



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 19th 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. 9.15am(SL*),6.30pm (ST)

Sat. 9.15am (SL*)

*Rosary after Mass

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

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

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

Exodus 17:8-13, Ps 120, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Gospel Reflection on Lk 18: 01-08

Meditation: What can a shameless and unjust judge pitted against a crusty and pestering woman teach us about justice and vindication (to restore what is right and just) in the kingdom of God? Jesus tells a story that is all too true – a defenceless widow is taken advantaged of and refused her rights. Through sheer persistence she wears down an unscrupulous judge until he gives her justice. Persistence pays off, and that's especially true for those who trust in God. Jesus illustrates how God as our Judge and Vindicator is much quicker to come to our defence and to bring us his justice, blessing, and help when we need it. But we can easily lose heart and forget to ask our heavenly Father for his grace and help.



Alpine Trials Rally, by Bryan de Grineau (1934), charcoal, watercolour © Bonhams,

Faith-filled persistence reaps the fruit of justice and grace: Jesus told the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8) to give his disciples fresh hope and confidence in God's unfailing care and favour towards us (grace). In this present life we can expect trials and adversity, but we are not without hope in God. The Day of the Last Judgment will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices perpetrated by a fallen world of sinful people and that God's love is stronger than death (Song of Songs 8:6). Those who put their faith in God and entrust their lives to him can look forward with hope and confident assurance. They will receive their reward - if not fully in this present life then surely and completely in the age to come in God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy (Romans 14:17). Jesus ends his parable with a probing question for us. Will you and I have faith - the kind of faith that doesn't give up or lose hope in God - but perseveres to the end of our lives - and to the end of this present age when the Lord Jesus will return in glory as Ruler and Judge of All? Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. We could not believe, trust, and persevere with hope if God did not first draw us to himself and reveal to us his merciful love and care. If we want to grow and persevere in faith until the end of our days, then we must nourish our faith with the word of God and ask the Lord to increase it (Luke 17:5). When trials and setbacks disappoint you, where do you place your hope and confidence? Do you pray with expectant faith and confident hope in God's merciful care and provision for you?

© 2025 Servants of the Word, source: dailyscripture.net, author [Don Schwager](#).

Reflection on the gouache on paper: When the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth? It implies that when he comes back, will he find you and me praying? Or will we have lost heart by then and given up? It is a direct invitation for us to continue to pray. The implication of what Jesus is telling us is that prayer and faith go together hand in hand. Faith and prayer stand and fall together! If faith is the car that take us to our destination, then prayer is the fuel that feeds the engine. One can't go without the other.

So today we are looking at a gouache of a classic car being propelled through the Alps by the fuel it carries. The car, the fuel, the driver will navigate the bends, the twists, the bumps that the road ahead will bring... All are there to get us from one destination to the next!

© <https://christian.art/daily-gospel-reading/luke-18-1-8-2022-2/>,

Next Week's Daily Readings 20 Oct - 26 Oct
MONDAY, Oct 20 Rom 4:20-25 Lk 1:69-75 Lk 12:13-21
TUESDAY, Tues 21 Rom 5:12, 15, 17-21 Ps 39:7-10, 17 Lk 12:35-38
WEDNESDAY, Oct 22 Rom 6:12-18 Ps 123 Lk 12:39-48
THURSDAY, Oct 23 Rom 6:19-23 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 12:49-53
FRIDAY, Oct 24 Rom 7:18-25 Ps 118:66, 68, 76-77,93-94 Lk 12:54-59
SATURDAY, Oct 25 Rom 8:1-11 Ps 23:1-6 Lk 13:1-9
SUNDAY, Oct 26 Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19 Ps 33:2-3, 17-19, 23: 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18 Lk 18:9-14
30th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME
<i>(Taken from ORDO 2025, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2024)</i>

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>)

<u>MINISTERS OF THE WORD</u>	<u>18 and 19 OCT</u>	<u>25 and 26 OCT</u>
Saturday 5pm SL Sunday 8:30am SL 10:30am ST 5pm ST	Vanessa Marino & Lucy Ferris Melina Barcellona Ryan Yee Kevin Nguyen, Theresa Ngo & John Dinh	Liliana Restrepo Margaret Gearon Alfred Lee Ha Cao, Chi Nguyen & Thuy Vu
<u>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</u>	Visiting priests Margaret Gearon Pat Kawalewski Theresa Ngo	Edna Lee Melina Barcellona Laura Cigana Hoang Nguyen
<u>SLIDE OPERATORS</u>	Choir Rosemary Donaldson Manny Gonzalez Theresa Nguyen	Choir David Prabha Lee Min Yee Toan Tran
<u>SL WELCOMERS 18-19 OCT</u>	<u>SL CHURCH CLEANING</u>	<u>SL CHURCH FLOWERS</u>
5pm John Ryan 8.30am Janette Clark 10.30am Volunteer	1st Nov - Sonya's team Sonya O'Farrell, Netty Solomon, Anthony Fernandez & Eng Peng Sim	18th Oct: Ellen Donoghue 25th Oct: Edna Lee
<u>SL WELCOMERS 25-26 OCT</u>	<u>ST CHURCH CLEANING</u>	<u>ST CHURCH FLOWERS</u>
5:00pm Libby Theodore 8.30am Marie Pekish 10.30am Volunteer	25th Oct @ 8am Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee, Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen	Flowers: Parishioners
		<u>ST COUNTERS</u>
		This week Team 1: Owen Grealy & Anthony Yeo Next week Team 2: Raj & Violet Fonn

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 Brian Gardiner, Malcolm McCorquodale, Sister Maureen Hickling, Ronald Excell, Dick Moore, Maria Vinh Nguyen, John Williams, Emilio Moleta, Margarita Mendes, Kurt Ludescher, Magencia Arciaga, Joseph Sheales, Daisy Searle, Aldo Pinzone, Marcel Hickman, & Louis Rodrigues. May they rest in peace.

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.

LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP: Please read the letter from the Archbishop which is on the notice boards of both churches and in our online newsletter regarding the proposed changes to Victoria's Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide laws. Your support is welcomed and encouraged.

DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR: On Sunday 7th December, we will have in-person Safeguarding Essentials Training for all parish volunteers from 11.45am to 1pm at St Timothy's church (after the 10.30am Mass). This is compulsory for all volunteers in both churches. You can do this training online using the following link: [Safeguarding Essentials training module](#) | [Melbourne Catholic](#) Please email your certificate of completion to the parish office if you do it online.

OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN: This weekend, we are pausing our Offertory Giving Program due to the Installation Mass but it will continue over the next three 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.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Setting our minds and hearts on peace](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Saint Gerard's Feast Day](#)

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: \$439

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$283.60

Vietnamese Donation: \$266.20

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$402.45

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$555.60

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Miguel Ilagan & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Margaret Gearon &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Response to the Psalm: Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

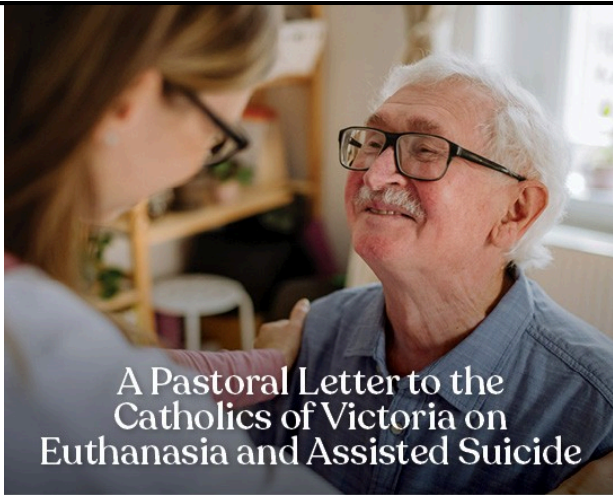


AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Year 9 – 25 years plus leaders

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@ /ACYF25



A Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Victoria on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

The State Government is seeking to amend Victoria's euthanasia and assisted suicide laws. If passed, the new laws would further weaken protections for vulnerable patients and reduce protections for nurses, doctors and other medical practitioners who conscientiously object. In response, the Bishops of Victoria have written a pastoral letter asking that we contact our local Members of Parliament and urge them to vote against these laws.

You can read the letter online and find out more by scanning the QR code or via: www.bit.ly/EuthanasiaBill.



ACYF CALL-OUT

Calling the youth of the parish (Year 9 to 25 years old) 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.

Registration closes on October 30th

Please register via the QR code above. For further information, please contact the parish office or any member of the Young Adult Ministry at luktimyam@gmail.com

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a 5-6 month program for those who are interested and would like to know more about

the Catholic faith as well as the possibility to encounter Jesus Christ in a personal way. It is a journey together with other enquirers as well as parishioners. The RCIA program will start on Thursday October 23rd @ 7pm at St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South. It will run from October to March 2026 with weekly meetings (1.5hrs) both in person and via Zoom. For more information or to join

in please contact the parish office.



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 19 OCTOBER 2025



COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
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

“All scripture is inspired by God” declared the author of 2 Timothy, as we hear today. These few words lie at the heart of a scholarly document published in 2014 by the Pontifical Biblical Commission. It was entitled *The Inspiration and Truth of Sacred Scripture: The Word That Comes from God and Speaks of God for the Salvation of the World*. Here are two extracts from it, the first from the Preface, the second from much later in the document.

“The life of the Church is founded on the Word of God. This Word is passed down in Sacred Scripture, namely, in the writings of the Old and New Testaments. According to the faith of the Church, all of these writings are inspired; they have God, who made use of human beings chosen by him for their composition, as their ultimate author.”

“In our study of the inspiration of the biblical writings, we have seen God’s tireless concern to address himself to his people . . . True disciples of Jesus, profoundly moved by faith in their Lord, wrote the books of the New Testament. These books are meant to be heard by true disciples of Jesus (cf. Matt 28:19), filled with living faith in him (cf. John 20:31). It is with the risen Jesus, according to the teaching that Jesus gave his disciples (cf. Luke 24:25-27, 44-47) and from his perspective, that we are called to read the writings of the Old Testament” (#53).

A reading from the book of Exodus 17:8–13

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm until sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

First Reading

The staff of Moses is a symbol of God's power worked through his servant, Moses. With it, Moses parted the waters of the Red Sea and led the Exodus of the people from slavery; it draws water from the rock in the desert; here it invokes God's help in the battle with the Amalekites.

Holding the staff and with arms raised in intercession, God's help brings victory, even when Moses has to sit down and have others hold up his aching arms. The story is meant to set up Jesus' parable in the gospel about the need to pray continually and not lose heart.

Readers should check the pronunciation of 'Amalekites', 'Rephidim' and 'Amalek'. This is a lively tale of battle, but at its heart is the solemn statuesque figure of Moses standing on the top of the hill.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 120

R. Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. **R.**

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. **R.**

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. **R.**

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

The whole of Psalm 120/121 is today's
responsorial psalm.

With echoes of Exodus, the psalmist looks to the mountain. He sees not Moses but the Lord standing guard, watching over him to protect him. God is the unsleeping watchman, in the sunlight or the moonlight, guarding us from evil. All our coming and going takes place under God's providence and attentive care. This is true not only for us, but for the whole of creation: this is the God who made heaven and earth.

This beautiful psalm of trust in God, regular in structure, will surely be a pleasure for the cantor/reader to proclaim.

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

3:14 – 4:2

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

18:1–8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said who had neither fear of God nor respect for man.

In the same town there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

Second Reading

The Mass has two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist: the risen Christ is really present in both. As Vatican Council II said: *The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body* (DV 21).

This is why the letter to Timothy says that the holy Scriptures lead us through faith to Jesus Christ. In the Scriptures, it is Christ who teaches us and guides us, who gives us the courage to refute error and, welcome or unwelcome, to proclaim God's kingdom.

What an honour to proclaim the word for the Sunday assembly! What a responsibility to do it well!

Once again, the sentences in this reading are complex with many subparts; intonation and pause will need careful attention. 'Man' should be read as 'one'.

Gospel

This gospel is about praying without giving up or losing heart. After his parable, Jesus thumps home the message: Will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry out to him day and night? I promise you, God *will* see justice done and speedily!

The intervening parable picks up one of Luke's favourite themes, the vindication of the oppressed and disadvantaged. He uses the classic example of the widow, a powerless woman with no one to look out for her. The self-centred judge who tried to ignore her ultimately gives her justice through her persistence.

If the persistent pleading of the widow can change the actions even of an unjust judge, how much more will the persistent prayer of the Christian achieve? If an unjust judge yields to the pleas of a mere widow, how much more will a kind and loving God take heed?

The final sentence is enigmatic as it stands. It refers back to the previous chapter which speaks of the coming of the kingdom of God, the Day of the Son of Man. It places persistent prayer into this context of expectant hope.

The twice repeated phrase 'nor respect for man' could be read 'nor respect for others'.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time V)

May almighty God always keep every adversity far from us
and in his kindness pour out upon us the gifts of his blessing.

Amen.

May God keep our hearts attentive to his words,
that they may be filled with everlasting gladness.

Amen.

And so, may we always understand what is good and right,
and be found ever hastening along
in the path of God's commands,
made coheirs with the citizens of heaven.

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 V, Roman Missal p. 716)



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



MY LORD MY GOD



A Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Victoria on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In the next few weeks, the Victorian Parliament will be asked to debate a Bill that would further weaken protections for vulnerable patients and reduce protections for medical practitioners who conscientiously object to euthanasia and assisted suicide.

We are writing today to ask you to contact your local Members of Parliament and urge them to vote against this Bill.

As the late Pope Francis reminded us, *“euthanasia is often presented falsely as a form of compassion. Yet ‘compassion’ ... does not involve the intentional ending of a life, but rather the willingness to share the burdens of those facing the end stages of our earthly pilgrimage.”*¹

The Government’s Bill seeks to remove many of the limited protections offered by Victoria’s so-called ‘voluntary assisted dying’ (VAD) laws. The changes would, for the first time, allow medical practitioners to raise euthanasia and assisted suicide with patients who have never asked about it – patients who may be at their most vulnerable. The changes would also force medical practitioners who conscientiously object to euthanasia and assisted suicide to provide patients with information about euthanasia and assisted suicide – as determined by the Government.

As Pope Francis explained, *“our religious convictions offer a more profound understanding of illness, suffering and death, seeing these as part of the mystery of divine providence and, for the Christian tradition, a means towards sanctification. At the same time, the compassionate actions and respect shown by dedicated medical personnel and caregivers have often created the possibility for those at the end of their lives to find spiritual comfort, hope and reconciliation with God, family members and friends.”*²

As Catholics, we stand united in this conviction with many people of good will from other Christian communities and from other religions. Earlier this year, a group of religious leaders from Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities united in calling on the Victorian Government to abandon its proposed changes to VAD laws. As the leaders made clear, *“we do not believe euthanasia or assisted suicide can ever be made safe – since they involve acts that are unsafe in their very essence.”*

Instead of attempting to expand euthanasia and assisted suicide, we urge Members of Parliament to continue expanding access to good palliative care to all Victorians, particularly for those in the regions.

¹ Holy See, *Message of the Holy Father to the participants in the Symposium “Towards a Narrative of Hope: an International Interfaith Symposium on Palliative Care”, 22 May 2024*, press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/05/22/240522a.html
² Ibid

Palliative care provides holistic care to people living with terminal illness or who are close to death. It maximises comfort and support, seeking to address psychological, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs as well as attending to distress and relieving pain. We are fortunate to have high-quality palliative care in Australia, with testimony from palliative care physicians making clear that it is extremely rare for pain to be unrelievable in this day and age.

The late Pope also offered particular words of encouragement that we repeat today to those dedicated nurses, doctors, carers and other health professionals who support patients at the end of their lives, *“your service is important – I would even say essential – in helping the sick and dying realize that they are not isolated or alone, that their lives are not a burden, but that they always remain inherently valuable in the eyes of God (cf. Psalm 116:15) and united to us by the bonds of communion.”*³

³ Ibid

You can find your local state parliamentarians here: <https://findelectorate.parliament.vic.gov.au>


The Australian Bishops have published a document to guide priests, chaplains and pastoral workers who are asked to provide pastoral support to Catholics who are considering euthanasia, *To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope*. You can find a copy of this document here: www.bit.ly/WitnessandAccompany

A copy of the joint letter and submission by faith leaders to Victorian parliamentarians can be found here: www.bit.ly/EuthanasiaBill. It provides further information about the changes canvassed by the Government.

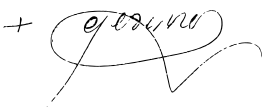
Yours sincerely in Christ,



His Eminence Mykola Cardinal Bychok CSsR
Eparch, Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne for
Ukrainian Catholics in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania



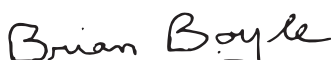
Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli DD
Archbishop, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



Most Reverend Greg Bennet DD
Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Sale



Most Reverend Paul Bird CSsR DD
Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat



Reverend Dr Brian Boyle
Administrator, Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst



Most Reverend John Panamthottathil CMI
Eparch, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle,
Melbourne



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BLACKBURN SOUTH



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

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BOOK A
TOUR





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TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



20TH APRIL –
3RD MAY 2026

LED BY
FR ALEX CHOW

14
DAYS

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

OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AU\$1,150

FULLY
ESCORTED

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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

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

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

(Ephesians 4:2)

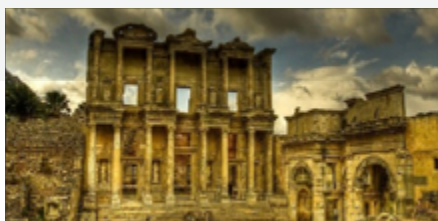
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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

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

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



NEXT STEPS

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



Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696
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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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**

Itinerary subject to change **

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

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

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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

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

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

PRICE INCLUSIONS:

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

NOT INCLUDED:

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

HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

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

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3. Final balances will be due by late February 2026.

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 South and St Timothy Forest Hill
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By
Olivia
Dawson