



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 26th 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** - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.  
each month at 7pm  
at St Luke's Presbytery

Sirach 35:12-19, Psalm 33,2 Timothy 4:6-18

### Gospel Reflection Luke 18:9-14

**Meditation:** How can we know if our prayer is pleasing to God or not? The prophet Hosea, who spoke in God's name, said: "I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice" (Hosea 6:6). The prayers and sacrifices we make to God mean nothing to him if they do not spring from a heart of love for God and for one's neighbour. How can we expect God to hear our prayers if we do not approach him with humility and with a contrite heart that seeks mercy and forgiveness? We stand in constant need of God's grace and help. That is why Scripture tells us that "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6; Proverbs 3:34).

### God hears the prayer of the humble:

Jesus reinforced this warning with a vivid story of two people at prayer. Why did the Lord accept one person's prayer and reject the other's prayer? Luke gives us a hint: despising one's neighbour closes the door to God's heart. Expressing disdain and contempt for others is more than being mean-minded. It springs from the assumption that one is qualified to sit in the seat of judgment and to publicly shame those who do not conform to our standards and religious practices. Jesus' story caused offense to the religious-minded Pharisees who regarded "tax collectors" as unworthy of God's grace and favor. How could Jesus put down a "religious person" and raise up a "public sinner"? Jesus' parable speaks about the nature of prayer and our relationship with God. It does this by contrasting two very different attitudes towards prayer. The Pharisee, who represented those who take pride in their religious practices, exalted himself at the expense of others. Absorbed with his own sense of self-satisfaction and self-congratulation, his boastful prayer was centred on his good religious practices rather than on God's goodness, grace, and pardon. Rather than humbling himself before God and asking for God's mercy and help, this man praised himself while despising those he thought less worthy. The Pharisee tried to justify himself before God and before those he despised; but only God can justify us. The tax collector, who represented those despised by religious-minded people, humbled himself before God and begged for mercy. His prayer was heard by God because he had true sorrow for his sins. He sought God with humility rather than with pride.

**The humble recognize their need for God's mercy and help:** This parable presents both an opportunity and a warning. Pride leads to self-deception and spiritual blindness. True humility helps us to see ourselves as we really are in God's eyes and it inclines us to seek God's help and mercy. God dwells with the humble of heart who recognize their own sinfulness and who acknowledge God's mercy and saving grace. I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit (Isaiah 57:15). God cannot hear us if we boast in ourselves and despise others. Do you humbly seek God's mercy and do you show mercy to others, especially those you find difficult to love and to forgive?



The Pharisee and the Publican, at the Ottobereun Basilica, 18th century, Oil, fresco, stucco

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**Next Week's Daily Readings 27 Oct - 2 Nov**

**MONDAY, Oct 27** Rom 8:12-17  
Ps 67:2, 4, 6-7, 20-21 Lk 13:10-17

**TUESDAY, Tues 28** Eph 2:19-22  
Ps 18:2-5 Lk 6:12-19  
Sts Simon and Jude, apostles

**WEDNESDAY, Oct 29** Rom 8:26-30  
Ps 12:4-6 Lk 13:22-30

**THURSDAY, Oct 30** Rom 8:31-39  
Ps 108:21-22, 26-27, 30-31 Lk 13:31-35

**FRIDAY, Oct 31** Rom 9:1-5  
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 14:1-6

**SATURDAY, Nov 1** Rev 7:2-4, 9-14  
Ps 23:1-6: 1 Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12

**ALL SAINTS**

**SUNDAY, Nov 2** Wisdom 3:1-9  
Ps 27 Rom 6:34, 8-9  
Mt 25:31-46

**31st 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

**25 and 26 OCT**

Liliana Restrepo  
Margaret Gearon  
Alfred Lee  
Ha Cao, Chi Nguyen & Thuy Vu Hoa Doan, Hieu Nguyen & Tuyet Nguyen

**1 and 2 NOV**

Mia Perang  
Kana Chelliah  
Jane D'Souza

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

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

Edna Lee  
Melina Barcellona  
Laura Cigana  
Hoang Nguyen

Lucy Ferris  
Beryl Chelliah  
Anico Yee  
Hung Nguyen

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

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

Choir  
David Prabha  
Lee Min Yee  
Toan Tran

Choir  
Megan McLean  
Manny Gonzalez  
Toan Tran

**SL WELCOMERS 25-26 OCT**

5pm Libby Theodore  
8.30am Marie Pekish  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

1st Nov - Sonya's team  
Sonya O'Farrell, Netty Solomon,  
Anthony Fernandez & Eng Peng Sim

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

25th Oct: Edna Lee  
1st Nov: Jo Adams

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Flowers: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 1-2 NOV**

5:00pm Edna Lee  
8.30am Margaret Gearon  
10.30am Volunteer

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

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

**ST COUNTERS**

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

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**All who are sick**, especially 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**, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Joanna Wong, Kathleen McLoney, Luigina Isola, Carmella Zuccarello, James Mascarinas, Lyndon Albarracin, Gina Gangi, Alleluia Mendes, Priscilo Nengasea, Merlyn Alwis, Faye Ilbern, Margaret Curtain, Angelina Viola, Filomena Cigana, Edward Bevans, Lorraine Oakman, Margie Ratcliff, Mary Morton, Kevin Pretby & Maria Nguyen Thi Lanh. 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.

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the Installation Mass for Fr Alex and the celebrations afterwards such a success. Particular thanks must go to Mary Italiano who lead the organising team. We hope all parishioners enjoyed the occasion.

**OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN:** Dear Parishioners, thank you to everyone who promptly collected their offertory giving envelopes last weekend. If you have not yet retrieved yours, you should either have received in the mail or it will arrive shortly. For those who wish to submit their filled-out pledge cards, there are several convenient options:

- Place them in the first or second collections during Mass
  - Drop them off at the parish office
  - Deposit them in the designated box located in the foyer
- Your ongoing generosity and dedication to our parish are truly appreciated. Thank you for your support in strengthening our community and mission.

**CALLED TO BE HOLY: YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT DAY:** A day of retreat for young adults to reflect on the call to holiness, talks by Australian evangelists Brian Welsh and Lachie Mitchell. The day will include talks, personal reflection, fellowship, a solemn mass for All Saints, adoration, praise, confession and a Celebration meal for dinner. St Luke's Parish Hall, Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. from 10am to 10pm. To book, visit : <https://www.trybooking.com/DGEUB>

## Resources .....

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** [Fostering a deep respect for life](#)

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** [Being True to Yourself](#)

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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: \$304.15

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$274.40

Vietnamese Donation: \$266

**SL:** Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$756.85

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$565.05

## 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:** Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

**Eucharistic Acclamation:** We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**Communion Antiphon:** We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

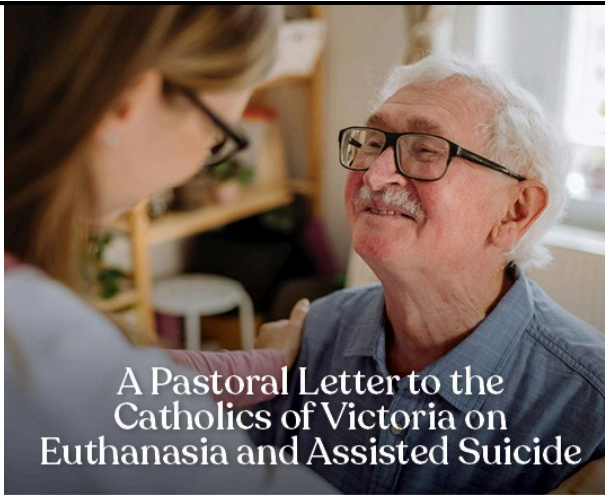


**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL**

*Year 9 – 25 years plus leaders*

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA • 30 NOV – 2 DEC 2025


**ACYF.ORG.AU**  
@ /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](http://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](mailto:luktimyam@gmail.com)

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a 5 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 Tuesday October 28rd @ 7pm at St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South. It will run till 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.



Humble yourself and you  
will be honoured



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

What things did the tax collector say to God?

How can we be humble like the tax collector?



Colour in the tax collector.

## Match up the correct endings

Draw a line from the first half of each sentence to its correct ending.



The Pharisee and the Tax Collector went

you will be honoured.

The Pharisee prayed

"God, have pity on me! I am a sinner."

The Tax Collector prayed

you will be put down.

If you put yourself above others

to the temple to pray.

If you humble yourself

"God, I thank you that I am not greedy or dishonest."

# 30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 26 OCTOBER 2025



## COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,  
increase our faith, hope and charity,  
and make us love what you command,  
so that we may merit what you promise.  
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

Catholics know today's parable very well but seem to take it the wrong way! At church or in a lecture hall, Catholics fill the venue from the back. Seats at the front are always the last to be filled.

Two months ago, on the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Lectionary readings opened up the theme of humility, and the gospel story used the same paradoxical saying that concludes today's parable: *Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted.* It is worth reflecting a little more deeply on the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector. What is our attitude to others? How do we see ourselves before God?

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus**  
**35:12–14, 16–19**

The Lord is a judge  
who is no respecter of personages.  
He shows no respect of personages  
to the detriment of a poor man,  
he listens to the plea of the injured party.  
He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,  
nor the widow's as she pours out her story.  
The man who with his whole heart serves God  
will be accepted,  
his petitions will carry to the clouds.  
The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,  
until it arrives he is inconsolable,  
nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him,  
acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.  
And the Lord will not be slow,  
nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

**First Reading**

In the psalm we sing: *The Lord hears the cry of the poor!* This sums up perfectly the message of this first reading. God raises up the humble: the poor, the injured, the orphan, the widow, the one who serves God. Often people may not take much notice of them here on earth, but God listens and will not be slow to help them.

In the best prophetic tradition, Sirach who authored this book proclaims the importance of social justice, a vision which promotes respect for each and every person whatever their assets or position in society. All are loved by God.

The reading has a couple of unusual words. A 'personage' is an important or distinguished person; the reader's intonation should try to convey this meaning. 'Dilatory' has its stress on the first syllable. 'Man' occurs three times: check the solutions given by the NRSV to decide how to read these words.

**Responsorial Psalm**      **Ps 33:2–3, 17–19, 23**

**R.** The Lord hears the cry of the poor.  
I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**  
The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The just call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress. **R.**  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 33/34 offers God praise and thanksgiving because he is close to the broken-hearted, listens to the just and rescues them from distress. No wonder *the humble shall hear and be glad!*

The sentiments of this psalm fit the message of the first reading well and together they set up a broad context in which we will hear the gospel parable. God is faithful and the oppressed can confidently turn to God for help.

The one couplet that rejects the wicked, marks a transition from joyful praise to the affirmation of God's care and kindness for the humble. The cantor/reader should try to express this transition.

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy** 4:6–8, 16–18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke** 18:9–14

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

**Second Reading**

Omitting a section of personal news and names, today's reading falls into two clear parts, both of which end with a vision of victory with the risen Christ.

In the first section, Paul is looking to his looming death. He speaks of his energetic missionary work using the image of an athlete: he has competed well, finished the race, and is anticipating the victor's laurel wreath he will be given; this he will share with all the faithful disciples.

The second section addresses Paul's trial in which he laments that he was left alone... except that the Lord stood by him and gave him power. This meant that even his trial was a proclamation of the message of the gospel. He rejoices that God has rescued him and is bringing him safely to the heavenly kingdom. Like Christ, suffering is his passage to glory. The text concludes with a doxology of praise.

**Gospel**

The Pharisees often get bad press. They were a respected group of educated lay people dedicated to living good and holy lives.

Jesus in his parable sets up two fictional individuals as extreme opposites.

The words of the Pharisee indicate his endeavours to live an upright life. The problem is his pride. He is smug. He boasts before God of what he thinks he has done by his own efforts, and displays his utter disdain for everyone else, and especially the tax collector he sees there in the Temple. He is exalting himself.

In contrast to the highly-regarded Pharisee is the generally-despised tax collector. He bends down before God acknowledging he is a sinner and pleading for mercy. He is humbling himself.

Then in typical Lukan fashion comes the great and shocking reversal. The Pharisee does not go home at rights with God, the tax collector does! *Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

So the parable is not about sitting in the back seats. It is about the humility of realising our utter dependence on God's grace and mercy.

# CONCLUDING PRAYER

## Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time VI)

May God bless us with every heavenly blessing,  
make us always holy and pure in his sight,  
pour out in abundance upon us the riches of his glory,  
and teach us with the words of truth;  
may he instruct us in the Gospel of salvation,  
and ever endow us with fraternal charity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**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 VI, Roman Missal p. 717)



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.”*<sup>1</sup>

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.”*<sup>2</sup>

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.

<sup>1</sup> 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](https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/05/22/240522a.html)  
<sup>2</sup> 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.”*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.bit.ly/EuthanasiaBill). It provides further information about the changes canvassed by the Government.

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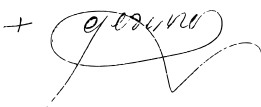
Yours sincerely in Christ,



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



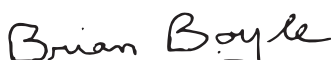
**Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli DD**  
Archbishop, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



**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



ST. LUKES SCHOOL  
BLACKBURN SOUTH



# St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

## We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO  
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St Luke the Evangelist Primary 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:  
per person (twin share)

AUD\$ 8,490\*

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)*

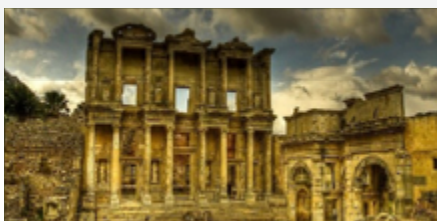
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

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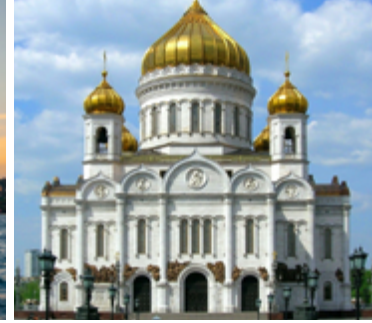
Itinerary subject to change \*\*

**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

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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:

Father Alex Chow  
 Administrator of St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn  
 South and St Timothy Forest Hill  
 Phone: 03 9412 8499  
 Mobile: 0431 075 674



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of  
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By  
Olivia  
Dawson