

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



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 31st 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

Ecclesiasticus 3:19-31; Ps 67(68):4-11; Hebrew 12: 18-24

Gospel Reflection on Luke 14:1,7-14.

Meditation: Who wants to be last? Isn't it only natural to desire respect and esteem from others? Jesus' parable of the guests invited to the marriage feast probes our motives for seeking honour and position. Self-promotion is most often achieved at the expense of others! Jesus' parable reinforces the teaching of Proverbs: Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of the prince (Proverbs 25:6-7).



True humility frees us to be our true selves as God sees us: What is true humility and why should we make it a characteristic mark of our life and action? True humility is not feeling bad about yourself, or having a low opinion of yourself, or thinking of yourself as inferior to others. True humility frees us from preoccupation with ourselves, whereas a low self-opinion tends to focus our attention on ourselves. Humility is truth in self-understanding and truth in action. Viewing ourselves truthfully, with sober judgment, means seeing ourselves the way God sees us (Psalm 139:1-4). A humble person makes a realistic assessment of himself or herself without illusion or pretense to be something he or she is not. The humble regard themselves neither smaller nor larger than they truly are. True humility frees us to be our true selves and to avoid despair and pride. A humble person does not have to wear a mask or put on a facade in order to look good to others, especially to those who are not really familiar with that person. The humble are not swayed by accidentals, such as fame, reputation, success, or failure.

True humility frees us to love and serve selflessly for the good of others: Humility is the queen or foundation of all the other virtues because it enables us to view and judge ourselves correctly, the way God sees us. Humility leads to true self-knowledge, honesty, realism, strength, and dedication to give ourselves to something greater than ourselves. Humility frees us to love and serve others selflessly, for their sake, rather than our own. Paul the Apostles, gives us the greatest example and model of humility in the person of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, ...who humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:7-8). The Lord Jesus gives grace to those who seek him humbly. Do you want to be a servant as Jesus served?

Jesus calls us to be humble, modest, and praiseworthy

by Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD)

"'When,' he says, 'a man more honourable than you comes, he that invited you and him will say, 'Give this man place.' Oh, what great shame is there in having to do this! It is like a theft, so to speak, and the restitution of the stolen goods. He must restore what he has seized because he had no right to take it. The modest and praiseworthy person, who without fear of blame might have claimed the dignity of sitting among the foremost, does not seek it. He yields to others what might be called his own, that he may not even seem to be overcome by empty pride. Such a one shall receive honour as his due. He says, 'He shall hear him who invited him say, "Come up here."... If anyone among you wants to be set above others, let him win it by the decree of heaven and be crowned by those honours that God bestows. Let him surpass the many by having the testimony of glorious virtues. The rule of virtue is a lowly mind that does not love boasting. It is humility. The blessed Paul also counted this worthy of all esteem. He writes to those who eagerly desire saintly pursuits, 'Love humility.'

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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 1 Sept - 7 Sept

MONDAY, Sept 1 1 Thess 4:13-18
Ps 95:1, 3, 5, 11-13 Lk 4:16-30

TUESDAY, Sept 2 1 Thess 5:1-6, 9-11
Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14 Lk 4:31-37

WEDNESDAY, Sept 3 Col 1:1-8
Ps 51:10-11 Lk 4:38-44
St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor

THURSDAY, Sept 4 Col 1:9-14
Ps 97:2-6 Lk 5:1-11

FRIDAY, Sept 5 Col 1:15-20
Ps 99:2-5 Lk 5:33-39

SATURDAY, Sept 6 Col 1:21-23
Ps 53:3-4, 6, 8 Lk 6:1-5

SUNDAY, Aug 31 Wis 9:13-18
Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17 Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Lk 14:25-33

23rd 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

30 and 31 August

Olive Hammill
Darren McLean
Joelle Rousetty
Youth Group

6 and 7 Sept.

Melina Barcellona
Steve Kilroe-Smith
Jane D'Souza
Gia Nghi, Hieu Nguyen & Hoa Doan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Godfrey Thong
Melina Barcellona
Pat Kawalevski
Youth Group

Edna Lee
Margaret Gearon
Laura Cigana
Hung Dinh

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
David Prabha
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

Choir
Megan McLean
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 30/31 AUG

5pm Catherine Koh
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

13th Sept - Megan's team
Megan McLean, Janette Clark,
Maureen Davis & Ellen Donoghue

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

30th Aug: Kate Skowronska
6th Sept: Ellen Donoghue

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 6/7 SEPT

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

ST CHURCH CLEANING

13th Sept @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

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

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially 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 Maria Radinja who died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Greg McCarthy, Annie Frances Kelly, William Curtain, Luigi Lazzari, Arthur Willett, John Bailey, Claire McCorquodale, Irene Munsey, Ann Collins, Rosa Lopes, Yvonne Therese Blanchfield, Basil Bingham, Bill Hurley, Noel Mason, Antonio Monzon, Joseph & Angela Cappodona, Walter Blanchard Thompson, Susan Lovass, Therese Byrne, Rudolph Getto, Mary Anne Nolan, Mary (Mollie) King, Frank Smith, Peter Sullivan, Peter Farrelly & Mary Thi Dao Le. 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.

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.

FUNERAL AT ST TIMOTHY'S: Please note that there will be **no 9.15am Mass on Thursday 4th Sept.** as there is a funeral at 11am on that day for Maria Radinja with rosary at 10.30am. May her soul rest in peace.

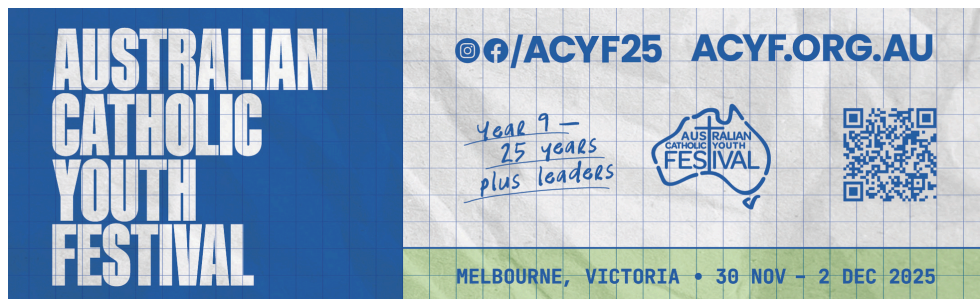
ROSTERS AT ST TIMOTHY'S: We would like to create a roster for Welcomers and for people to assist with the cuppa after the Sunday Mass at St Timothy's so we share the responsibility. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer at St Tim's.

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/>

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [A Church that walks together](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Social Justice Sunday](#)



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: \$192.50

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$186.40

Vietnamese Donation: \$279.65

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$369.70

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$617.75

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: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Response to the Psalm: God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.



Save with CDF Community Fund – it's in everyone's best interest. When you open a savings or term investment account with CDF Community Fund, you not only get a great return on your savings, but you will also help build new parishes for growing communities, classrooms for students, hospitals for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly, and social service facilities for the poor and vulnerable. With competitive interest rates across a range of accounts, including 4.55% p.a.* on a 6-month Term Investment, it's a way to save while doing good. Open an account today – it's in everyone's best interest. Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund, scan the QR code, or speak to us on 1800 134 135. *Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.

Dr. Edward Sri is a theologian, author and well known Catholic speaker who has spoken to tens of thousands of people worldwide each year and will be giving a talk at St Philip's, 60 Junction Rd, Blackburn North, on Sunday, 31 August 2025 from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm.



Discover the **true meaning of discipleship** in ways that will transform our parishes, ministries, families and communities. Registration, while free, is essential at <https://app.tickets.org.au/Parousia/EdwardSriBN>

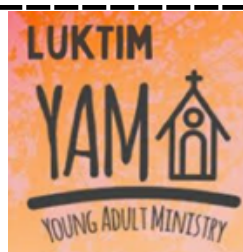


WOMEN'S RETREAT

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. 3rd Sept @ 7pm
WHERE: St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South
TOPIC: **The Holy Spirit & the Church**
How the Spirit changes lives; signs, sacraments & community.
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 Jersey 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


Invite the poor to your feast





22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C


Who would you invite to your party? Fill out the invitation.


Use the words below to complete these sentences.

 When you are invited to be a _____, go and sit in the _____ place.

 If you put yourself _____ others, you will be put down.

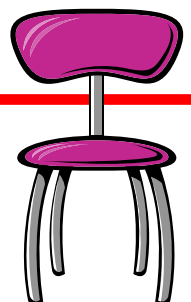
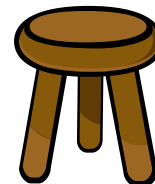
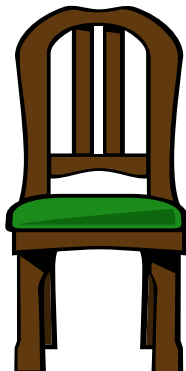
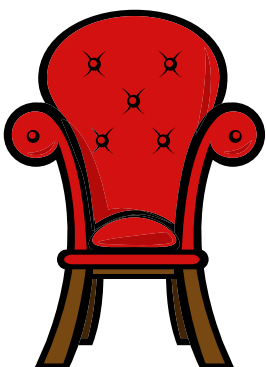
 When you are _____ to a wedding feast, don't sit in the _____ place.

 If you _____ yourself, you will be honoured.

 When you give a _____, invite the _____, crippled, the lame and the _____. They _____ pay you back.

CANNOT GUEST
 HUMBLE INVITED
 BEST BLIND FEAST
 ABOVE WORST
 POOR

If you were invited to a party where would you sit? Circle the chair you would sit in and write down why you would sit there.



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 31 AUGUST 2025



COLLECT

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
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

“Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. In this quotation, St Augustine recognises that the word ‘humble’ derives from the Latin ‘humus’ meaning the ground. Humility does not mean denying our gifts or burying them; it means being down to earth, it means being honest with ourselves rather than fluffing ourselves up to make ourselves seem better than we are.

Unfashionable perhaps, this virtue is intimately connected with ideas of ministry, love and service. It is expressed in the company we keep. Jesus recommends dinner invitations not for friends and rich neighbours, but instead ‘the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind’. As in last week’s readings, today’s gospel again offers one of Jesus’ ‘reversal paradoxes’: *Those who exalt themselves will be humbled; those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
3:17–20, 28–29

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.
The greater you are, the more you should behave
humbly, and then you will find favour with the
Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is,
he accepts the homage of the humble.
There is no cure for the proud man's malady,
since an evil growth has taken root in him.
The heart of a sensible man will reflect on
parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

First Reading

This book is largely a life-time's collection of sayings and proverbs offering practical advice about daily living.

These verses set up the theme of humility in preparation for the gospel, contrasting it with pride and linking it with gentleness. They remind us of Jesus' own words: *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart (Mt 11:29)*.

The humble person is attentive and reflective, open to God's will. God receives and accepts the humble and lifts them up.

The tone of this reading is quiet and instructive. The reader should model the gentle humility of which the text speaks. "Man" should be read as "person".

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 67:4–7, 10–11**

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.

O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **R.**

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.

God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **R.**

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:
when your people were starved you gave them new life.
It was there that your people found a home,
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 67/68 is an expression of joy and gratitude that God cares for the poor and all those in need. There is singing and dancing for God as the people exult in God's presence.

There is mention of the orphan and the widow, the lonely and the prisoner, the starving and the poor. All these thrive under God's providence – they receive a home and new life through God's goodness and blessing. This sets up well the list of proposed dinner companions in the gospel, and affirms the message of the first reading that God favours the humble.

The cantor/reader should proclaim this psalm as a message of great joy and consolation for all those who are disadvantaged or who find themselves on the margins of life.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

12:18–19, 22–24

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

14:1, 7–14

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

Second Reading

As the letter to the Hebrews reaches its climax, the author sets up for us the infinite mystery of the transcendent God. First is a description of the original covenant established on Mt Sinai. Fearsome earthly signs – fire, darkness, storm, thunder, the voice of God – evoke a sense of awe at the divine presence. We sometimes call it 'fear of the Lord'.

The new covenant established by Christ is presented as a stark contrast, but with no less sense of the majesty of God: the dazzling city of the living God in heaven, with millions of angels in festival mode and the whole gathered Church of the baptised as citizens. We are made perfect with all the saints and brought into the presence of God by Jesus the mediator.

The contrast in language and the glorious vista of our destiny in Christ offer the reader an exceptional opportunity to draw the liturgical assembly into the mystery of God which we glimpse in the liturgy.

Gospel

Jesus' table fellowship is an important part of his message and ministry. Who is present and how Jesus interacts with them speaks volumes about Jesus' values and priorities. It helps shape our understanding of the 'great meal', his last Supper, and also of our celebration of the eucharistic meal which he commanded us to do in his memory.

At this meal, at the home of one of the religious leaders, they are watching one another closely. Jesus first offers a lesson in humility to the guests. At first sight it seems like a common-sense story of social etiquette. But the final saying points to something bigger. Jesus is speaking of the great 'reversal' at the banquet of heaven when the poor and the humble will be welcomed and the self-important will find themselves on the outer.

This message is further elaborated in Jesus' words to his host. Model your behaviour (and meals), he says, on the kingdom of God where a place is kept for the poor, the disadvantaged, the humble. He is rejecting the economy of mutual favours and affirming a hospitality of inclusive, self-giving love. How do we express the 'preferential option for the poor' in our celebration of Eucharist?

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time IV)

May the God of all consolation order our days in his peace
and grant us the gifts of his blessing.

Amen.

May he free us always from every distress
and confirm our hearts in his love.

Amen.

So that on this life's journey
we may be effective in good works,
rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity,
and may come happily to eternal life.

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 IV, Roman Missal p. 716)



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



St Luke the Evangelist Primary School Blackburn South
9877 4023 | www.slblackburnsth.catholic.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: AU\$ 8,490*
per person (twin share)

OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AU\$ 1,150

FULLY
ESCORTED

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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

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

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

(Ephesians 4:2)

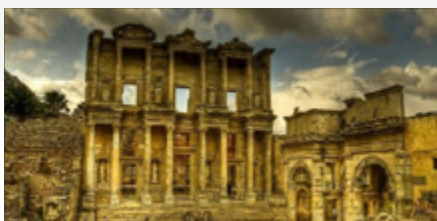
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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

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

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



NEXT STEPS

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



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



DAY 1 MONDAY 20TH APRIL

DEPART AUSTRALIA

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

DAY 2 TUESDAY 21ST APRIL

ARRIVE ATHENS

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

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL

ATHENS - CORINTH – ATHENS

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

DAY 4 THURSDAY 23RD APRIL

ATHENS

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

DAY 5 FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

ATHENS – METEORA – KALAMBAKA

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

DAY 6 SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

KALAMBAKA – VERGINA – VERIA – THESSALONIKI

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

DAY 7 SUNDAY 26TH APRIL

THESSALONIKI

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

DAY 8 MONDAY 27TH APRIL

PHILIPPI – KAVALA – THESSALONIKI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**

Itinerary subject to change **

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRICE INCLUSIONS:

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

NOT INCLUDED:

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

HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

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

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:

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 South and St Timothy Forest Hill
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By
Olivia
Dawson