



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Year C - 9th 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

Ezekiel 47:1-12, Ps 45:2-9, 1 Corinthians 3:9-17,
Gospel Reflection **John 2:13-22**

Meditation: What can keep us from the presence of God? Jesus' dramatic cleansing of the temple was seen by his disciples as a prophetic sign of God's action. The temple was understood as the dwelling place of God among his people. When God delivered his people from slavery in Egypt, he brought them through the sea, and finally to Mount Sinai where he made a covenant with them and gave them a new way of life embodied in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). God gave Moses instruction for worship and for making the Tabernacle, or Tent of Meeting, which was later replaced by the Temple at Jerusalem. The New Testament tells us that these "serve as a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary" - God's Temple in heaven (Hebrews 8:5). Jesus' cleansing of the temple is also a prophetic sign of what he wants to do with each of us. He ever seeks to cleanse us of sin and make us living temples of his Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19). Do you want to be holy as God is holy?

Jesus burns with zeal for his Father's house: Jesus referred to the temple as his Father's house which was being made into a "house of trade" (John 2:16) or "den of robbers" (Mark 11:17). That is why he used physical force to expel the money-changers. The prophecy of Malachi foretold the coming of the Lord unexpectedly to his Temple to "purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the Lord" (Malachi 3:1-4). Jesus' disciples recalled the prophetic words from Psalm 69: "Zeal for your house will consume me" (Psalm 69:9). This was understood as a prophecy describing the Messiah. Here the disciples saw more clearly Jesus as the Messiah who burned with zeal for the house of God.

The Jewish authorities, however, wanted proof that Jesus had divine authority to act as he did. They demanded a sign from God to prove Jesus right, otherwise, they would treat him as an imposter and a usurper of their authority. Jesus replied that the sign God would give would be Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the tomb: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews did not understand that the temple Jesus referred to was his own body. The "tent of his body" had to be destroyed to open the way to the presence of God for us.

The Lord Jesus makes us temples of the Holy Spirit: Through his death and resurrection, Jesus not only reconciles us with God, he fills us with his Holy Spirit and makes us temples of the living God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). God's word enlightens our minds and purifies our hearts that we may offer God fitting worship and enjoy his presence both now and forever. Do you burn with zeal for the Lord's house?



Façade of the Archbasilica of Saint John Lateran, façade built in 1735 by Alessandro Galilei, © Alex Chow

© 2025 Servants of the Word, dailyscripture.net, author Don Schwager.

Office (for both Churches): 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133 (St Timothy's)

Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au / Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

Next Week's Daily Readings 10 Nov - 16 Nov

Nov

MONDAY, Nov 10 Wis 1:1-7

Ps 138:1-10 Lk 17:1-6

St Leo the Great, pope, doctor

TUESDAY, Nov 11 Wis 2:23 - 3:9:

Ps 33:2-3, 16-19 Lk 17:7-10

St Martin of Tours, bishop

WEDNESDAY, Nov 12 Wis 6:1-11

Ps 81:3-4, 6-7 Lk 17:11-19

St Josaphat, bishop, martyr

THURSDAY, Nov 13 Wis 7:22 - 8:1

Ps 118:89-91, 130, 135, 175 Lk 17:20-25

FRIDAY, Nov 14 Wis 13:1-9

Ps 18:2-5 Lk 17:26-37

SATURDAY, Nov 15 Wis 18:14-16;19:6-9

Ps 104:2-3, 36-37, 42-43 Lk 18:1-8

SUNDAY, Nov 16 Mal 3:19-20

Ps 97:5-9: 2 Thess 3:7-12

Lk 21:5-19

33rd 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

8 and 9 NOV

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

15 and 16 NOV

Michael Ballek
Steve Kilroe-Smith
Trevis Yee
Youth Group

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Olive Hammill
Kana Chelliah
Daphne Hickman
Hung Tran

Godfrey Thong
Lynda Kilroe-Smith
Chin L Tay
Youth Group

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
Paul Tierney
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

Choir
Rosemary Donaldson
Manny Gonzalez
Theresa Nguyen

SL WELCOMERS 8-9 NOV

5pm John Ryan
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

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

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

8th Nov: Marie Parker
15th Nov: Jenny & Vanessa Marino

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 15-16 NOV

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

ST CHURCH CLEANING

22nd Nov @ 8am
Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,
Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 4:
Mary Choy & Eileen Chang
Next week Team 5:
Anico Yee & Pabs Gonzales

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially 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 Fr Jim Staunton who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Maria Grazia Di Paola, Jim Grant, Catherine Choy, Cameron Coney, Dulantha Wilarachchi, Joseph Coney, Maurice Michael, Annie Hutchinson, Ruth Burt, William Alexandre Burt, Edgar Fernandes, Anna Panicz, Paul Curry, John Hicks, Frank Wattie, Maria Cassano, Vita Boccaccio, Anna Boccaccio, Eloide Leonardi, Laura Ciritelli, Stan Brown, Antonio Villani, Joseph Wong Fong, Mary Lai Sim, Lo Tak Hing, Ng Hon Shing, Val Lee, Adzel Turcido, Felice Cassano, Angela Dachele, Guseppe Boccaccio, Anna Terone, Armando Colasanti, Maria Manuele Colasanti, Marijan Brysha, Augustine Rozario, Charles Van Haltren and Brendan Cleary. 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.

iSTAND CONFERENCE: Get ready for an unforgettable day! Join us Saturday, 22nd November from 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM at St Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church Hall for a powerful one-day event designed for Year 8–12 students. Be inspired. Make new friends. Encounter God in a whole new way. Scan the QR code to register or contact Anthony Bolling at 0419 103 511 for more info.



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.

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS FOR SALE: A new reflection resource, "In Holy Stillness" is available for purchase for \$5 per copy in the foyer of both churches. Payment can be made by card or in cash to Fr Alex.

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: [Called to contribute](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [The Ultimate Sacrifice](#)

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: \$360.05

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$206.35

Vietnamese Donation: \$181.25

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$366.35

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$447.40

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 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: I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

Response to the Psalm: The waters of the river gladden the city of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord, that my name may remain in it for all time. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: Be built up like living stones, into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.

FUNERAL FOR FR JAMES STAUNTON

Bishop Martin Ashe will preside over the funeral for Fr Jim on Thursday 13th November at 10.30am at St Luke the Evangelist Church with refreshments in the parish hall afterwards. There will be a rosary on Wednesday 12th Nov. at 7.30pm also at St Luke's and led by Fr Alex.

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/
Instagram: @dojmelbs

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.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF VICTORIA AND WAGGA WAGGA

Coffee & Croissants
WITH
Katie

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

THURSDAY
4 DECEMBER 2025
7.30am – 8.45am

Join us for a special conversation as Fr Nathan Rawlins sits down with international speaker Katie Prejean McGrady exploring faith and life.

VICTORIA HOTEL
215 LITTLE COLLINS ST
MELBOURNE

\$45 (incl. Continental Breakfast)
\$35 for League Members
\$30 for Students

TryBooking www.trybooking.com/DGQUH
info@cwlvicww.org.au / cwlvicww.org.au
Bookings close 27 Nov (unless sold out).

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 11th @ 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.



The temple will be raised in three days



Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Jesus was not pleased when he found people selling things in the temple. Some people sold cattle, sheep and doves for sacrifice and some people changed Roman coins for temple coins. Draw some traders and money-changers in the temple and write down what Jesus said to them.



The church you go to mass in is a special building just like the temple in Jerusalem. What are the things you should do when you are in church.

COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will build it again"

START

D	E	K	E	T	I	S	G	T	D
E	W	S	R	A	U	E	I	O	M
S	T	R	U	C	L	R	E	E	A
T	M	O	G	N	T	H	W	D	T
L	R	Y	F	I	S	T	I	A	Y
I	H	T	S	D	M	R	Z	U	S
S	A	K	A	N	U	F	O	M	I
T	E	C	E	D	L	T	L	I	W
Z	M	P	L	A	U	B	L	A	S
U	L	O	E	W	I	O	G	C	R
T	A	I	S	D	L	D	I	K	F
O	F	M	U	C	A	S	T	A	I
I	G	E	W	L	R	Z	A	G	N

FINISH

DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA— 9 NOVEMBER 2025



COLLECT

O God, who from living and chosen stones
prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty,
increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed,
so that by new growth your faithful people
may build up the heavenly Jerusalem.
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

This commemoration replaces a Sunday in Ordinary Time because it is regarded as a Feast of the Lord. The basilica at the Lateran is one of the great churches in Rome, dedicated to Christ the Saviour in the fourth century. It is the cathedral church of Rome and it was there that the pope lived until the 14th century before he moved across to the Vatican. The inscription on the front of the building reads: *Most Holy Lateran Church, of all the churches in the city and the world, the mother and the head.*

Like the annual celebration of the dedication of the cathedral in each diocese, this feast is not about the bricks and mortar, but about the community of believers, centred on the bishop. In the case of Rome, it honours the communion of the faithful around the world and our link with the earliest Christian tradition; it is a sign of our baptismal unity in Christ the Saviour.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

The angel brought me to the entrance of the Temple, where a stream came out from under the Temple threshold and flowed eastwards, since the Temple faced east. The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple, south of the altar. He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside as far as the outer east gate where the water flowed out on the right-hand side. He said, 'This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea; and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome. Wherever the river flows, all living creatures teeming in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows. Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and the leaves medicinal.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

R. The waters of the river gladden the city of God.
God is for us a refuge and strength,
a helper close at hand, in time of distress:
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea. **R.**
The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within, it cannot be shaken;
God will help it at the dawning of the day. **R.**
The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come, consider the works of the Lord,
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth. **R.**

First Reading

The final chapters of Ezekiel present his theological vision of the Temple (which in fact had not yet been rebuilt). It is a vision which carries the symbolism of an ideal relationship between God and the people. Ezekiel's extraordinary poetic imagery proposes a return to the Garden of Eden. He imagines the relationship with God in terms of streams of life-giving water. This sacred water teams with fish, fruit trees flourish along the bank, and to all it brings healing, health and new life.

It becomes clear that this glorious climax to the book of Ezekiel is not describing a building but lauding the life-giving power of the Creator God whose dwelling-place is the Temple. All creatures are given fullness of life.

With such vivid imagery, this text should provide a wondrous proclamation of God's word for the Sunday assembly.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 45/46 is a fine complement to Ezekiel's vision. It is a confession of faith in God's protection which takes up the nature imagery of the river, the sea and the mountains. However, once again, its focus is the strength and joy, the help and protection which comes from God. There is even a reference to the 'holy place where the Most High dwells'.

Emphasis is given to the river which brings joy and gladness because this verse from the beginning of the second stanza is chosen for the response. The cantor/reader should present it clearly because it is not a familiar response.

The psalm ends by affirming God's presence and the formidable ('redoubtable') deeds done to protect us.

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17**

You are God's building. By the grace God gave me, I succeeded as an architect and laid the foundations, on which someone else is doing the building. Everyone doing the building must work carefully. For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which has already been laid, that is Jesus Christ. Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John 2:13-22**

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market'. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

Second Reading

Happily, this text of Paul uses the metaphor of a building to speak of community of the followers of Christ. This is just what we need to hear on the Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Lateran because it celebrates the communion of the Church centred on the pope, the Bishop of Rome. It is also a message which the Church at Corinth needed to hear because of their ongoing competitiveness and rivalry. Today we celebrate a festival of the Christ-centred unity of diverse believers.

Paul sees himself as the architect who laid the foundation of the community and his successors in leadership as the ones who continue the building. Christ is the foundation stone. By the Holy Spirit, God lives in this sacred temple which we are.

For once, this reading from Paul uses a clear metaphor and short sentences. It will be a delight to read.

Gospel

The traders and the animals were in the Temple to facilitate the offering of sacrifice to God. In this incident Jesus seems to be redefining the meaning of true worship. In the three Synoptics, the incident occurs late in the gospel and explains the mounting conflict with the Jewish leaders. In John's gospel, it occurs quite early and has a different purpose. It introduces the idea of Jesus as the new Temple.

Destroy the Temple and Jesus will raise it up in three days – he is speaking of his body and the resurrection. Once again, there is a helpful shift from bricks and mortar to the person of Christ. In time, his risen body came to be understood as the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of the baptised. Here Christians recognise the successor to the Temple.

The double tradition of old and new was often illustrated in medieval paintings showing two women personifying 'synagoga' and 'ecclesia'. The former was depicted blindfolded or eyes cast down and often accompanied by an animal of sacrifice; the second was portrayed as a youthful figure looking forward and bearing the chalice of the blood of Christ.

In the gospel, God's presence is no longer confined to a building, no matter how holy. God is present everywhere through the Spirit of the risen Lord and especially in the community of the Church.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (For the Dedication of a Church)

May God, the Lord of heaven and earth,
who has gathered you today
make you abound in heavenly blessings.
Amen.

And may he who has willed that all his scattered children
should be gathered together in his Son,
grant that you may become his temple
and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

And so, when you are thoroughly cleansed,
may God dwell within you
and grant you to possess with all the Saints
the inheritance of eternal happiness.
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 the Dedication of a Church, Roman Missal p. 1288)



JOIN THE MELBOURNE YOUTH MISSION TEAM

22 NOV
2025

9AM - 9PM

in the

SSAUMIIS

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)

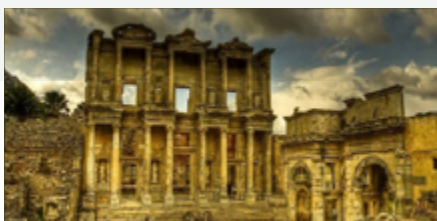
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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

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:

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



OLIVE TREE
Travel

Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696

info@olivetreetravel.com.au

www.olivetreetravel.com.au

103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



Proud Member of the
 International Institute for
 Peace through Tourism



Be GOOD SHEPHERD THE

2 0 2 5



Year
of
hope

By
Olivia
Dawson