



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 17th 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

Jeremiah 38: 4-10, Ps 39:2-4,18, Hebrew 12:1-4

Gospel Reflection on Luke 12: 49-53.

Meditation: *Do you want to be on fire for God? Jesus shocked his disciples when he declared that he would cast fire and cause division rather than peace upon the earth. What kind of fire did Jesus have in mind here?*

The fire of God's purifying love and cleansing word

The image of fire in biblical times was often associated with God and with his action in the world and in the lives of his people. God sometimes manifested his presence by use of fire, such as the burning bush in the wilderness which was not consumed by the flames (Exodus 3:2). God assured the Hebrew people of his continual presence, guidance, and protection for them through the wilderness for forty years with the pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day (Exodus 13:21-22).

Fire is also a sign and symbol of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11-12 and Luke 3:16-17). When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples at Pentecost "tongues of fire" appeared above their heads (Acts 2:3). We can see from both the Old and New Testament Scriptures that God's fire purifies and cleanses to make us clean (sins washed away) and holy (fit to offer him acceptable praise and worship), and it inspires a reverent fear (awe in God's presence) and respect (obeying and giving God his due) for God and for his holy word.

Loyalty unites - division separates

Why did Jesus link fire from heaven with costly division on the earth? Did he expect his followers to take his statement of "father against son and son against father" and "mother against daughter and daughter against mother" literally? We often use a figure of speech when we want to emphasize something very strongly. Jesus' hyperbole, however, did contain a real warning that the Gospel message does have serious consequences for our lives.

When Jesus spoke about division within families he likely had in mind the prophecy of Micah: a man's enemies are the men of his own household (Micah 7:6). The essence of Christianity is loyalty to Jesus Christ - the Son of God and Savior of the world - a loyalty that takes precedence over every other relationship. The love of God compels us to choose who will be first in our lives. To place any relationship (or anything else) above God is a form of idolatry.

Who do you love first and foremost?

Jesus challenges his disciples to examine who they love first and foremost. A true disciple loves God above all else and is willing to forsake all for Jesus Christ. Jesus insists that his disciples give him the loyalty which is only due to God, a loyalty which is higher than spouse or kin. It is possible that family and friends can become our enemies if the thought of them keeps us from doing what we know God wants us to do. Does the love of Jesus Christ compel you to put God first in all you do (2 Corinthians 5:14)?

The Gospel message is good news for those who seek pardon, peace, and the abundant life which God offers us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus offers true freedom to those who believe in him - freedom from slavery to sin, Satan, and the oppressive forces of hatred and evil that can destroy body, mind, and spirit. Do you listen to the voice of your Saviour and trust in his word? Commit your ways to him, obey his word, and you will find true peace, joy, and happiness in the Lord your God.

© 2025 Servants of the Word, Don Schwager



*Fire Painting by Yves Klein (1928-1962), at Gaz de France testing centre.
© Photo Louis Frédéric*

Next Week's Daily Readings 18 Aug - 24 Aug

MONDAY, Aug 18 Judges 2:11-19
Ps 105:34-37, 39-40, 43-44 Mt 19:16-22

TUESDAY, Aug 19 Judges 6:11-24
Ps 84:9, 11-14 Mt 19:23-30

WEDNESDAY, Aug 20 Judges 9:6-15
Ps 20:2-7 Mt 20:1-16
St Bernard, abbot, doctor

THURSDAY, Aug 21 Judges 11:29-39
Ps 39:5, 7-10 Mt 22:1-14
St Pius X, pope

FRIDAY, Aug 22 Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22
Ps 145:5-10 Mt 22:34-40
The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SATURDAY, Aug 23 Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17
Ps 127:1-5 Mt 23:1-12

SUNDAY, Aug 24 Is 66:18-21 Ps 116:
Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 Lk 13:22-30

21st 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

16 and 17 August

Lucy Ferris
Darren McLean
Alfred Lee
Will Nguyen, Maryann Ngo
& John Dinh

23 and 24 August

Marg Yore
10.30AM First Communion
8.30AM Ryan Yee
Hung Nguyen, Doan Pham
& Chi Nguyen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Marg Yore
Megan McLean
Chin L Tay
Youth Group

Lucy Ferris
10.30AM First Communion
8.30AM Anico Yee
Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
Paul Tierney
Lee Min Yee
Theresa Nguyen

Choir
10.30AM First Communion
8.30AM Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 16/17 AUG

5pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

30th August - Bianca's team
Bianca Broccio, Shirley Prabha,
Libby Theodore & Franca Leo

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

16th Aug: Marie Parker
23rd Aug: Jenny & Vanessa Marino

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 23/24 AUG

5:00pm Edna Lee
8.30am Volunteer (at S.T.)
10.30am Janette Clark

ST CHURCH CLEANING

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

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 8:
Fela Colasanti & Chin L Tay
Next week Team 1:
Owen Grealy & Anthony Yeo

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Kevin Ryan, 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 Lye Ca-Ryn who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Mrs Kamala Narasimhan, Elizabeth Ritchie, Marshall Gomes, Alba Mendouca, Rosy De Souza, Honarato De Souza, Manu Pinto, Seby Pinto, Odon Tenorio, Jan Tesselaar, Anne Therese Wattie, Giovanna Pinzone, Joseph Biviano, Ruby Edwards, Marie Alwis, Kim Williams, Nicholas Turang, Lillian Rozario, John Wills, Mary Coleman, Sheila Palmer, Michael O'Meara, Elizabeth Rose Daghish, Felimon Burayag and Joseph & Mary Morton. 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.

NO WEEKDAY MASSES: From Tuesday 19th August to Friday 22nd 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 24th 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.

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN: The Archbishop's Campaign is now underway and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures can be found at both churches. Donations can be made via the QR code, via the supplied envelopes or anonymously via cash into the collection during the campaign weekends.

ROSTERS AT ST LUKE'S: Sign-up sheets are in the foyer at St Luke's for those who can volunteer from Sept. to Dec. this year. Thanks for your support.

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 last preparation session for First Eucharist candidates who do not attend Catholic schools will be on Wed. August 20th from 7pm to 8pm.

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 or directly by speaking to Fr Alex. These can be anonymous if you prefer.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: To be what God wants me to be

MAJELLAN MEDIA: Maintaining Our Well-being

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: \$484.55

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$433.45

Vietnamese Donation: \$163

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$517.60

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$504

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalewski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: 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: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Response to the Psalm: Lord, come to my aid!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

A graphic for the Merdeka Celebration Mass. It features a central cross with the Christ the King figure. The background is a collage of Malaysian national symbols: the Malaysian flag (blue, white, red, and green stripes with a yellow crescent and star), the Australian flag, and various Malaysian dishes like nasi lemak, satay, and a traditional house. The text is overlaid on the bottom left of the graphic.

Merdeka Celebration Mass
30th 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)
Fr Alex Chow (alexander.chow@cam.org.au)
Fr Collin Nunis (cnunis@melbcdf.org.au)

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Training and Formation - Saturday 30 August 2025.

This session will focus on formation resources for ACYF pilgrims and small groups. ACYF Group Leaders are highly encouraged to attend.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1394384>

A graphic for the 'Pilgrims of Hope' retreat. It features the title in a cursive font, a small circular logo with a cross and a figure, and the subtitle 'A JOURNEY WITH THE LORD JESUS' in a serif font. The background is a light teal color with a faint image of a cathedral.

Pilgrims of Hope
A JOURNEY WITH THE LORD JESUS

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday 6 September
9am to 4pm

Led by Fr Nicholas Pearce
Holy Mass celebrated by
Archbishop Peter A
Comensoli

St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne
Talks, Adoration, Confession
Includes morning tea and lunch

To book visit: www.trybooking.com/DCBKR

The LukeTim YAM (18-35 Yrs) is an outreach program of St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South and St Timothy's, Forest Hill.



WHEN: Wed. 20th August @7pm

WHERE: St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

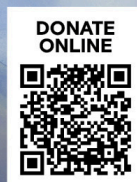
TOPIC: WHO IS JESUS?

He came to bring life to the world.

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 Jerisy or Sarah at luktimyam@gmail.com

Your generous gift supports ministries across the Archdiocese —bringing the Good News to life not only in word, but in action.

Thank you.



THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2025



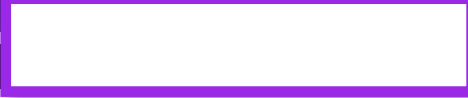
melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign



Commitment and Conflict



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C



Jesus made it clear to his disciples that believing in him would lead to division. Circle the words below that can help us to deal with conflict in a positive way

Use the words below to find out what Jesus said to his disciples.

- Respect
- Forgive
- Blame
- Shout
- Listen
- Ignore
- Courage
- Argue

Do you _____ that I
 am here to _____
 on _____? No, but rather,
 _____.



- earth
- division
- peace
- suppose
- bring

Draw a picture of Jesus from one of the following bible stories where he was in conflict with others...



Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Jesus drives out all who were selling and buying in the temple

Matthew 21:12-17

Jesus is rejected in his home town of Nazareth

Luke 4:16-4:30

Jesus Before the High Priest

Jesus is arrested and questioned by the High Priest, Caiaphas

Matthew 26:57-26:68



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 17 AUGUST 2025



COLLECT

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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

Sometimes we come across a passage of Scripture which shocks us. We always say that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that he came to bring peace on earth. On Easter day he greets the disciples with the words: *Peace be with you.* And then we read the short text from today's gospel. What are we to make of it?

Before we jump to any conclusions and say that Jesus is betraying his own message, it is always important to read a text in context. Over these chapters, Jesus is heading towards Jerusalem and is often meeting opposition from the religious leaders. There is a growing sense of foreboding (certainly for the reader) because we know he is heading towards the cross. Yet, whatever opposition he encounters, he is not prepared to compromise his mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God in word and action; it is a kingdom of justice and peace. Today's gospel is not about Jesus' desire or wish. It is a statement of fact that his God-given mission is bringing conflict and opposition. Is it not the same for all who aspire to take up their cross to follow Christ?

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 38:4–6, 8–10

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this.

The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2–4, 18

R. Lord, come to my aid!

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. **R.**

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.

He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. **R.**

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. **R.**

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.

You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! **R.**

First Reading

The prophet Jeremiah lived in a tough time of conflict. Faced with the might of the Babylonian empire, King Zedekiah was advised by some of his court to ally himself with the power of Egypt and fight back. Jeremiah took the opposing view.

Accused of undermining the morale of the troops, he is thrown into a well where he sinks into the mud and is left to die. A foreigner at court, Ethiopian Ebed-Melech, persuades the king to spare Jeremiah's life and he is rescued. The story is direct and vivid.

Jeremiah puts us in the mind of Christ who also faced opposition because of the mission he was sent to accomplish. This is the connection with the Gospel. Anyone who suffers for what they believe or do will be able to identify with Jeremiah.

Readers should check the pronunciation guide and make sure they do not stumble over the proper names: Jeremiah, Zedekiah, Malchiah and Ebed-Melech the Cushite.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 39/40 is a plea for help in a time of distress and thanks God for deliverance.

It is perfectly matched with the Jeremiah reading. One can readily imagine the prophet crying out to God with the words of today's psalm response, *Lord, come to my aid!* God hears the cry of the afflicted and draws them from the pit of miry clay. The psalmist probably had in mind that the supplicant would be drawn up from Sheol, the shadowy underworld of the dead.

The cantor/reader should proclaim this psalm as a statement of hope for all those in trouble; God hears our cry for help. The lines are short, the images strong.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

12:1–4

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

12:49–53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Second Reading

Not normally chosen to harmonise with the other readings, today's second reading picks up the common theme of embracing suffering for the cause of the mission. This time it is not Jeremiah or Christ, but all Christian disciples who are challenged.

We take up our cross to follow Christ, so, as we join in running the race of life, we set our eyes on Jesus. Like Christ, we disregard the cross for the sake of the joy of coming to the throne of God. We draw our courage from the way Christ faced opposition, although, as Hebrews poignantly notes, we have not yet had to fight to the point of death!

The letter's high literary style frames the argument in relatively long and elaborate sentences. Readers will need to rehearse their proclamation carefully to be sure they give the best emphasis to the key affirmations.

Gospel

At the beginning of the gospel (Mt 3:11; Lk 3:16), John the Baptist says of Jesus that he will "baptise... with the Holy Spirit and with fire". Now it is coming to pass.

Faced with opposition to his ministry, Jesus embraces the 'baptism of fire' that he sees looming. It is not fun. He is distressed but very determined and committed to fulfil his mission, come what may. And all those who follow him will share the same fate. Hostility will manifest itself even within a believer's family.

Jesus' terrifying cry of anguish should be read with passion. The rhetorical accumulation of divisions should be allowed to build. Then a significant pause will be required before pronouncing: *The gospel of the Lord.*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time II)

May the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
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 II, Roman Missal p. 715)



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:
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)

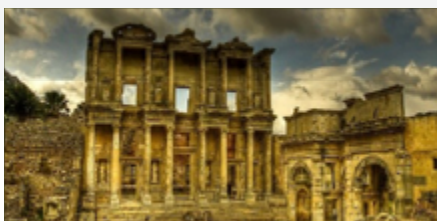
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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



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

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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

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.

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



OLIVE TREE
Travel



Proud Member of the
 International Institute for
 Peace through Tourism



Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696

info@olivetreetravel.com.au

www.olivetreetravel.com.au

103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185

Be GOOD SHEPHERD THE

2 0 2 5



Year
of
hope

By
Olivia
Dawson