



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time , Year C - 21st September 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.

Fri. 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

Amos 8:4-7, Ps 112:1-2, 4-8, 1 Tim2:1-8.

Gospel Reflection on Lk 16:1-13

We return again to the Lukan theme of money and how it can get in the way of being a true disciple. This week's gospel passage reminds us that we cannot be a follower of God and chase after riches at the same time. That parable of the steward and his master is one that is rarely quoted and would be unfamiliar to most readers. The actions of the steward upon learning that he is to be dismissed seem to us to be evidence of his dubious dealings and yet the master praises his astuteness.

When a steward entered into loans and deals on behalf of his master, he would build into the repayment a profit for himself. This was quite normal and acceptable. So the amount that the steward asks the debtors to reduce their debts to the master is actually the cut that he had built into the deal for himself. His actions are, surprisingly, quite noble and legitimate. What he is doing is ensuring that his master receives all that is owed to him whilst the steward is making himself more popular with the debtors because they don't have to pay back as much. It would be like a modern day salesman saying that he would forego his commission on the sale so that the purchaser didn't have to pay as much.

But why does Jesus use this parable? He makes the point that when the crunch comes – when the kingdom of God is imminent – monetary wealth is going to be meaningless. It is best to cut your losses and turn your energy to building relationships rather than riches.

Historical Context – Stewards

We often encounter the term steward in the gospels. To be the steward of a household or business was much more than being the manager on behalf of the owner. Stewardship meant to stand and act in the place of the owner. It was to carry the authority and responsibility of the master or owner. When dealing with a steward it was just like dealing with the master. Jesus sometimes portrays himself as God's steward and sometimes portrays the disciples as his stewards. To be entrusted with the stewardship of anything was a great honour and carried enormous trust.

Gospel Focus – Using money

Jesus tells his audience to use money to win friends so that when your money fails you your friends will welcome you. This sounds a bit like buying friendship. But what Jesus was saying was to share your riches with those in need and not be boastful and greedy of your wealth. He is calling his audience back to the commands of God to take care of the needy and to make sure that no one is left without enough to live. So the friendship Jesus is encouraging the people to make through their money is a friendship with the poor and the needy.

Have you thought? Tainted Money

Money seems to get a pretty bad rap in the gospel of Luke. In today's passage, it is even described as 'that tainted thing' which is the lowest measure of trustworthiness. However, it is not money as such that is the concern, but rather it is the love of money and inappropriate use of money. In the Jewish tradition, the measure of society was based on how the lowest and the least were treated and looked after. When our focus is on acquiring money and possessions, it is impossible to be using our money for the good of others.

© Greg Sunter

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

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au / Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

Next Week's Daily Readings 22 Sept - 28 Sept

MONDAY, Sept 22 Ezra 1:1-6
Ps 125 Lk 8:16-18

TUESDAY, Sept 23 Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20
Ps 121:1-5 Lk 8:19-21
St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

WEDNESDAY, Sept 24 Ezra 9:5-9
Tobit 13:2, 4, 6-8 Lk 9:1-6

THURSDAY, Sept 25 Haggai 1:1-8
Ps 149:1-6, 9 Lk 9:7-9

FRIDAY, Sept 26 Haggai 1:15-2:9
Ps 42:1-4 Lk 9:18-22

SATURDAY, Sept 27 Zech 2:5-9, 14-15
Jer 31:10-13 Lk 9:43-45
St Vincent de Paul, priest

SUNDAY, Sept 28 Amos 6:1, 4-7
Ps 145:6-10 1 Tim 6:11-16
Lk 16:19-31

26th 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

20 and 21 Sept.

Catherine Koh
Edith Robertson
Trevis Yee
Youth Group

27 and 28 Sept.

Edna Lee
Peter McKeown
Genevieve Hemsley
Loc Le, Van Truong & Hung Nguyen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Godfrey Thong
Beryl Chelliah
Daphne Hickman
Youth Group

Kevin Rogers
Lynda Kilroe-Smith
Chin L Tay
Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
Paul Tierney
Manny Gonzalez
Theresa Nguyen

Choir
David Prabha
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 20/21 SEPT

5pm Edna Lee
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

4th Oct - Maree's team
Maree Moss, Allen Leung,
Serena Ng & Lynda Kilroe-Smith

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

20th Sept: Jo Adams
27th Sept: Marie Parker

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 27/28 SEPT

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

ST CHURCH CLEANING

27th Sept @ 8am
Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee
Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 5:
Anico Yee & Pabs Gonzales
Next week Team 6:
Peggy & Ngery D'Cruz

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Mary Goodwin, Kevin Ryan, Agatha Wink, Ronda Smith, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, 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 Bernadine O'Meara who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Michael Downie, Carmel Curmi, Angelito Pelayo, Catherine (Kit) Cribbin, Margaret Cook, Eileen Blanchfield, Patti Costello, Patricia O'Connor, Roly Jones, Enio Gori, Annie Calleja, Erlinda Abadilla, Charles Grealy, Paul Ditchburn, Mrs. Rose, Maurice Rodrigues, Esme Hickman & Douglas Martin. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER:

For our relationship with all of creation. Let us pray that, inspired by St. Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

PARISH PRIEST INSTALLATION - SAVE THE DATE: Fr Alex will be officially installed as Parish Priest of St Luke's and St Timothy's by Bishop Thinh Nguyen D.D. at the **5pm Mass on Saturday 18th October**. There will be a potluck (bring a plate to share) dinner and celebrations in the parish hall after the Mass. Please save the date.

UPCOMING WEEKDAY MASS CHANGES: There will be

NO 9.15am MASS on Friday 26th Sept. & 3rd Oct at St Luke's,

NO 9.15am MASS on Thursday 25th Sept, 2nd Oct & 9th Oct at St Timothy's.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): An RCIA program will start on Thursday October 23rd. It will run from October to March 2026 with meetings on Thursdays starting at 8pm both in person and via Zoom. For more information please contact the parish office.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES: Please note that there are Thanksgiving Envelopes available this weekend in both churches for parishioners who regularly donate in this way, to cover the weeks up until November 1/2. We are undertaking a Stewardship Campaign in October and November this year so there will be new sets of envelopes available in November. Thanks for your ongoing support.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST TIMOTHY'S: We are planning to start a Children's Liturgy group to run during the 10.30am Mass at St Timothy's from November. If you are interested in assisting with this ministry, please contact the parish office.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: Being signs of hope

MAJELLAN MEDIA: Where is the peace?

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: \$283.35

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$232.10

Vietnamese Donation: \$190

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$444.30

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$508.30

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: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Response to the Psalm: Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Year 9 – 25 years plus leaders

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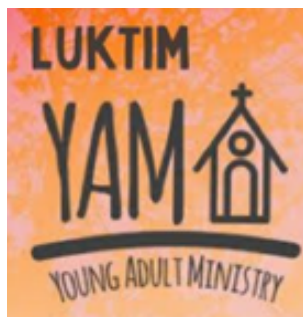
ACYF.ORG.AU
@ /ACYF25

QR code and Australian Catholic Youth Festival logo.



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.

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



NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Wed. 1st Oct @ 7pm

WHERE: Blackburn Hotel, 111 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn

WHAT: Pub Meal

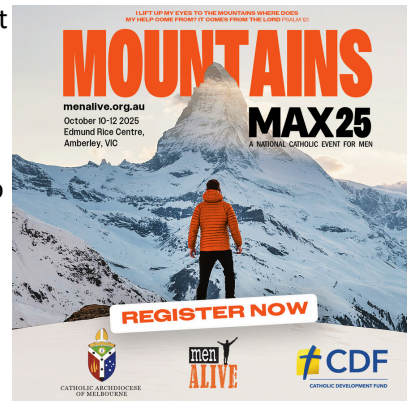
Further enquiries to Jersy or Sarah at luktimyam@gmail.com

menALIVE MAX 2025 MOUNTAINS

Date: **10-12 October 2025**

Venue: **Edmund Rice Centre, Amberley, Lower Plenty, VIC**

A national Catholic event for men. Join us as we gather to 'listen, learn and long for the fullness of life' in groups or in workshops. We desire to grow into the men we were made to be, better husbands, fathers, and men of God.



This weekend is designed to offer you a sanctuary of peace and spiritual growth. It will be a time of renewal and inspiration for men. To register go to: https://app.tickets.org.au/MA/MAX2025MEL_vaacM



25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C



You cannot serve
God and Money

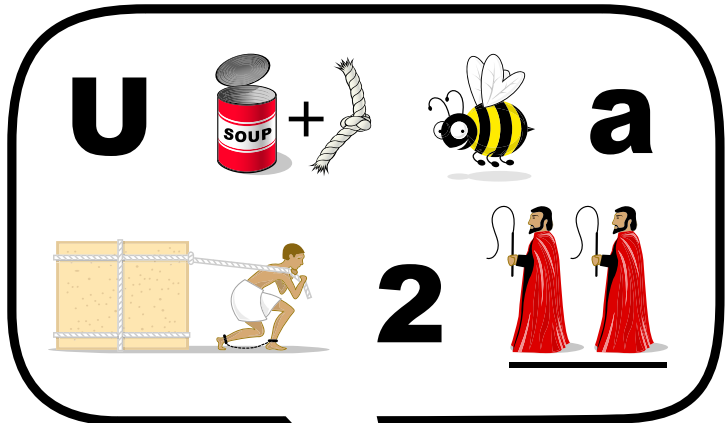
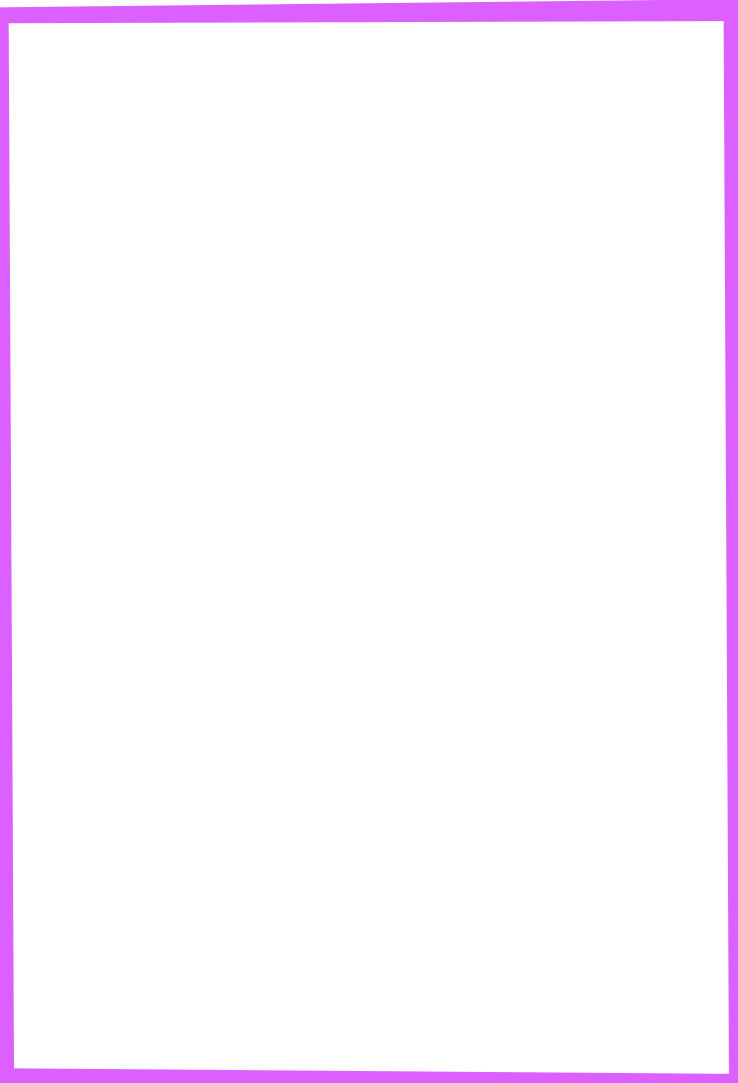


How can money be used well?

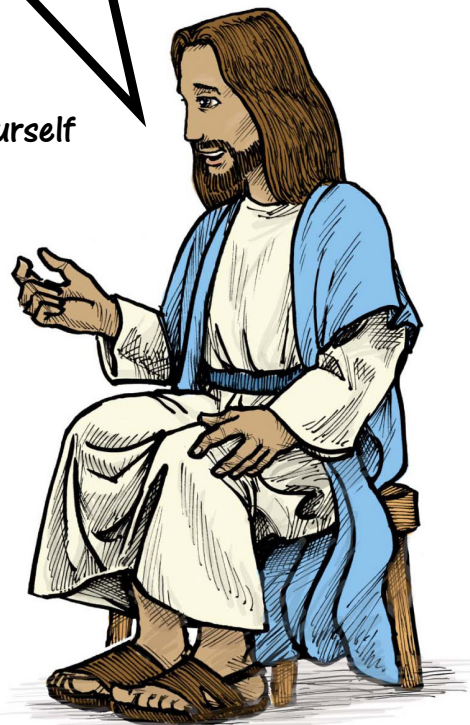


How can money be used badly?

Draw a picture of something that
you are trusted to do every week.



Try to decipher
this teaching that
Jesus gave to his
disciples. Draw yourself
listening to Jesus.



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 21 SEPTEMBER 2025



COLLECT

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

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

Money, money, money must be funny in the rich man's world, sang Abba in 1976; All the things I could do if I had a little money: it's a rich man's world!

This week and next, the Sunday gospel invites us to reflect on money and how we use it. Luke in his gospel often stresses the danger of wealth and the need to be generous in its use. Renunciation of worldly possessions is a regular theme: right from the beginning, Luke says the first apostles 'left everything to follow Jesus'. Ultimately it is a question of examining our priorities and focussing on making our contribution to a more just and equitable society.

A reading from the prophet Amos

8:4–7

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy
and try to suppress the poor people of the country,
you who say, 'When will New Moon be over
so that we can sell our corn,
and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?
Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel,
by swindling and tampering with the scales,
we can buy up the poor for money,
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.'
The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob,
'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

First Reading

Some 750 years before Christ, Amos emerges from his rural life to challenge a prosperous nation. One of his prominent themes is promoting social justice.

His language is strong: *trample, suppress, swindling, tampering...* He is defending the needy, the poor, from exploitation and cheating by those who hold the economic power.

He challenges not only the dishonesty of the merchants but also their priorities. They do not care for the festivals or the sabbath – their only concern is to make money from their trade. They manipulate the needs of the poor for their own ends.

The reading begins with a startling command: *Listen to this!* Amos' blunt diatribe needs a strong and forthright proclamation.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 112:1–2, 4–8

R. Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

or

R: Alleluia.

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore! **R.**

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth? **R.**

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 112/113 celebrates and praises our God who is both transcendent and immanent. The first two stanzas laud the God whose glory is 'above the heavens'; the punch comes in the third stanza when this same God 'stoops from the heights' to lift up the lowly and raise the poor. It is here that it connects with the prophetic words of Amos.

Mary's Magnificat echoes the sentiments of this psalm. *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour... He has taken down princes from their thrones and raised up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.*

The main challenge for the cantor/reader is to handle the middle verse of six lines and to offer the assembly a recognisable cue for their response.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

2:1–8

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

16:1–13

Jesus said to his disciples, [‘There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, “What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer.” Then the steward said to himself, “Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes.”’

Then he called his master’s debtors one by one. To the first he said, “How much do you owe my master?” “One hundred measures of oil” was the reply. The steward said, “Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty.” To another he said, “And you, sir, how much do you owe?” “One hundred measures of wheat” was the reply. The steward said, “Here, take your bond and write eighty.”

‘The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

‘And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity.] The man who can be trusted in little things

Second Reading

This text suggests that the Christian community is finding its place within the society and the Roman empire. The aim is to ‘be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet’. There is to be no anger or argument.

Secondly the reading promotes a universal inclusiveness within the Christian community, for God wants everyone to be saved. Christ is the one mediator between God and the whole human race; he offered his life as a ransom for all. So prayers in the community should be offered for everyone, even the pagan rulers of the empire and others in authority.

Embedded in the middle is a brief profession of faith: *There is only one God and only one mediator, Jesus Christ.*

The use of ‘mankind’, ‘man’ and ‘men’ is a problem. A reader could well adopt the solution of the NRSV translation: ... *there is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as a ransom for all...*

Gospel

The steward (manager) is said to be wasteful with the rich man’s property. He is also called dishonest, but is praised by his boss, the rich man, for being ‘astute’, that is, shrewd or crafty. The manager, it seems, is being dishonest with his customers, charging an excessive commission for himself. It may be this that he foregoes to ‘win friends’. He is not therefore taking what rightly belongs to the rich man. His ability to take swift, clear-sighted and decisive action is what disciples need to emulate.

Although this parable can be omitted in the shorter version, it will probably have more impact on the hearers than the collection of sayings which follow it.

The first saying is about how we use money. It should be used to build not undermine relationships.

Then there are sayings about trustworthiness: trust in little things or great, trust with money or genuine riches, trust with what belongs to others. They should be read inclusively by replacing ‘man’ with ‘one’.

The next group of sayings culminate in a stark choice: God or money. This fits with Luke’s recurring theme of discipleship, namely,

can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

renouncing worldly wealth. The disciple leaves everything to follow Christ.

This diverse gospel clearly has several sections, each with its own message. A good pause between each section will help the assembly to receive the text and understand.

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)

JOIN US

Installation Mass



Father Alex

and

**FEAST OF
ST LUKE**

SAT | 18 OCT

5 PM

**ST LUKE THE
EVANGELIST**



B.Y.O POTLUCK DINNER CELEBRATION WITH DJ 80S MUSIC & MORE



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BLACKBURN SOUTH



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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)

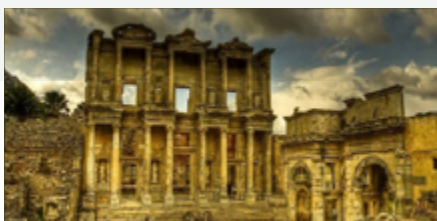
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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



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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
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