



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 28th 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 6:1,4-7, Ps 145:6-10, 4-8, 1 Tim 6:11-16.

Gospel Reflection on Lk 16:19-31

In the Old Testament, it is made very clear that how well the people are living in relationship with God is measured by how well the very least in the society are being treated. Time and again, God makes plain to the people, through the prophets, that what they are expected to do is live in right relationship with one another and with God. The cyclic rise and fall in fortune of the people of Israel is a direct result of the way in which they treat the poor and lowly of the society. When all in the society are properly cared for, Israel flourishes; but when the widows and orphans and other marginalised people are neglected and even rejected, then trouble befalls Israel. Today's first reading, from the prophet Amos, is an example of this cycle and an example of the role the prophets played in calling the people back to faithfulness with God and faithfulness with one another. Amos berates those who luxuriate in comfort whilst ignoring the plight of others.

The theme continues then into the gospel passage. The rich man lives in extravagant luxury but ignores the plight of Lazarus who is starving at his door. (This is not the same Lazarus that Jesus raised from the dead.) Both men die and, as Jesus taught over and over again, the poor man Lazarus is welcomed into the kingdom of God but the rich man, who ignored his neighbour, is trapped in Hades. When the rich man asks that Lazarus be sent back to life to warn others of the fate that awaits them, Abraham reminds him that the people of Israel have had a long line of prophets calling them back to faithfulness but their message has been ignored.

Gospel Focus – Rising from the dead

At the end of the passage, Abraham says that if the people of Israel have not been convinced to change their ways by the great prophets throughout time, then 'they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead'. This is obviously a reference to the fact that by the time of the writing of this gospel – some 50+ years after Jesus – most of the Jews remained unconvinced by the message of Jesus, despite his rising from the dead. It is an indication of the rising tension between Jews and Christians at the time of writing.

Living the Gospel – Paying attention

It's easy to be distracted by 'having' and forget to pay attention to 'being'. There is no suggestion in the gospel passage that the rich man is in any way wicked or sinful, other than his lack of attention to the needs of one sitting at his gate. In the eyes of his neighbours, he was probably a very upright and just man, fulfilling all the purity requirements of his faith. But his focus of attention was on himself and not others. He lacked the compassion and mellowness of heart that Jesus reminded people was expected by God.

Scriptural context – Gates

The poor man, Lazarus, is described as sitting at the gate of the rich man. We have a picture of Lazarus sitting on the outside looking in at all that he cannot have. Gates are used both literally and metaphorically throughout the gospel of Luke. In the cities and towns of Palestine, gates marked a physical barrier between those who were 'in' and those who were 'out'. But they also marked the boundaries of society. Those who were permitted to sleep within the walls were the acceptable of society. Those who were shut outside the gates and outside the city of an evening were the unacceptable.

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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 29 Sept - 5 Oct

MONDAY, Sept 29 Dan 7:9-10, 13-14
Ps 137:1-5 Jn 1:47-51
Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels

TUESDAY, Sept 30 Zech 8:20-23
Ps 86 Lk 9:51-56
St Jerome, priest, doctor

WEDNESDAY, Oct 1 Neh 2:1-8
Ps 136:1-6 Lk 9:57-62
St Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor

THURSDAY, Oct 2 Ex 23:20-23
Ps 90:1-6, 10-11 Mt 18:1-5, 10
The Holy Guardian Angels

FRIDAY, Oct 3 Baruch 1:15-22
Ps 78:1-5, 8-9 Lk 10:13-16

SATURDAY, Oct 4 Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29
Ps 68:33-37 Lk 10:17-24
St Francis of Assisi

SUNDAY, Oct 5 Hab 1:2-3, 2:2-4
Ps 94:1-2, 6-9: 2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14
Lk 17:5-9

27th 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

27 and 28 SEPT

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

4 and 5 OCT

Michael Ballek
Beryl Chelliah
Stefanie Chin
To be advised

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Kevin Rogers
Lynda Kilroe-Smith
Chin L Tay
Hoang Nguyen

Olive Hammill
Kana Chelliah
Anico Yee
To be advised

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
To be advised

SL WELCOMERS 27/28 SEPT

5pm John Ryan
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

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

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

27th Sept: Marie Parker
4th Oct: Jenny & Vanessa Marino

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 4/5 OCT

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

ST CHURCH CLEANING

11th Oct @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 6:
Peggy & Ngery D'Crux
Next week Team 7:
Barry & Christine Silvester

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Fr Jim Staunton, 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 Emanuela Iannazzo who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Alex Pekish, Vincenzo Iannazzo, Robert Agostino, Paolo Isola, Joseph Biviano, Elwyn Kelly, Frederick Dew, Paolo De Franceschi and Leonard Edwin Taylor.
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.

UPCOMING WEEKDAY MASS CHANGES: There will be

NO 9.15am MASS on Friday 3rd Oct at St Luke's,

NO 9.15am MASS on Thursday 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 or to join in please contact the parish office.

RCIA REGIONAL NETWORK GATHERING: Parish clergy, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults teams and all interested in beginning an RCIA team are invited to the Eastern Region meeting on Wednesday 15th Oct., 6.30 to 8.30pm at St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe. Register at <http://trybooking.com/DETAB>
For any enquiries contact proclaim@cam.org.au

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. There will be new sets of envelopes available in November. Thanks for your ongoing support.

OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN: In two weeks time we will commence our Offertory Giving Program which will run over a four week period. Giving generously is a way to deepen our faith and is a vital part of our identity as Christian worshippers. You are encouraged to engage prayerfully with the content presented and provided over this time and we look forward to growing and going deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ through this process.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [The glory of God and the good of others](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Sensational September](#)

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: \$298.50

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$198.85

Vietnamese Donation: \$233.80

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$399.05

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$522.55

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

SL: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael 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: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Response to the Psalm: Praise the Lord, my soul!

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

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

Communion Antiphon: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL
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LUKTIM YAM
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Social Night at the Pub

1ST OCTOBER WEDNESDAY 7PM
BLACKBURN HOTEL
1111 WHITEHORSE RD, BLACKBURN, VIC 3130

Come Join Us!

WINE & STEAK \$25

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

Listen and turn to God



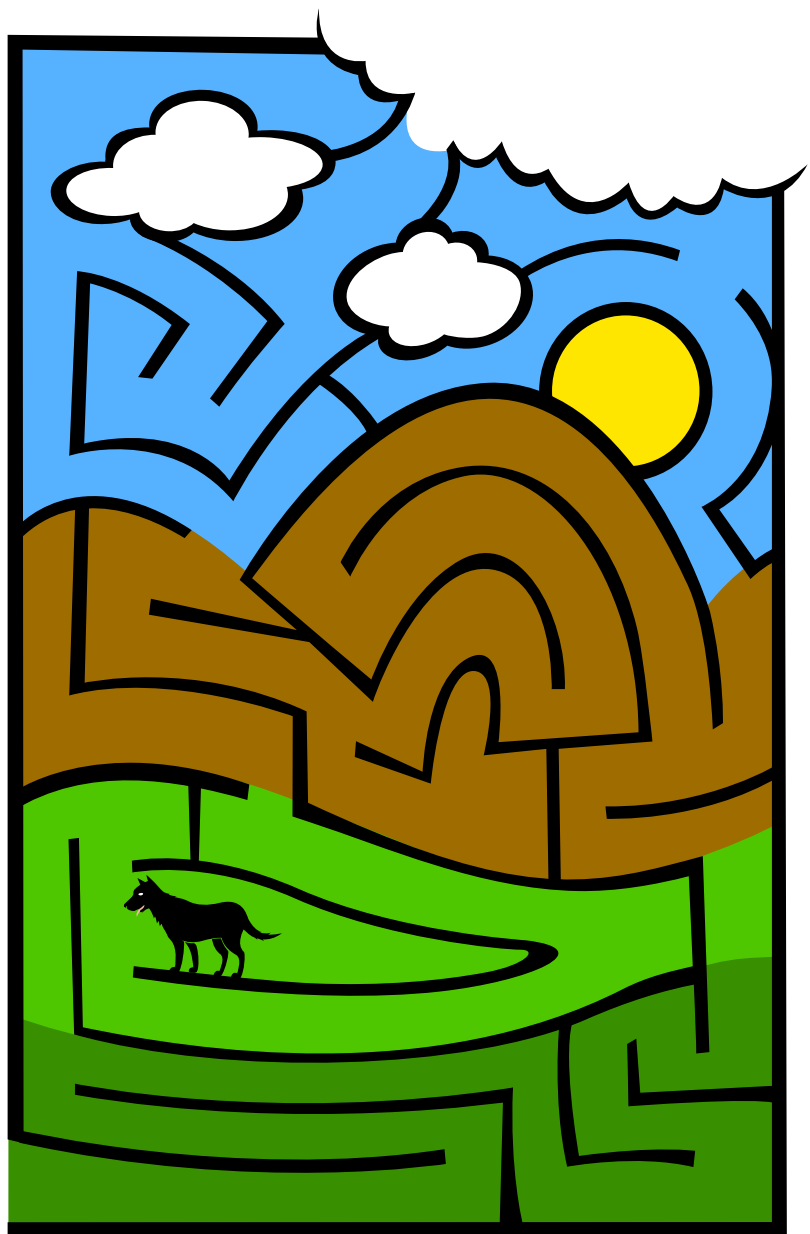
26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

What happened to the rich man when he died?

What should the rich man have done while he was still living on earth?



Jesus wants us to listen to him. In what ways can we listen to God? Draw yourself listening to God.



Help the angels take Lazarus up to heaven.



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 28 SEPTEMBER 2025



COLLECT

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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

Regrettably, we see more and more homeless people on the streets of our cities and towns. Some are forced to camp in parks and under bridges, even women and children, while others sleep in doorways. How easy it is to walk past and not to see. In today's gospel, there is no suggestion that the rich man did anything nasty or unjust. It is only that he did not see, he didn't notice the beggar at his gate.

Luke's gospel champions the poor and the disadvantaged, the outsider and the marginalised. He often casts his parables and sayings as a 'reversal of fortune'. The high are brought low, the low are raised up. Today's gospel is a good example.

A reading from the prophet Amos 6:1, 4–7

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion
and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of
Samaria.

Lying on ivory beds
and sprawling on their divans,
they dine on lambs from the flock,
and stall-fattened veal;
they bawl to the sound of the harp,
they invent new instruments of music like David,
they drink wine by the bowlful,
and use the finest oil for anointing themselves,
but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all.
That is why they will be the first to be exiled;
the sprawlers' revelry is over.

First Reading

Again this week, the prophet Amos offers his sarcastic condemnation of the rich upper class. Snug and safe, these 'sprawlers' luxuriate in their comfort, in their fine food, wine and music. They are totally self-centred and are blinded to the needs of the poor. Within a few decades, the kingdom would be invaded by Assyrian forces and the ones snugly ensconced in luxury will be the first, says Amos, to find themselves in exile. The parallel with the gospel is clear.

This passage should be a delight to read, the images painting a vivid picture of complacent decadence.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6–10

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or

R. Alleluia!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. R.

He upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. R.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145/146 is the first of a group of psalms that bring the whole psalter to a close on a sustained note of praising God.

In contrast to those described in the first reading and in preparation for the reversal of fortunes told in the gospel, this psalm exalts God who lifts up the lowly. It is like a litany of God's mercy – shown to the oppressed, the hungry, prisoners, the blind, those bowed down, the stranger, the widow and the orphan. The Lord will reign and God's kingdom is the reign of justice for all and forever.

Alleluia, indeed!

**A reading from the first letter of
St Paul to Timothy**

6:11–16

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who at the due time will be revealed
by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all,
the King of kings and the Lord of lords,
who alone is immortal,
whose home is in inaccessible light,
whom no man has seen and no man is able to see:
to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

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

16:19–31

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ‘There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

‘In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, “Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.” “My son,” Abraham replied “remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours.”

‘The rich man replied, “Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father’s house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too.” “They have Moses and the prophets,” said Abraham, “let them listen to them.” “Ah, no, father Abraham,” said the rich man “but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent.” Then Abraham said to him, “If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.”

Second Reading

At the conclusion of this first letter to Timothy, the author (whether Paul or a disciple) reminds him of his duty to be a holy and virtuous person and to put all that he had learned about leadership into practice.

The language is quite formal – almost like the taking of an oath of office – and ends with a liturgical doxology that adds its own dignity to the address.

Readers will need to study this text carefully. The final sentence which incorporates the doxology is long indeed and very complex. It should be solemnly declaimed in the climax, the part which reads: ‘*I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told...*’ and then become more expansive as the liturgical part unfolds. Take it slowly to let the ideas sink in.

In each case the word ‘man’ can be spoken as ‘one’.

Gospel

The rich man lives in a world of his own. He does not even notice the beggar, hungry and suffering with open sores, who lies at his gate. After their death, there is a complete reversal of fortunes. Lazarus is in glory with Abraham, while the rich man is in agony in the underworld. What is interesting is the rich man’s sense of entitlement. Send Lazarus to bring me comfort! Send Lazarus to warn my family!

There is a clear message here urging us to be aware of the needs of others and to work for social justice on earth. The story is a challenge to all those who are comfortable being ‘on the inside’, those who think they have got it made! The parable has been well introduced by the prophet Amos and the psalm.

Jesus addresses the parable to the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees. Luke broadens the message specifically for the early Christian community. The rich man says his family will not listen to Moses and the prophets, but will repent if someone were to return from the dead. The concluding phrase ‘someone who rises from the dead’, of course, for the Christian community can only mean Jesus. It is the Paschal Mystery which impels the followers of Christ to pursue God’s glorious kingdom of equality and justice.

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)

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: AUD\$ 8,490*
per person (twin share)

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)

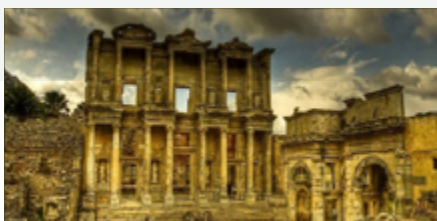
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

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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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 Administrator of St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn
 South and St Timothy Forest Hill
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Year
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By
Olivia
Dawson