



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



All Souls Day, Year C - 2nd November 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

Wisdom 3:1-9 Ps 26, Romans 6:3-9
Gospel Reflection Luke 7: 11-17

For Culture of Encounter

The culture of **encounter** as Jesus did is not just seeing, but looking; not just hearing, but listening; not just passing people by, but stopping with them; not just saying 'what a shame, poor people!', but allowing yourself to be moved with compassion and then to draw near, to touch and to say 'Do not weep' and to give at least a drop of life. It is an encounter between people who were in the street. When we go into the street, every person man thinks of oneself: he sees, but does not look; he hears, but does not listen. Everyone goes their own way as people pass each other, but they do not encounter each other. An encounter is something else, it is between a man and a woman, between an only son who is alive and an only son who is dead; between a happy group of people, happy because they have encountered Jesus and followed him.

The Gospel says when the Lord Jesus saw her, he had **compassion** on her just as when he saw the crowds, on the day of the multiplication of the loaves or he was before the tomb of his friend Lazarus, he wept. This compassion is not the same as what we normally feel when, for example, we go out into the street and see something sad: 'What a shame!'. After all, Jesus did not say: 'What a poor woman!'. On the contrary, Jesus went further as he was seized with compassion. And he drew near and said to her: 'Do not weep'. In this way, Jesus, with his compassion, involves himself with that woman's problem. He drew near, he spoke as he touched. When he touched the coffin and said 'do not weep' he touched the heart of the widow as well. A caress. Jesus was moved and then performed the miracle as He raised the young man to life. Jesus' action is the tenderness of an encounter as well as the fruitfulness of an encounter. The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus returned him to his mother'.

People are far too accustomed to a culture of **indifference** and need to work and ask for the grace to build a culture of encounter, of this fruitful encounter, an encounter that returns to each person their dignity as children of God, the dignity of living. We are accustomed to this indifference, whether it be when we see the calamities of this world or when faced with the little things. We limit ourselves to saying 'Oh, what a shame, poor people, they suffer so much', and then we move on.

The day-to-day encounter between Jesus and his bride, the Church, who awaits his return. Every time that Jesus finds pain, a sinner, a person in the street, He looks at them, He speaks to them, He returns them to his bride. Jesus' encounter with his people; the encounter of Jesus who serves, who helps, who is the servant, who lowers himself, who is compassionate with all those in need. When we say 'those in need' let us think not only of the homeless, but also of ourselves, of those of us, who are in need, in need of Jesus' words, of his caress — and also of those who are dear to us. So often people id indifferent to that encounter, for example, while watching TV or writing messages on their phones. Even right there at the core of society, which is the family, there is no encounter. There is a great need to work for the culture of encounter, in a simple way, as Jesus did.

Extracted from Pope Francis' morning meditation in the Chapel of the Domus Sancte Marthae (L'Osservatore Romano, Weekly ed. in English, n. 38, 23 September.



Raising of Widow's Son at Nain, Master of the Darmstadt Passion (1445), © Alte Pinakothek, Munich

Next Week's Daily Readings 3 Nov - 9 Nov

MONDAY, Nov 3 Rom 11:19-36
Ps 68:30-31, 33-34, 36-37 Lk 14:12-14

TUESDAY, Nov 4 Rom 12:5-16
Ps 130: Lk 14:15-24
St Charles Borromeo, bishop

WEDNESDAY, Nov 5 Rom 13:8-10
Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 Lk 14:25-33

THURSDAY, Nov 6 Rom 14:7-12
Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14 Lk 15:1-10

FRIDAY, Nov 7 Rom 15:14-21
Ps 97:1-4 Lk 16:1-8

SATURDAY, Nov 8 Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27
Ps 144:2-5, 10-11 Lk 16:9-15
ALL SAINTS

SUNDAY, Nov 9 Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9: 1 Cor 3:9-11, 16-17
Jn 2:13-22

THE DEDICATION of the LATERAN BASILICA

32nd 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

1 and 2 NOV

Mia Perang
Kana Chelliah
Jane D'Souza
Hoa Doan, Hieu Nguyen
& Tuyet Nguyen

8 and 9 NOV

Edna Lee
Beryl Chelliah
Molly Hemsley
Thu Ngo, Hung Nguyen
& Nhat Dang

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Lucy Ferris
Beryl Chelliah
Anico Yee
Hung Nguyen

Olive Hammill
Kana Chelliah
Daphne Hickman
Hung Tran

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
Megan McLean
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

Choir
Paul Tierney
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 1-2 NOV

5pm Edna Lee
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

15th Nov - Bernard's team
Bernard O'Malley, Joanne Nolan,
Melina Barcellona & Anne Allsopp

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

1st Nov: Jo Adams
8th Nov: Marie Parker

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 8-9 NOV

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

ST CHURCH CLEANING

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

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 3:
Peter Deayton & Kelvin Chen
Next week Team 4:
Mary Choy & Eileen Chang

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 Pius and Irene Pereira, Rob Donohoe, Gabriele Cigana, George Arulanandam, Pam Hosking, Benjamin Galam, Addie Perez, Alma Dauksa, Des McCoy, Kevin Carroll, Thecla Floor & Nicholas Bertie Fernandes. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER:

For the prevention of suicide. Let us pray that those who are tempted to commit suicide might find the support, care, and love they need in their community and be open to the beauty of life

OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN: This is the final weekend of our Parish Offertory Program, and we want to thank you for your response. Your generosity is more than just financial support—it is an act of faith, trust, and gratitude to God. Every gift is a reflection of our relationship with Him and our commitment to His work in our parish. If you have not yet returned your Pledge Card, they are available on the pews this weekend. I invite you to take a moment to prayerfully consider your offering and return your card during Mass. You may also submit your pledge by placing it in the offertory collection, dropping it off at the parish office, or sending it by mail. Thank you once again for your faithfulness and generosity. Every pledge—no matter the size—is a response to God's blessings and helps strengthen our parish for the future.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL AT ST TIMOTHY'S: On Sunday 9th November we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the St Vincent de Paul conference at St Timothy's at the 10.30am Mass followed by morning tea. All are welcome to remember previous members and thank the current members.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS & CHRISTMAS CARDS: 2026 Calendars are on sale at the St Timothy's Piety Stall for \$9.00. Christmas Cards are also on sale. Packs of 5 cards are \$5.00 and \$10.00 for a pack of 10 cards. Calendars & cards are available at St Luke's for a donation into the poor box in the church foyer.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL (ACYF): Please pray for the pilgrims who are attending this festival from our parish from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2

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). Please save the date.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: The power of humble, loving service

MAJELLAN MEDIA: Remember the Faithfully Departed

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: \$390.90

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$300.10

Vietnamese Donation: \$229

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$589.25

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$797.85

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: Just as Jesus died and has risen again, so through Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep; and as in Adam all die, so also in Christ will all be brought to life.

Response to the Psalm: I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever.

ENCOUNTER NIGHT

All are welcome to attend the Encounter Night on Saturday November 15th at St Luke's run by the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community. See flyer below and in the foyer of both churches.



Praise and Worship
Adoration
Reconciliation
Testimony
Prayer Ministry
Benediction

Saturday 15 November
7:00 pm - 8:30pm
St Luke's, Blackburn Sth

Encounter night

Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community
Melbourne Branch
Email: admin@dojmelbourne.org.au
Web: dojmelbourne.org.au
Facebook: [facebook.com/dojmelbs/](https://www.facebook.com/dojmelbs/)
Instagram: @dojmelbs

DISCIPLES OF JESUS
COVENANT COMMUNITY

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST TIMOTHY'S



On Sunday 9th November, we are starting a Children's Liturgy group at the 10.30am Mass at St Timothy's which will continue on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. All sessions will be supervised by at least two adult leaders. Parents are welcome to accompany their children.

The children will receive a blessing from Fr Alex after the opening prayer and return at the presentation of the gifts.

There is no need to register in advance, just turn up on the day.

Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.

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. 5 Nov. @ 7pm

**WHERE: St Luke's Presbytery,
46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South**

TOPIC: *Finding True Freedom, Right and wrong, conscience and discovering your true identity.*

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

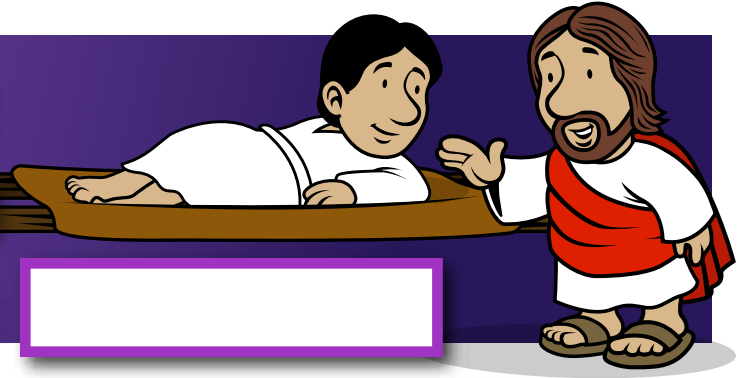
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

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 continue on Tuesday, November 4th @ 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.



A great prophet has appeared among us




All Souls - Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

Write a prayer of remembrance to those who have died - it can be for someone you know or someone you have heard about.

Dear Lord,

Amen.



The Lord says that those who have faith will be raised to life on the last day, even if they die. Write or draw some ways that you can show that you have faith.

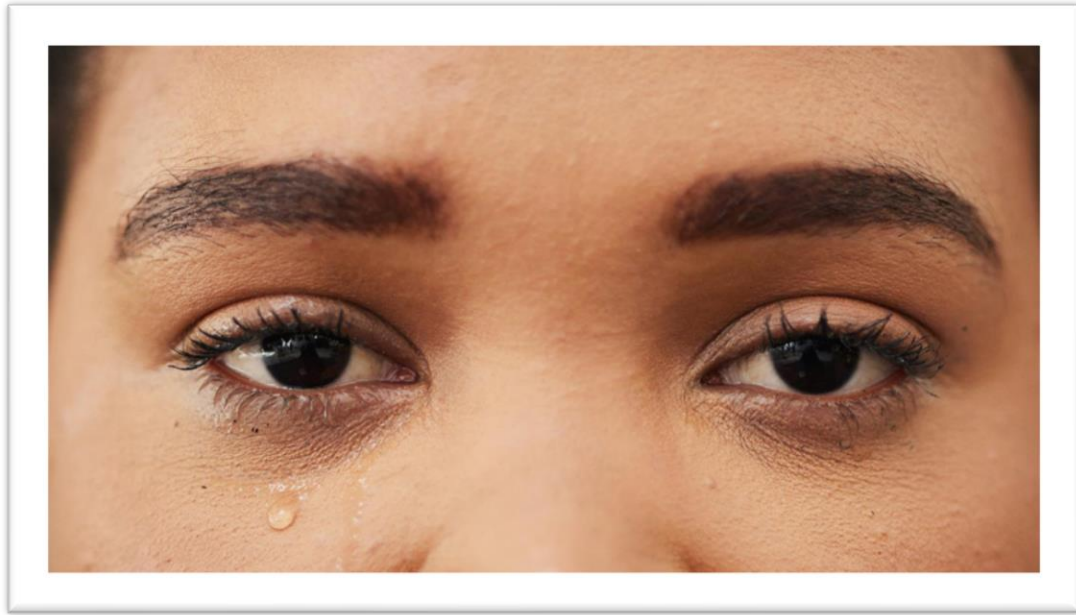
The people who saw Jesus raise the dead man to life were frightened, but they praised God. Use the words below to find out what they said.

visited
God
appeared
great
people
prophet

A _____ has
_____ among us; _____ has
_____ his _____.



ALL SOULS' DAY – 2 NOVEMBER 2025



COLLECT

Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord,
and, as our faith in your Son,
raised from the dead, is deepened,
so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants
also find new strength.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

For this feast, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, any of the readings for Masses for the Dead (found in volume three of the Lectionary) may be used. There are 7 Old Testament, 15 New Testament and 19 Gospel choices available. Check with the arrangements that the parish has put in place for today's Mass. The Sunday Lectionary (volume one) gives the first text in each list with a gospel for the three-year cycle to match the Ordinary Time cycle. These are the texts we give here.

All Souls' Day celebrates the same mystery as yesterday's feast of All Saints, though from a different perspective. Both feasts look to Jesus' death and resurrection and recognise that this Paschal Mystery is the hope of those who are baptised into Christ. All Saints however celebrates the fact that those who have been faithful rejoice with Christ in glory. All Souls remembers those who have died and commends them to God's generous care. The two feasts together recognise the ambiguity of human life after death and the mystery of our destiny in Christ.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord God will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1, 4, 7-9, 13-14

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.
or

R. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord
in the land of the living.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord! **R.**

First Reading

Whatever people's tears or shame, the Lord
will triumph.

The prophet imagines that, on God's holy
mountain, a great banquet will be set up. This
image of the messianic banquet is one of the
most inspiring images of the kingdom of God
because it speaks of the promise of festivity
and joy. It is inclusive of all peoples and
nations. Death is undone and the funerary signs
of mourning are destroyed because in God we
are saved and have life.

The text finishes with an exultant hymn of joy
that we are saved by the Lord. It should be
easy to read well.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26/27 is a prayer of trust and
confidence. The Lectionary offers two options
for the response: the first from the opening line
of the psalm, the second longer response from
the beginning of the fourth verse. Perhaps the
first shorter response will be easier, unless the
parish has a good musical setting for the
second.

The four verses for proclamation are taken
from different parts of the psalm. They all
express a spirit of confidence and trust, but the
third is rather different. It is a prayer
addressed to God; it is particularly poignant
on this day to ask that God not hide his face
when we are seeking.

The pitch of the reader's voice should drop at
the end of each stanza to cue the assembly to
sing the response. It is particularly important in
the second six-line stanza to hold up the pitch
until the cue at the end.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:5-11

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

7:11-17

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up'. And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

Second Reading

When we sin, God does not turn away from us; no, we turn away from God who is always there reaching out towards us. The Holy Spirit pours God's love into our hearts. That is why hope springs eternal!

The central affirmation of this reading is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. We are reconciled and saved not by anything of our own effort or merit, but purely by God's grace.

Readers, prepare well for this reading, taking time to trace the line of Paul's thought. The clearer you are in your own mind, the better the assembly will understand the good news. You will need to take careful note of the rhetorical question in the middle of the text: not infrequently readers have been heard to say: 'it is likely...' which completely betrays the meaning of the text.

The non-inclusive term 'man' is problematic. A reader might read it as follows: ... *at his appointed moment Christ died for sinners. It is not easy to die even for a good person – though of course for someone really worthy, one might be prepared to die...*

Gospel

This is an emotional and touching story. As Jesus encounters the funeral procession of a young man, his heart goes out to the mother and he says to her gently, 'Do not cry'. He follows his consoling words with action: Young man, get up! and the dead man sits up and begins to talk. Obviously everyone is overawed and amazed.

This is also a typical Lukan story where a disadvantaged person is lifted up. Again, it is a widow whose sole support was her son. Without him, she is left with nothing. Jesus, in restoring her beloved son, is also restoring her livelihood.

In Jesus, God visits his people. This story of Jesus' compassion for the lowly should be read with great warmth and empathy.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (All Souls)

May the God of all consolation bless you,
for in his unfathomable goodness he created the human race,
and in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son
he has given believers the hope of rising again.
Amen.

To us who are alive, may God grant pardon for our sins,
and to all the dead, a place of light and peace.
Amen.

So may we all live happily for ever with Christ,
whom we believe truly rose from the dead.
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 All Souls, Roman Missal p. 720)



JOIN THE MELBOURNE YOUTH MISSION TEAM

22 NOV
2025

9AM - 9PM

in the

SSAULTS

A CATHOLIC
YOUTH RETREAT
FOR HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN
YRS 8-12

FOR GAMES, FELLOWSHIP,
FOOD & FORMATION

WHERE:

ST LUKE'S PARISH HALL
46 ORCHARD GROVE
BLACKBURN SOUTH
VIC 3130

CONTACT:

MELBOURNE MANAGER
ANTHONY BOLLING
0419 103 511



REGISTRATION: [YMT.COM.AU/ISTANDEVENTS](https://www.ymt.com.au/istandevents)



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
BOOK A
TOUR




St Luke the Evangelist Primary School Blackburn South
9877 4023 | www.slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



20TH APRIL –
3RD MAY 2026

LED BY
FR ALEX CHOW

14
DAYS

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

OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AU\$1,150

FULLY
ESCORTED

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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

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

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

(Ephesians 4:2)

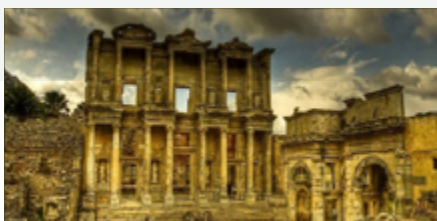
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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

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

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



NEXT STEPS

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



Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696
info@olivetretravel.com.au www.olivetretravel.com.au
103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



DAY 1 MONDAY 20TH APRIL

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Melbourne this evening on your Emirates flight to Dubai. On arrival, transfer to your connecting flight to Athens.

DAY 2 TUESDAY 21ST APRIL

ARRIVE ATHENS

Arrive in Athens today. Athens is the thriving capital of Greece but more importantly, we have entered into the world of the New Testament where St Paul and his companions established the first Christian communities throughout his four missionary journeys. On arrival in **Athens** we will be met and transferred to our centrally located hotel for the remainder of the day at leisure. Athens overnight (D)

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL

ATHENS - CORINTH – ATHENS

Journey out to **Ancient Corinth** where the Apostle Paul lived for almost two years, teaching the people the Word of God and converting many. We visit the ancient ruins and see the site where he preached the Gospel from the **Rostrum**. Also visit the Peirene fountain, and the 6th century BC **Temple of Apollo** before an outdoor Mass in this stunning pilgrimage setting. Finally we come to **Cenchreae**, the ancient port from where Paul said farewell to the believers and departed for Ephesus (Acts 18:18). Return to Athens in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 4 THURSDAY 23RD APRIL

ATHENS

When St Paul first came to Athens it was predominantly a city that worshipped pagan gods. St Paul was taken before the city council at the Areopagus Hill, a rough outcrop of limestone rock from which he preached the Gospel message to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:16-21). We begin our day with a tour of **Christian Athens** including the **Acropolis**, the **Areopagus** where St Paul delivered his famous sermon about the identity of "the Unknown God" (Acts 17:15-34) and the **Parthenon**. Continue for a visit the **Ancient Agora** and a bus tour to see the highlights of the city including the Kallimarmaro Stadium, dating back to 330 B.C. and restored for the first modern Olympic Games held here in 1896. Visit to the New Acropolis museum. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Athens. (BD)

DAY 5 FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

ATHENS – METEORA – KALAMBAKA

Depart this morning and travel north to the small town of **Kalambaka** built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of **Meteora**. Marvel at this unique phenomenon of nature – 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their Monastic community of Meteora. We visit two of the Byzantine Meteora monasteries. Among striking scenery and perched on top of huge rocks, the ageless monasteries of Meteora seem to be suspended in mid-air. The monasteries contain beautiful Byzantine art and offer an insight to the mystic world of the monks still residing there. Mass this evening, will be held in a private room at the hotel before dinner and overnight in Kalambaka (BD)

DAY 6 SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

KALAMBAKA – VERGINA – VERIA – THESSALONIKI

Depart this morning to **Vergina**, the first capital of the Macedonian Kingdom. Here we visit the "Vergina findings", treasures of Ancient Macedonia and the tomb of King Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. A few minutes away is Veria, located on the ruins of **Ancient Beroea**, is one of Apostle Paul's stops. Here we see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. Continue our drive to Thessaloniki. Dinner & overnight in Thessaloniki. (BD)

DAY 7 SUNDAY 26TH APRIL

THESSALONIKI

Today is for Thessaloniki exploration. Welcome to Greece's second city, founded in 315 BC, and where St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. See the ramparts of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius and the Roman Agora where St Paul once preached. We shall visit St Demetrios' Church with its valuable mosaics and frescoes and will drive up to the upper town, which offers a marvellous view of the city. We will also have the chance to celebrate Mass at the Catholic Church. Dinner & overnight in Thessaloniki. (BD)

DAY 8 MONDAY 27TH APRIL

PHILIPPI – KAVALA – THESSALONIKI

Arise and journey along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul to nearby Philippi, named after Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. It was here that St Paul won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira (Acts 16:12-40). Visit the Baptistery of Lydia for a beautiful outdoor Mass on the River Zygaktis, and renew

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our Baptismal vows. Visit the market place (where St Paul and St Silas were brought before the rulers) and the cistern which tradition identifies as the place where St Paul was imprisoned. We will also see the famous Acropolis, Basilica and the theatre. It was here that he established the first Christian Church in Europe. Visit the Octagonal church, an early Christian monument thought to be built on the site where St. Paul had established a house of prayer. Finally, we drive to the port in Kavala (Neapolis in New Testament times), where Paul landed with Timothy, Silas, and Luke. Return to your hotel in Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (BD)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**

Itinerary subject to change **

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRICE INCLUSIONS:

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

NOT INCLUDED:

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

HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

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

NEXT STEPS

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

WHO TO CONTACT:

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 South and St Timothy Forest Hill
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By
Olivia
Dawson