

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



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



First Sunday of Advent, Year A - 30th 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)

Young Adult Group - 1st & 3rd

Wed. each month at 7pm
at St Luke's Presbytery

Isaiah 2:1-5, Ps 121:1-9, Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Reflection: **Matthew 24:37-44**

Meditation: Why did Jesus compare "the coming of the Son of Man" with the "days of Noah" (Matthew 24:37)? Scripture describes both events as a day of judgment and the separation of the just from the unjust. This is when God gathers to himself those who are his own. Separation is an inevitable consequence of the fundamental choices people have made - whether for God or against God. The fundamental choices we make can either lead us towards God and his will for us or they can lead us in a direction that is opposed to God or contrary to his wisdom and plan for our lives and well-being.

Our merciful Saviour is also our Judge and Vindicator: God fulfills all his promises to us in Jesus, our merciful Saviour, who will come again as our Judge and Vindicator. Jesus told his disciples that the Father has given him all authority to execute judgments on the earth "because he is the Son of man" (John 5:27). The "Son of man" is a Messianic title for God's anointed one who will overthrow God's enemies and establish an everlasting kingdom of righteousness and peace. The "Son of man" is described in the Book of Daniel as the one who is given supreme authority to judge and execute justice on the earth (Daniel 7:13-14). Jesus came the first time to lay down his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sin of the world. He promises to return again at the "end of the age" to complete the work of restoration and final judgment. While we do not know the time of his return, we will not mistake it when it happens. It will be apparent to all, both to the followers of the Lord Jesus and to every inhabitant on the earth as well.

One is taken away and the other is left: How are we to live our lives now in light of Jesus' promise to return again as our Lord and Judge on the final day of judgment? Jesus gives two striking images to illustrate the urgency of the need to not be caught off guard and unprepared when we are suddenly summoned to appear before the Lord on the day of judgment (Matthew 24:40-41). The first image Jesus used is a description of two men working together in the field - very likely close family members or close co-workers. One is suddenly taken away and the other is left. The image of two women who are working closely together repeats the theme of the sudden rupture and separation.

What is striking about Jesus' parable is the sudden and unexpected turn of events - a summons to appear before the Judge to hear his verdict on the day of reckoning when he acts to separate the just from the unjust. All who had faith in Jesus Christ receive the just reward of everlasting joy and friendship in his kingdom of righteousness and peace.

Advent people - watching with expectant faith and yearning for Christ's coming: The prophet Isaiah spoke of the Day when the Lord would judge between the nations and establish peace over the earth. In that day the righteous - all peoples who believed in him and who listened to his teaching and instruction - would come to his holy mountain and house to worship him and dwell with him in everlasting peace (Isaiah 2:3-5). The Advent season reminds us that we are living in the time between the first coming and second coming of the Lord Jesus.

The Lord Jesus calls us to be alert and watchful for his coming. He comes to us each and every day and he knocks on the door of our heart and home. Do you listen for his voice and welcome him into your life? Let his word in the Scriptures and the work of the Holy Spirit who dwells in you draw you to a deeper faith, hope, and yearning for his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. Those who wait upon the Lord today and listen to his word will not be disappointed. The Lord will come and bring you to his banquet table to feast with him.

© 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 1 Dec - 7 Dec

MONDAY, Dec 1 Is 4:2-6 Ps 121:1-2,4-5.6-9
Mt 8:5- 11

TUESDAY, Dec 2 Is 11:1-10 Ps 71:1-2, 7-8,
12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY, Dec 3 Is 25:6- 10 Ps 22
Mt 15:29-37
St Francis Xavier, priest

THURSDAY, Dec 4 Is 26:1-6 Ps 117:1, 8-9, 19-21,
25-27 Mt 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY, Dec 5 Is 29:17-24 Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14
Mt 9:27-31

SATURDAY, Dec 6 Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Ps 146:1-6 Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 6-8

SUNDAY, Dec 7 Is 11:1-10 Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13,
17 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12

SECOND 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

29 and 30 NOV

Lucy Ferris
Darren McLean
Alfred Lee
Youth Group

6 and 7 DEC

Godfrey Thong
Peter McKeown
Ryan Yee
Nhat Anh, Hoa Doan & Dzung Luong

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Marg Yore
Megan McLean
Anico Yee
Theresa Ngo

Lucy Ferris
Margaret Gearon
Chin L Tay
Hung Dinh

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
Paul Tierney
Manny Gonzalez
Theresa Nguyen

Choir
Megan McLean
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 29-30 NOV

5pm John Ryan
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

13th Dec - Megan's team
Megan McLean, Janette Clark,
Maureen Davis & Ellen Donoghue

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

No Flowers for Advent

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

No Flowers for Advent

SL WELCOMERS 6-7 DEC

5:00pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

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

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 7:
Barry & Christine Silvester
Next week Team 8:
Fela Colasanti & Chin L Tay

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 Ko Piu Ying who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Mary Parslow, Maria Mariniello, Ramanathan Jeyasingam, Lowerance Soundranajham, Rev. Charles Mayne S.J., Arthur Greal and Mary McEwan. 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.

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 7 & 13 Dec.

ADVENT PRAYER GROUP: We warmly invite everyone to an Advent Reflection on Thursdays on Thurs. 4th Dec. from 7 to 8pm at St Luke's church. The "In Holy Stillness" resource will be used. See notice below to purchase a copy from the foyer of both churches.

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.

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](#)

CHRISTMAS DECORATION OF CHURCHES: All are invited to assist with church decorations on Sat. 6th December at 10.15am at St Luke's and on Sat. 13th December at 10.15am at St Timothy's.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE: Choir practice for all Christmas Masses will be on Sat. 13th Dec. at 3pm at St Luke's. All are welcome to join us.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [God so loved the world](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Advent Begins](#)

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: \$387.80

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$246.05

Vietnamese Donation: \$158.80

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$503.90

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$573.80

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

SL: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalewski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Miguel Ilagan & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Margaret Gearon &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

S.L. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Tickets will be on sale next weekend for the St Luke's Christmas Hamper Raffle. Donations for the hampers can be left in the labelled baskets in the church foyer. The proceeds will go towards the costs of sending our young parishioners to the A.C.Y.F. and any extra funds raised will go to our Care Group who look after funeral refreshments and food for Parish Outreach program such as Alpha, Bible Study. Thanks in advance for your support.

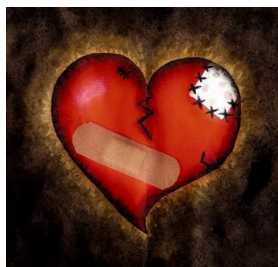
CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST TIMOTHY'S

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.

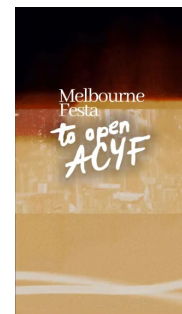
(Note: NO 5:30pm Holy Hour on this date)

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 are available in the church foyers this 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, December 2nd @ 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.



Stay Awake! Be Ready!



First Sunday of Advent, Year A

During the season of Advent we prepare for the arrival of Jesus.

What are three things you can do to be ready for Jesus during this first week of Advent?

Try to decipher this teaching that Jesus gave to his disciples. Draw yourself listening to Jesus.



Always  red+e!

U don't  the

 of  will come.

Help Noah and the animals find their way onto the ark so they can be ready for the flood when it comes.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 30 NOVEMBER 2025



COLLECT

Let us pray.
Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

Advent means 'coming'. The season prepares us for the coming of the Lord, ultimately through his incarnation and his ministry among us, but first of all today, the coming of the Lord in glory at the end of time. Then God's rule of justice and peace will be established on earth. Yes, it will come suddenly, but it is not an apocalyptic event to be feared; it is a revelation that we await in joyful hope. Today we embrace the advent of the Prince of Peace.

With the busyness of end-of-year break up parties and Christmas shopping, it can be difficult to recognise the Lord at his coming. The Sunday liturgy and the Advent readings should help us do just this.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 2:1–5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1–2, 4–5, 6–9

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.**

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel’s law it is,
there to praise the Lord’s name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. **R.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
‘Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!’ **R.**

For love of my brethren and friends I say:
‘Peace upon you!’
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. **R.**

First Reading

We live in hope.

Isaiah lived in a turbulent time under the threat of invasion. He presents a glorious vision of a holy mountain where the Lord God dwells – all the nations stream to it so that they will learn the ways of the Lord. It is a way of peace. There will be no more conflict between nations, nor training for war. Then he offers us the famous images: *swords hammered into ploughshares; spears into sickles.*

Our world today is still badly scarred by war and violence. We cannot escape it. But if we heed the message of Isaiah, we can live in hope. How important it is for the reader to proclaim this vision with upbeat confidence and conviction.

The three stanzas will help structure the message: first the nations streaming to the Lord’s mountain; then the eager resolve of the people to walk God’s paths; and finally the affirmation that peace is possible (since, for God, nothing is impossible!).

With the final invitation (*let us walk in the light of the Lord*), the assembly is called to give heartfelt assent.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 121/122 fits well with the first reading from Isaiah. The tribes go up to God’s house (stanzas 1-2) and there they pray earnestly and repeatedly for peace (stanzas 3-4).

It will be easy for the cantor/reader to express with enthusiasm the energy of this text. A joy and lightness will convey the mood of the words and draw the assembly into invoking the blessing of peace both in their homes and beyond. Receiving such a blessing calls for a change of heart on our part and a willingness to become peace-makers.

Do not be afraid of the repetition; take it in a measured way so that the people can absorb the gift of God’s peace. Be careful with the six lines of the second stanza so that the cue for the response is clear.

**A reading from the first
letter of St Paul to the Romans 13:11 –14**

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

**A reading from the holy 24:37–44
Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Second Reading

The Isaiah reading finishes with the invitation to 'walk in the light of the Lord'. This phrase is powerfully developed in these lines from St Paul. He uses the image of night and day, associating night with the nasty works of darkness. He urges his listeners to wake up and live decently and harmoniously in the daylight.

The time has come – we are to be awake and alert. It is a call to conversion of heart, but this is not a fearsome prospect. It is the dawning of a new day that we embrace in hope.

The reader should use pitch and intonation to illustrate vocally the back and forth between night and day, dark and light

Gospel

Noah and the flood. Workers in the field or mill. The house burglar. Jesus uses each of these examples to encourage the disciples to be alert, be prepared, be ready. Continuing the theme of the second reading, we are to wake up and stay awake. This is one of the great themes of Advent.

The second coming of Christ will inaugurate the reign of God where all creation will be restored in peace and harmony. We wait therefore not with fear and trepidation, but calmly with expectant hope.

In Australia, December is a busy time of year when it is all too easy to be distracted by arrangements and organisation. As the year ends and Christmas looms, most people will readily identify with the situation 'in Noah's day'. Today's gospel and the Advent season help us to keep a sense of perspective and to focus on Christ

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing for Advent

May the almighty and merciful God,
by whose grace we have placed our faith
in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son
and yearn for his coming again
sanctify us by the radiance of Christ's Advent
and enrich us with his blessing.

Amen.

As we run the race of this present life,
may he make us firm in faith,
joyful in hope and active in charity.

Amen.

So that, rejoicing now with devotion
at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh,
we may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life
when he comes again in majesty.

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 Advent, *The Roman Missal* p. 709)



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)

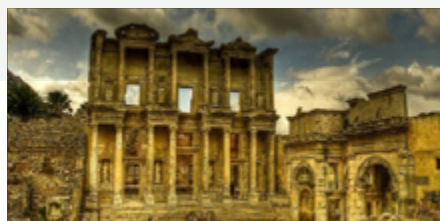
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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



Proud Member of the
 International Institute for
 Peace through Tourism



Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696

info@olivetreetravel.com.au

www.olivetreetravel.com.au

103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185

Be GOOD SHEPHERD THE

2 0 2 5



Year
of
hope

By
Olivia
Dawson