



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 12th October 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.** 6.30pm (ST)

**Sat.** 9.15am (SL\*)

\*Rosary after Mass

### RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

### HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

Second weekend of each  
month - bring a plate to  
share (optional)

**YAM GROUP** - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.  
each month at 7pm  
at St Luke's Presbytery

2 Kings 5:14-17, Ps 97:1-4, 2 Tim 2:8-13.

### Gospel Reflection on Lk 17:11-19

**Meditation:** What can adversity teach us about the blessing of thanksgiving and the healing power of love and mercy? The Book of Proverbs states: A friend loves at all times; and a brother is born for adversity (Proverbs 17:17). When adversity strikes you find out who truly is

your brother, sister, and friend. The Gospel records an unusual encounter between two peoples who had been divided for centuries. The Jews and Samaritans had no dealings with one another even though Samaria was located in the central part of Judea. Both peoples were openly hostile whenever their paths crossed. In this Gospel narrative we see one rare exception - a Samaritan leper in company with nine Jewish lepers. Sometimes adversity forces people to drop their barriers or to forget their prejudices. When this band of Jewish and Samaritan lepers saw Jesus they made a bold request. They didn't ask for healing, but instead asked for mercy.

**Mercy is heartfelt sorrow at another's misfortune:** The word mercy literally means "sorrowful at heart". But mercy is something more than compassion, or heartfelt sorrow at another's misfortune. Compassion empathizes with the sufferer. But mercy goes further - it removes suffering. A merciful person shares in another's misfortune and suffering as if it were his or her own. And such a person will do everything in his or her power to dispel that misery. Mercy is also connected with justice. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), a great teacher and scripture scholar, said that mercy "does not destroy justice, but is a certain kind of fulfillment of justice. ..Mercy without justice is the mother of dissolution; (and) justice without mercy is cruelty." Pardon without repentance negates justice.

**God's mercy brings healing of mind, heart, and body:** So what is the significance of these ten lepers asking for mercy? They know they are in need of healing, not just physical, but spiritual healing as well. They approach Jesus with contrition and faith because they believe that he can release the burden of guilt and suffering and make restoration of body and soul possible. Their request for mercy is both a plea for pardon and release from suffering. Jesus gives mercy to all who ask with faith and contrition. Why did only one leper out of ten return to show gratitude? Gratefulness, another word which expresses gratitude of heart and a thankful disposition, is related to grace - which means the release of loveliness. Gratitude is the homage of the heart which responds with graciousness in expressing an act of thanksgiving. The Samaritan approached Jesus reverently and gave praise to God.

**Ingratitude leads to lack of love and kindness, and intolerance towards others:** If we do not recognize and appreciate the mercy and help shown to us we will be ungrateful and unkind towards others. Ingratitude is forgetfulness or a poor return for kindness received. Ingratitude easily leads to lack of charity and intolerance towards others, as well as to other vices, such as complaining, grumbling, discontentment, pride, and presumption. How often have we been ungrateful to our parents, pastors, teachers, and neighbours? Do you express gratitude to God for his abundant help and mercy towards you and are you gracious, kind, and merciful towards your neighbour in their time of need and support?



Ten Lepers, © Painted by James Christensen (2022), Oil and acrylic on canvas.

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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](mailto:foresthill@cam.org.au) | Web: [sttimothys.org.au](http://sttimothys.org.au) / Email: [blackburnsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:blackburnsouth@cam.org.au) | Web: [blackburnsouth.org.au](http://blackburnsouth.org.au)

**Next Week's Daily Readings 13 Oct - 19 Oct**

**MONDAY, Oct 13** Rom 1:1-7  
Ps 97:1-4 Lk 11:29-32

**TUESDAY, Tues 14** Rom 1:16-25  
Ps 18:2-5 Lk 11:37-41

**WEDNESDAY, Oct 15** Rom 2:1-11  
Ps 61:2-3, 6-7, 9 Lk 11:42-46  
**St Teresa of Jesus, virgin, doctor**

**THURSDAY, Oct 16** Rom 3:21-30  
Ps 129:1-6 Lk 11:47-54

**FRIDAY, Oct 17** Rom 4:1-8  
Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11 Lk 12:1-7  
**St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr**

**SATURDAY, Oct 18** 2 Tim 4:10-17  
Ps 144:10-13, 17-18 Lk 10:1-9  
**St Luke, evangelist**

**SUNDAY, Oct 19** Ex 17:8-13  
Ps 120: 2 Tim 3:14 - 4:2:  
Lk 18:1-8

**29<sup>th</sup> 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

Thuan Tran, Hoang Nguyen & Dung Luong

**11 and 12 OCT**

Olive Hammill  
Darren McLean  
Joelle Rousetty

**18 and 19 OCT**

Lucy Ferris  
Melina Barcellona  
Ryan Yee  
Youth Group

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

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

Val Gardiner  
Megan McLean  
Eleanor Mendes  
Hoang Nguyen

Visiting priests  
Margaret Gearon  
Pat Kawalevski  
Youth Group

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

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

Choir  
Paul Tierney  
Lee Min Yee  
Toan Tran

Choir  
Rosemary Donaldson  
Manny Gonzalez  
Theresa Nguyen

**SL WELCOMERS 11-12 OCT**

5pm Edna Lee  
8.30am Marie Pekish  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

18th Oct - Kellie's team  
Kellie McCarthy, Emma Brodawka,  
Toni Wynne & Daniella Manolopoulos

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

11th Oct: Kate Skowronska  
18th Oct: Ellen Donoghue

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Flowers: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 18-19 OCT**

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

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

25th Oct @ 8am  
Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,  
Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen

**ST COUNTERS**

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

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**All who are sick**, especially Fr Jim Staunton, Mary Goodwin, Kevin Ryan, Agatha Wink, Ronda Smith, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, 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 Margaret Hogg who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Edwin Manguiat, Aiden O'Reilly, Nell Saunders, Mario Baranello, Enid Curtain, Keith Hilliard, John Sellers & Mary Foley. May they rest in peace.

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## POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER:

For collaboration between different religious traditions. Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA):** An RCIA program will start on Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:proclaim@cam.org.au)

**A WARM WELCOME:** We warmly welcome Nathalie & Francisco whose daughters Antonella & Isabella will be baptised on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN:** This weekend, we begin the Offertory Giving Program, which will continue over the next four weeks. The call to generosity is God's invitation for us to deepen our faith and is a vital part of our identity as Christians. I encourage you to prayerfully engage in this time of reflection and discernment. Together, we look forward to growing deeper in our relationship with Christ through this process. God bless, Fr Alex.

**FR ALEX' INSTALLATION MASS AS PARISH PRIEST & CELEBRATIONS:** Only a week to go until this event on Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> Oct at 5pm at St Luke's. The hall will be locked at 4.50pm and reopened at 6pm after Mass. BYO alcohol & glassware. The parish is providing soft drink, dessert along with disposable plates, bowls, cups & cutlery. If you are bringing a plate/dish and serving spoon/ladle, please label them with your name so it's easy for us to get them back to you. You are welcome to drop food off to the parish hall earlier in the day with heating instructions if you so wish.

Resources .....

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** [A hope that brings us through](#)

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** [Our Mental Wellbeing](#)

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### **STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

*The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.*

*The Second collection is for parish expenses.*

**ST:** Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$308.15

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$252.55

Vietnamese Donation: \$111.85

**SL:** Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$493.65

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$410.50

## 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: Margaret Gearon &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

**Entrance Antiphon:** If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! For all things give thanks to God, because this is what he expects of you in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

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

**Communion Antiphon:** The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.



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**JOIN US**

# Installation Mass

**Father Alex**

and **FEAST OF ST LUKE**

SAT | 18 OCT  
5 PM

**ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST**

B.V.O POTLUCK DINNER CELEBRATION WITH DJ BOS MUSIC & MORE

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. 15<sup>th</sup> Oct @ 7pm  
**WHERE:** St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South  
**TOPIC:** **The Gift of Faith**  
**What is faith?**  
**Is it reasonable?**  
**Taking a step of faith.**

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](mailto:luktimyam@gmail.com)

### ACYF CALL-OUT

Calling the youth of the parish to register to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival on Nov. 30th to Dec. 2nd. The ticket cost will be subsidized by the parish and you will only be asked to contribute \$100 towards it. For further information, please contact the parish office or any member of the Young Adult Ministry at [luktimyam@gmail.com](mailto:luktimyam@gmail.com)

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### TRAILER NEEDED

Do you have a small trailer that the parish could borrow?

We have a car with a tow bar but we would love the use of a trailer for a few hours. Please contact the parish office if you can help. Thanks!

# Your faith has made you well

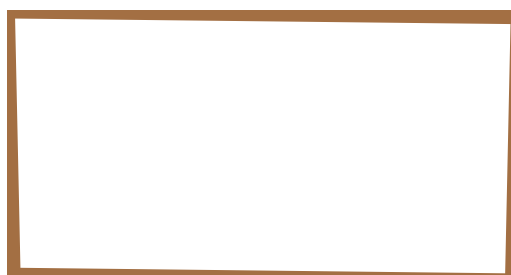
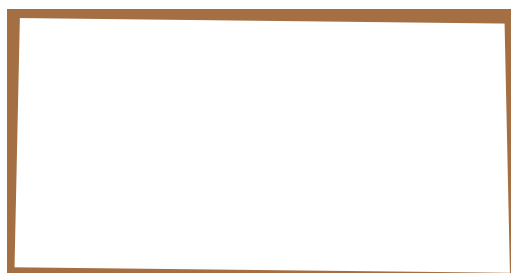
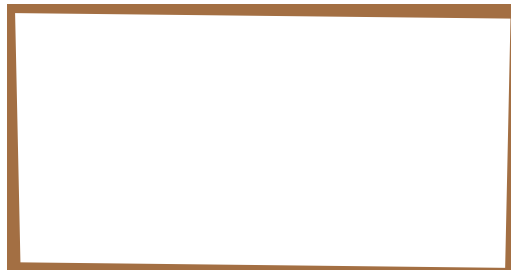


28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Draw the leper who returned to thank Jesus.

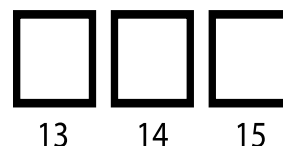
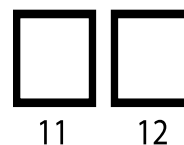
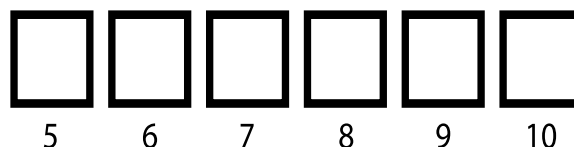
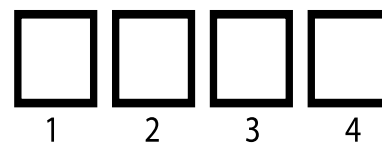


When are some of the times when you can ask Jesus for help?



Fill in the missing letters, then match them up by number in the large boxes to reveal the message of this story.

- Jesus was on h<sub>2</sub>□s way to Jeru<sub>10</sub>□alem.
- Te<sub>8</sub>□ lepers asked Jesus to take pi<sub>5</sub>□y on them.
- Jesus told them to s<sub>6</sub>□ow themselves to the pri<sub>4</sub>□sts.
- One of the men disco<sub>3</sub>□ered he was heale<sub>15</sub>□,  
and returned to Jesus, giving praise to □<sub>1</sub>od.
- He b<sub>12</sub>□wed down at Jesus' fee<sub>11</sub>□ and than<sub>9</sub>□ed him.
- Jesus then told him, "□<sub>13</sub>et up and g<sub>14</sub>□.  
Your f<sub>7</sub>□ith has made you well."



# 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 12 OCTOBER 2025



## COLLECT

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,  
at all times go before us and follow after  
and make us always determined  
to carry out good works.  
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

Belgian missionary priest, Damien de Veuster, was canonised on 11 October 2009. In 1873, at the age of 33, he went to minister to the people with leprosy (Hansen's disease) in the quarantine settlement on Moloka'i in Hawai'i. For sixteen years, he not only offered them the liturgy and pastoral care, but also bandaged their wounds, lived and ate with them, helped build houses, schools, roads and hospitals, made coffins and dug graves. He caught the disease himself and died in 1889.

In Jesus' time and until the twentieth century, leprosy was thought to be highly contagious and had no cure. The solution was to exile sufferers to an isolated settlement. Often they were virtually abandoned. This background makes St Damien's self-sacrifice for the sake of the gospel and Christian love quite extraordinary. Today's gospel story is a perfect fit for the 16th anniversary of his canonisation.

## A reading from the second book of the Kings

5:14–17

Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.' But Elisha replied, 'As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.' Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.'

## First Reading

This is a snippet of a longer colourful tale. Naaman, a wealthy Aramaean, is his king's army commander... but he has leprosy. His wife's servant, a young girl captured from Israel, persuades him to go to Israel for healing. He is deflected to the prophet Elisha who tells him to bathe seven times in the Jordan. This offhand directive offends his dignity but once again he is persuaded to comply. Then our passage takes up the story.

Elisha refuses Naaman's lavish gifts and Naaman is converted to the God of Israel. An outsider is healed and comes to faith. This is also the story of the gospel, in both cases, turning on someone who has leprosy.

Although it is only a short excerpt of the full narrative, it holds together well and its proclamation should not present problems.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1–4

**R.** The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **R.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **R.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 97/98 sings the praises of the God who is Lord of all peoples and nations.

As for the foreign military leader Naaman in the first reading, so too the psalmist sings of the wonders of salvation brought to the ends of the earth. Not just Israel but all nations will benefit from God's truth and love, and all the earth will ring out its joy.

The cantor/reader should enjoy this strong clear psalm of praise. The opening words demand that it be sung if at all possible.

### **A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy**

**2:8–13**

Remember the Good News that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.  
If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.  
If we disown him, then he will disown us.  
We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful,  
for he cannot disown his own self.

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

**17:11–19**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

### **Second Reading**

The Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection is central to this reading from 2 Timothy. It may be the cause of Paul's imprisonment in chains but, he says, no one can imprison or chain up God's Good News. The reader should make the most of this vivid image.

The second part of the reading looks like part of an early Christian hymn. It sets out our participation in the Paschal Mystery. As long as we hold to our baptism and do not disown our union with Christ, we die with Christ and shall live with him and, one day, reign with him in glory. No matter that we are unfaithful, Christ is always faithful because he cannot disown his own self, the Church which is his Body.

The whole reading should be proclaimed with conviction. The concise balanced lines of the hymn should be taken slowly and deliberately.

### **Gospel**

It is well known that the people of Samaria and Galilee didn't get along. This story takes place 'along the border' between the two territories, suggesting perhaps a kind of 'no man's land' between them. It would be just the place to find ostracised lepers living in isolation from society.

As the ten are sent away, they are healed of their disease. In a typical Lukan theme, Jesus takes the marginalised – the most extreme example of a marginalised group – and restores them to the centre of community life.

Ostensibly, the story is about being grateful for the blessings we have received. Jesus uses the thankful return of the Samaritan as a lesson on acknowledging God's healing power and giving God praise.

More powerfully however Luke makes the foreigner, the Samaritan, the hero of the story. He is the model of faith. This must have had the same impact as the story of the Good Samaritan which we read in July. Perhaps therefore the main thrust of the story is to challenge our prejudices and to encourage us to love and respect the outsider.

# 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)

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**



ST. LUKES SCHOOL  
BLACKBURN SOUTH



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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL –  
3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2026

LED BY  
FR ALEX CHOW

14  
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE: AU\$ 8,490\*  
per person (twin share)

OPTIONAL SINGLE  
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AU\$ 1,150

FULLY  
ESCORTED

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

[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)*

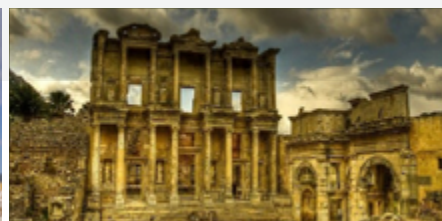
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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

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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