

St Timothy's, Forest Hill & St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year C - 23rd Nov. 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

2 Samuel 5:1-3, Ps 121:1-5, Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel Reflection : **Luke 23:35-43**

Meditation: Do you recognize that the Lord Jesus has been given all authority and power by God the Father in heaven to reign over all creation - including the heavens and the earth?

God is King and Ruler over all: Kingship today seems outdated and useless, especially in democratic societies where everyone is supposed to be treated equal and free. Many rulers in past ages claimed they had sovereign authority to rule by divine edict. God did not give his people Israel a king at first. Why? Because God alone was their King and they needed no other. Nonetheless, God relented and chose David as King over Israel with the promise that God would raise up through David's royal line a Saviour who would establish an everlasting kingdom of righteousness and peace that would endure for all ages (Psalm 89:29). The Jews understood that the Messiah ("Anointed One") would come as God's anointed King to restore paradise and establish God's reign of peace for them. They wanted a Messianic King who would free them from strife and division and from foreign oppression. Many had high hopes that Jesus would be the Messiah and Ruler for Israel. Little did they understand what kind of kingship Jesus claimed to possess.

Jesus came to restore Paradise for us - everlasting life with God: As Jesus was crucified on the cross alongside two criminals who were thieves, one mocked him for his claim to divine kingship. But the other thief recognized through the eyes of faith that Jesus was truly God's Anointed King and Savior. He petitioned Jesus to treat his poor soul with mercy and pardon, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"(Luke 23:42). Jesus not only granted him forgiveness, but a place with him in his everlasting kingdom. "Truly, I say to you ,today you will be with me in Paradise." Jesus died as King of all nations and Lord of the universe. His victory over the power of sin, Satan, and the world was accomplished through his death on the cross and his resurrection. Jesus exchanged a throne of glory for a cross of shame to restore us from slavery to sin to glory with God as his adopted sons and daughters. In the Book of Revelation Jesus is called King of kings and Lord of lords. Do you recognize Jesus Christ as your Sovereign King and Redeemer?

Which ruler and kingdom do you serve? There are ultimately only two kingdoms in this world which are opposed to one another – the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. Each kingdom is ruled by one master - the Lord Jesus Christ who is the true "Light of the World" - and the deceiver who is called the "angel of light" who rules over humanity through false promises, lies, and temptation to sin and disobedience. If we follow the Lord Jesus and entrust our lives to him he will open our eyes to the light of his truth and guide us by his Holy Spirit along the path to eternal life with God. If we follow the way set by the ruler of this present world - a world which is opposed to Christ and blinded by Satan - then we will discover that sin, pride, and deception will lead us down a path of destruction, death, and separation, rather than life, freedom, and friendship with God and the people he has redeemed with the precious blood of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Which kingdom will you serve - today, tomorrow, and for all eternity? This present world will pass away, but God's kingdom will endure forever. If we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and King and submit to his rule for our lives, we become citizens of heaven and inherit an everlasting kingdom which is ruled by righteousness, peace, and love. Is the Lord Jesus the true King and Master of your life?

© 2025 Servants of the Word, 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 24 Nov - 30 Nov

MONDAY, Nov 24 Dan 1:1-6, 8-20, Dan 3:52-56
Lk 21:1-4

Sts Andrew Dung-Lac, priest, and companions, martyrs

TUESDAY, Nov 25 2 Dan 2:31-45
Dan 3:57-61 Lk 21:5-11

WEDNESDAY, Nov 26 Dan 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
Dan 3:62-67 Lk 21:12-19

THURSDAY, Nov 27 Dan 6:12-28
Dan 3:68-74 Lk 21:20-28

FRIDAY, Nov 28 Dan 7:2-14
Dan 3:75-81 Lk 21:29-33

SATURDAY, Nov 29 Dan 7:15-27
Dan 3:82-87 Lk 21:34-36

SUNDAY, Nov 30 Is 2:1-5 Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9
Rom 13:11-14 Mt 24:37-44

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

*(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

22 and 23 NOV

Olive Hammill
Edith Robertson
Stefanie Chin
Tung Lai, Gia Nghi & Chi Nguyen

29 and 30 NOV

Lucy Ferris
Darren McLean
Alfred Lee
Youth Group

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Val Gardiner
Kevin Rogers
Jane D'Souza
Hoang Nguyen

Marg Yore
Megan McLean
Anico Yee
Theresa Ngo

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
David Prabha
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

Choir
Paul Tierney
Manny Gonzalez
Theresa Nguyen

SL WELCOMERS 22-23 NOV

5pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

29th Nov - Bianca's team
Bianca Broccio, Shirley Prabha,
Libby Theodore & Franca Leo

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

22nd Nov: Edna Lee
29th Nov: No Flowers for Advent

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 29-30 NOV

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

ST CHURCH CLEANING

6th Dec @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 6:
Peggy & Ngery D'Cruz
Next week Team 7:
Barry & Christine Silvester

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Mary Goodwin, Kevin Ryan, Agatha Wink, Ronda Smith, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Greal, 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 Simon Kofoed who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Daniel Curtain, Bruce Gemmell, Minetta Boccaccio, Nell Sullivan, Angelo Isola, Jean Holgate, Paul Lazzari, Phero Pham van Dong, Peggy Battle, Francis Fernandez, Cecilia O. Abadilla, Pat Howe, William Gibson & Frank Searle. 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.

ACYF COMMISSIONING: Our young people and leaders who are attending ACYF will be commissioned at the 10.30am Mass at St Timothy's on Sunday November 30th before they take part in the 3 day festival. Please keep them in your prayers.

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR R.C.I.A.: The rite of acceptance for the enquirers who are attending our weekly RCIA sessions will be during Masses on the weekend of 6 & 7 Dec.

CONFIRMATION: We warmly congratulate Sarah Santilli who will be confirmed on Sunday 23rd November at St Patrick's Cathedral.

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.

PARISH OFFERTORY PROGRAM FINAL REMINDER: Thank you to all who have responded. If you haven't returned your pledge card yet, please consider doing so this week. Every response helps our community. God Bless.

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING: In-person Safeguarding Essentials training for all parish volunteers will be on Sunday Dec. 7th at St Timothy's from 11.45 to 1pm. It can also be done online via this link: [Safeguarding Essentials training module](#) | Melbourne Catholic

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [A place of welcome and justice](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Global Support for Women](#)

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: \$399.35

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$267.15

Vietnamese Donation: \$268.40

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$504.35

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$615.55

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: How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Response to the Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

THANK YOU FROM THE STAUNTON FAMILY

The family of Fr Jim Staunton wish to thank everyone who contributed to making the recent funeral of their dear Uncle Jim such a wonderful event. They are very grateful for the warm welcome that his nephew Tommy and his wife Carmel, along with his grand-niece Jodie received while they were here in Melbourne.

May Fr Jim's dear soul rest in peace.

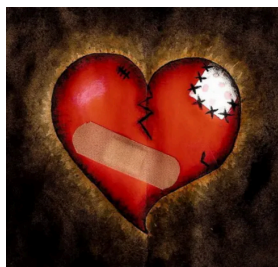
CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST TIMOTHY'S

On Sunday 14th December, we will continue our Children's Liturgy group at the 10.30am Mass at St Timothy's. This will run on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Parents are welcome to accompany their children. No prior registration required. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.



MERCY NIGHT

St Luke the Evangelist Church
Tues. 16 December 2025
6:30pm Mass
7pm to Adoration &
8:30pm Reconciliation



Come, reflect and experience an evening of God's merciful and forgiving love in the God's presence and Sacrament of Reconciliation.

(Note: NO 5:30pm Holy Hour on this date)

ACYF Launch & WYD Cross Reception 30 November 2025

Join us at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne on Sunday 30 November as we welcome over 6,000 young pilgrims to Melbourne with live music, activities, fellowship, prayers.

1:30pm – Melbourne Catholic Festa

2:30pm- Reception of the WYD Cross & Icon

3:00pm – Pilgrimage walk through the heart of Melbourne's streets to Melbourne Convention Centre as signs of hope and joy for our city.

Please keep all pilgrims (including 11 young pilgrims from St Timothy's and St Luke's) in your prayers as they prepare to come to Melbourne for the adventure of a life time.



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal (St Luke's)

Please place any non-perishable items in the bins in the church foyer. Cash donations can be placed in the Poor Box at the back of the church. If a receipt is required, please contact the conference President, Steve Kilroe-Smith or the treasurer, Laurie Peatrie. Thank you very much for your continuing support of the conference's works.

LukTim YAM FUNDRAISING for ACYF PILGRIMS

All are invited to our Christmas market after

5pm Vigil Mass, Dec. 13th @ St Luke's

10:30am Mass, Dec 14th @ St Timothy's.

Enjoy a sausage sizzle and treats. There will be home made Christmas fruit cakes & slices on sale as well as raffle tickets, etc.

Parishioners are asked to bake a cake or slice to be sold on these dates. Cake plates will be available in the church foyers next weekend.

WATCH THIS SPACE. More info to follow.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

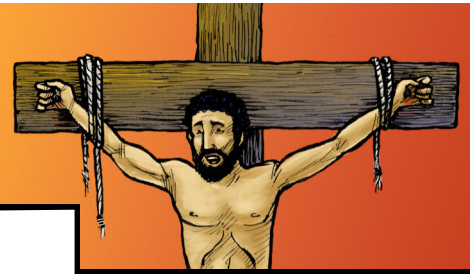
RCIA is a 5 month program for those who are interested and would like to know more about

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 25th @ 7pm at St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South. It will run until 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.



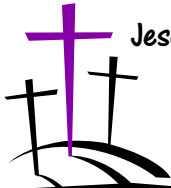


Jesus Christ is King forever



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – Year C

Throughout our history there have been kings who were selfish, arrogant and cruel towards their people, while other kings have been kind and wise leaders who have protected their people. What kind of a king is Jesus Christ and how does he treat his people?



Jesus showed his love for us by suffering, dying and rising again so that we too may enter the kingdom of God. Draw a picture of yourself doing something that shows Jesus how you are thankful for the sacrifice he made.

Place a cross + next to the words that best describe Christ the King

POWERFUL

UNJUST

SELFISH

COMPASSIONATE

MERCIFUL

GREEDY

LOVING

DISRESPECTFUL

PROTECTING

FORGIVING



CHRIST THE KING – 23 NOVEMBER 2025



COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray,
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.
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 year the Feast of Christ the King is 100 years old. It was established by Pope Pius XI in the Holy Year 1925. He explained its purpose as follows: First, it reminds everyone that the (Catholic) Church founded by Christ is a perfect society and has an inalienable right to perfect freedom and immunity from the power of the state and cannot be subject to any external power. Secondly, nations are reminded that they are all bound to give public honour and obedience to Christ, taking account of the commandments of God and of Christian principles in making laws and in administering justice. A century later, it is clear that both claims have failed, and the feast has not stemmed the tide of secularisation in our diverse lands and cultures.

However, since Vatican Council II, the content of the feast has shifted in its focus. The title 'King of the Universe' gives the day a more cosmic dimension. Marking the end of the liturgical year, it opens up the Advent theme of the Lord's coming in glory at the end of time. Finally it recognises above all that Christ came among us *as one who serves* (Lk 22:27) – he washes the feet of the disciples at the last supper. Shockingly, in today's gospel, the title 'King' is given to him as he suffers the torture and humiliation of crucifixion. The kingdom of peace and justice is what we strive for, but is far from an actual reality in the world today.

A reading from the second book of Samuel
5:1–3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

First Reading

About a thousand years before Christ, David was anointed king. In this reading, the people of the northern tribes seek him out to be their king also. Notwithstanding some notorious failures, he was a good ruler and well-loved. So much so that, when calamity overtook the people, the prophets continued to speak of deliverance through the House of David.

It was to be a Son of David who would come as the Messiah, the Christ (these titles mean 'the anointed one') to restore and rule over the nation. Jesus, the Christ, the Son of David, comes as a descendent of the shepherd-king to become the good shepherd who leads people to the kingdom of God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1–5

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. **R.**

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

The focus of Psalm 121/122 is Jerusalem which became the centre of David's royal rule.

The psalm is a processional chant prayed by pilgrims as they made their way up the slopes of the city and entered the Temple. It acclaim Jerusalem as the seat of the divine presence and of the king who ruled the people in God's name.

The cantor/reader should pick up the sense of joy and movement in the proclamation.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Colossians 1:12–20**

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation;
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominions, Sovereignities, Powers –
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.

As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and
for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke 23:35–43**

The people stayed before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said, 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

Second Reading

I am the Light of the World, says Jesus (Jn 8:12). The preamble to this reading thanks God for bringing us out of darkness and into Christ's kingdom of light where we will find freedom and forgiveness.

Then Colossians quotes an early liturgical hymn about Christ that is cosmic in scope. It falls into two parts. The first extols Christ as the image of God and the head of the whole of creation; the second part acclaims Christ as the redeemer in whom all things are reconciled.

At the hinge of the two parts is the beautiful image of the Church as the Body of Christ with Christ as the head. This draws all the baptised into the unity of creation and the reconciling, peace-making work of the cross.

The reader should take this poetic text in a measured way without rushing in order to evoke contemplation of the sacred work of Christ.

Gospel

My kingdom is not of this world, says Jesus to Pilate. So you are a king then? replied Pilate. Yes, says Jesus, *I was born for this... to bear witness to the truth* (Jn 18:36-37).

On a day filled with the glory of the risen Lord in paradise, it is deeply shocking to encounter Christ hanging on the cross in today's gospel. Here is his title: 'This is the King of the Jews'. Jesus shows us that the path to glory lies through suffering; it is in dying that we rise to eternal life; leadership means laying down your life in service.

So often in the gospels, Jesus turns people's expectations on their head. Certainly, this is not at all what was expected of the Messiah, the Son of David. Yet, in the triumph of the resurrection, all these expectations were surpassed! Today's feast gives us the chance to hear Christ's words: *you too will be with me in paradise.*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time IV)

May the God of all consolation order our days in his peace
and grant us the gifts of his blessing.

Amen.

May he free us always from every distress
and confirm our hearts in his love.

Amen.

So that on this life's journey
we may be effective in good works,
rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity,
and may come happily to eternal life.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us and remain with us for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time IV, Roman Missal p. 716)



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)

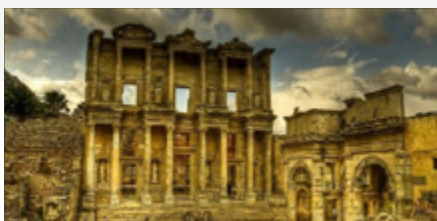
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

2025



Year
of
hope

By
Olivia
Dawson