading from the letter to the Hebrews. But those who read the whole of Chapter 11 will be somewhat disappointed by even the longer version. The whole chapter is a magnificent litany of characters in the Old Testament who lived by faith, starting with Abel. The repeated phrase ‘by faith’ gives this chapter extraordinary rhetorical force.

Our longer version just takes the central section dealing with Abraham and Sarah. It would be a pity to shorten even this.

Faith accepts the blessing of the heavenly world and responds in trust and hope to the reality of what is unseen. God takes the initiative to care for us and provide for us. The human response is faith.

[All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.]

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead, and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.]

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

**12:32–48**

Jesus said to his disciples: [There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.]

‘Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.]

‘See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

[Peter said, ‘Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?’ The Lord replied, ‘What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master’s arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, “My master is taking his time coming”, and sets

Faith opens the way for the wonderful works of God. Faith is both an engagement with what is not yet present but is confidently awaited, and also a recognition of a present reality which is not known except by faith. Those who live ‘by faith’ are searching for something beyond the material world. Then we have the inspiring idea that we are searching for our real homeland which is in heaven, a home established for us by our loving God.

The first sentence sets out the foundation for the litany which follows. The whole should be read with earnestness and admiration. It is good to see Sarah included among the examples of faith.

### **Gospel**

This is a long section of Jesus’ teaching and may be shortened. There are three topics covered, making it easy to omit one or two as desired.

- The first encourages trust in God’s providence. It recommends divesting oneself of worldly possessions and focussing on the kingdom of God. The pithy phrase sums it up: *Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also!* It links with the theme of last Sunday’s gospel.
- The second topic is about standing ready, because we do not know when we will encounter the Lord in glory. Two examples illustrate this theme: servants awaiting the return of the master who are ready when he comes; and the householder who is vigilant for any burglar who might break into the house.
- The third related topic addresses responsible leadership, though much of it is expressed quite negatively. It tells of the steward who manages the household well, who respects and does not mistreat staff, who lives a disciplined lifestyle himself. A final paragraph commends those who take the initiative. This is about responding well to the responsibilities given us. Again, a pithy phrase to sum up: *When much has been given you, much will be expected from you.*

There is a lot for the assembly to take in here. It would be a reasonable choice to shorten this reading, especially if the longer reading from Hebrews has been used.

about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.]

*[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]*

## 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)



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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL –  
3<sup>RD</sup> 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.

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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)*

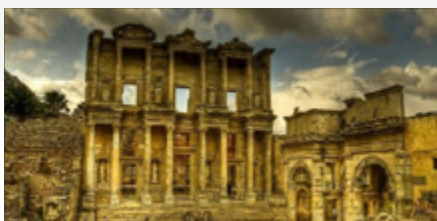
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

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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**APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7, 2027**

close 15 August 2025

## EMBRACE CREATIVITY

Talk and Tour Mornings

Term 1

**THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY, 9.30 AM**

Term 2

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

Our Lady of Sion College  
Catholic Girls' College Years 7-12  
1065 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128

**P** 9890 9097  
**E** [info@sion.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@sion.catholic.edu.au)  
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Year  
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By  
Olivia  
Dawson