

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



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 15th Feb. 2026

Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21, Psalm 118(119):1-34, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10  
Matthew 5:20-22,27-28,33-34,37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'



**Meditation:** *Why do people tend to view the "law of God" negatively rather than positively? Jesus' attitude towards the law of God can be summed up in the great prayer of Psalm 119: "Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day."*

For the people of Israel the "law" could refer to the ten commandments or to the five Books of Moses, called the Pentateuch or Torah, which explain the commandments and ordinances of God for his people. The "law" also referred to the whole teaching or way of life which God gave to his people. The Jews in Jesus' time also used it as a description of the oral or scribal law. Needless to say, the scribes added many more things to the law than God intended. That is why Jesus often condemned the scribal law because it placed burdens on people which God had not intended.

**The essence of God's law:** Jesus made it very clear that the essence of God's law - his commandments and way of life, must be fulfilled. God's law is true and righteous because it flows from his love, goodness, and holiness. It is a law of grace, love, and freedom for us. That is why God commands us to love him above all else and to follow in the way of his Son, the Lord Jesus who taught us how to love by laying down our lives for one another.

**Reverence and respect:** Jesus taught reverence and respect for God's law - reverence for God himself, reverence for the Lord's Day, reverence or respect for parents, respect for life, for property, for another person's good name, respect for oneself and for one's neighbour lest wrong or hurtful desires master and enslave us. Reverence and respect for God's commandments teach us the way of love - love of God and love of neighbour. What is impossible to humans is possible to God who gives generously of his gifts and the power of the Holy Spirit to those who put their faith and trust in him.

God gives us the grace, help, and strength to love as he loves, to forgive as he forgives, to think and judge as he judges, and to act as he acts with mercy, loving-kindness, and goodness. The Lord loves righteousness and hates wickedness. As his followers we must love his commandments and hate every form of sin and wrong-doing. If we want to live righteously as God desires for us, then we must know and understand the intention of God's commands for us, and decide in our heart to obey the Lord. Do you seek to understand the intention of his law and to grow in wisdom of his ways?

**The Holy Spirit transforms our minds and hearts:** Jesus promised his disciples that he would give them the gift of the Holy Spirit who writes God's law of love and truth on our hearts. The Holy Spirit teaches us God's truth and gives us wisdom and understanding of God's ways. The Spirit helps us in our weakness, strengthens us in temptation, and transforms us, day by day, into the likeness of Jesus Christ, our Merciful Saviour and Humble Lord. There is great blessing and reward for those who obey God's commandments and who encourage others, especially the younger generations, to love, respect, and obey the Lord. Do you trust in God's love and allow his Holy Spirit to fill you with a thirst for holiness and righteousness in every area of your life? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with a burning desire and reverence for God's life-giving word so that you may grow day by day in the wisdom and knowledge of God's love, truth, and goodness.

Law Student, by Norman Rockwell (1927) © The Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.  
Text © 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

**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)*

-----

**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** - First  
& third Wednesday of  
every month, at 7pm,  
at St Luke's Presbytery



**COMING SOON: 23 APRIL 2026**

***Thinking about life, purpose, and what really matters.*** If you're asking big questions about faith or simply curious — you are very welcome. **ALPHA** (adults) and **ALPHA Youth** (ages 13–17) offer a relaxed, no-pressure space to connect with others, enjoy a free dinner, watch engaging short videos, and have honest conversations about life and faith. Come as you are, bring your questions, and see where the conversation leads. No pressure, no strings attached.

Email us at [Alphastlukesbbs@gmail.com](mailto:Alphastlukesbbs@gmail.com)

We'd love to see you at Alpha!

**Next Week's Daily Readings 16 Feb - 22 Feb**

**MONDAY Feb 16** James 1:1-11  
Ps 118:67-68, 71-72, 75-76 Mk 8:11-13

**TUESDAY Feb 17** James 1:12-18  
Ps 93:12-15, 18-19 Mk 8:14-21

**WEDNESDAY, Feb 18** Joel 2:12-18  
Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17: 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2:  
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**ASH WEDNESDAY (Fast and Abstinence)**

**THURSDAY Feb 19** Deut 30:15-20  
Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 9:22-25

**FRIDAY Feb 20** Is 58:1-9  
Ps 50:3-6, 18-19 Mt 9:14-15

**SATURDAY Feb 21** Is 58:9-14 Ps 85:1-6  
Lk 5:27-32

**SUNDAY Feb 22** Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7  
Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17  
Rom 5:12-19 Mt 4:1-11

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**ALTAR SERVING MINISTRY**

Are you interested in assisting as an altar server? If so, or if you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Chris Lim on 0419 470 267

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

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

**14 and 15 FEB**

Marg Yore  
Michael Ballek  
Trevis Yee

**21 and 22 FEB**

Steve Kilroe-Smith  
Peter McKeown  
Jane D'Souza

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

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

Val Gardiner  
Liliana Restrepo  
Pat Kawalevski

Lynda Kilroe-Smith  
Melina Barcellona  
Susan Chen

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

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

Choir  
Rosemary Donaldson  
Manny Gonzalez

Choir  
David Prabha  
Lee Min Yee

**SL WELCOMERS 14 - 15 FEB**

5pm John Ryan  
8.30am Janette Clark  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

28th Feb - Bernard's team  
Bernard O'Malley, Joanne Nolan,  
Melina Barcellona & Anne Allsopp

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

14th Feb - Jenny & Vanessa  
21st Feb - No flowers for Lent

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Flowers: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 21 - 22 FEB**

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

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

20th Feb  
Liliana Restrepo  
& Jackie Kha

**ST COUNTERS**

This week Team 2:  
Kelvin Chen & Patrick Rajaratnam  
Next week Team 3:  
Mary Choy & Eileen Chang

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**All who are sick**, especially Brian McHugh, Suzy Bookluck, Sr June Dunford, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Kevin Ryan, Agatha Wink, Ronda Smith, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

**All who have died**, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Ron Johnson, William Mullane, Lina Natoli, Patrick & Marcella O'Reilly, Annamma Mathai, Gwen Cruise, Sr Pauline Hunt, Luisito Natividad, Ann Hilal, Fr Rod Pitts, Tyrone Oosthuizen, Dot Lester, Adrianus van den Boogaard, Flo Bryan, Mary Deering, John Chapman & Stephen Kelly. May they rest in peace.

---

## **POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY:**

For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

**LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKS:** "The Journey Home" - Daily reflection books for Lent are available in the foyer of both churches at a cost of \$5. Cash or card payments are accepted.

**SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING:** All church volunteers must complete this training which can be done online via this link: [Safeguarding Essentials training module | Melbourne Catholic](#) Please email your certificate to the parish office when you receive it.

**OLD GLASSES:** If you have any unused spectacles (prescription, reading or sunglasses) laying around the house, we would be happy to take them from you for donation to orphanages and seniors' homes in Thailand. Please place your donation in the box in the foyer of both churches before 22 Feb 2026. Many thanks and God bless you.

**FIRST FETE MEETING:** Our bi-annual St Luke's parish and school fete will be happening on Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> this year. All are invited to our first meeting of the year to discuss plans and brainstorm ideas on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7pm in the parish hall kitchen. Please contact Sonya in the parish office if you have any questions or suggestions.

**TAI CHI CLASSES:** Blackburn Tai Chi Academy holds classes on Monday evenings at St Luke's Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Tai Chi is an art to train physical and mental well being. It offers flexibility, balance, concentration, health, and energy. It suits all ages. For enquiries, please call John on 9802 2910 or 0422 924 265.

[Resources .....](#)

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** [The common good in common hands](#)

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** [Ash Wednesday](#)

---

### **STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

*The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.*

*The Second collection is for parish expenses.*

Please note that collection totals will no longer be published each week in the newsletter. Presbytery and Church donations will be reported on a monthly basis at all weekend Masses. To donate regularly via envelope, credit card or bank account, please contact the parish office.

## **Parish Groups & Contacts**

### **Volunteers and Rosters:**

*Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),*

*Margaret Gearon (SL)*

**Baptism Preparation:** Fr Alex

### **Parish Collection Preparers**

*ST: Barry Silvester &*

*Michael Kawalewski*

### **Parish Safeguarding Committee**

*Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,*

*Darren McLean & Janette Clark*

### **Parish History**

*SL: Margaret Gearon*

### **Parish Accountant**

*Bernard Negline*

### **SL & ST: Hall Hire**

*Sonya O'Farrell @ 9877 2292*

### **Church Sacristan**

*ST: Roster of Parishioners*

*SL: Greg Grant*

### **Church Cleaning & Flowers**

*SL: Megan McLean*

*ST: Susan Chen*

**Church Linen:** *SL: Beryl Chelliah*

### **Parish Garden Maintenance**

*ST: Des Connors & Leo Watson*

*SL: Darren McLean*

### **Parish Choirs**

*ST: Miguel Ilagan*

*SL: Fr Alex*

**Bible Timeline:** *Chris Lim*

**ALPHA:** *Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

### **Young Adult Ministry:**

*Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto*

**RCIA:** *David West*

### **St Vincent de Paul Conference**

*For Assistance: 1800 305 330*

*(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)*

*ST: John McCoy*

*SL: Margaret Gearon &*

*Steve Kilroe-Smith*

**Entrance Antiphon:** Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**Response to the Psalm:** Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

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

**Communion Antiphon:** They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**ST TIMOTHY'S:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. & 8<sup>th</sup> March at the 10.30am Mass at St Timothy's. This will run on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month.



**ST LUKE'S:** Saturday 14th February at the 5pm Mass at St Luke's. This will run on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Parents are welcome to accompany their children. No prior registration required. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.

### NEXT MEETING

Ash Wednesday 7pm Mass followed by Scripture Reflection  
WHERE: St Luke's The Evangelist Church, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South



### LEGION OF MARY



We are planning to start a Legion of Mary praesidium at St Luke the Evangelist and St Timothy's Parish. We plan weekly meetings which include saying the rosary, prayers, allocution by the Spiritual Director, and planning apostolate work such as home and aged care visits by members, under the guidance of the Parish Priest, Fr Alex. If you are interested to join or find out more, please contact Lucy Ferris at [lucyfe1112@gmail.com](mailto:lucyfe1112@gmail.com) or 0419 591 423

### SOME USEFUL CATHOLIC RESOURCES:

#### PRAY AS YOU GO

(<https://pray-as-you-go.org/daily-meditation>)

**HALLOW** (<https://hallow.com>) #1 Catholic prayer App

**UNIVERSALIS** website and App

(<https://universalis.com/index.htm>)

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

**9.15am Mass at St Timothy's,  
17 Stevens Road, Vermont**



**7pm Mass at St Luke's, 46 Orchard  
Grove, Blackburn South**



**Tuesday, February 17th @ 7pm** at St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South. For more information or to join in please contact the parish office.

**RITE OF ELECTION @ St Patrick's  
Cathedral, 22 Feb 2026**  
Andrew Fowler and Isaac Cheng

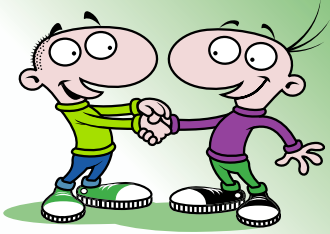
### ACYF Reunion (Year 9 - 25 years) 28 Feb

Were not our hearts burning? ACYF pilgrims, it's time to take the next step. Join us for the biggest ACYF reunion ever, as we come back together to reflect on where we met Jesus and discover what's next on our journey as disciples. It's a time for reflection, Adoration, testimonies, small group conversations and opportunities to take the next step.

*Note: Parents/guardians of under-18 participants will be required to 'sign in' and 'sign out' their children. Sign-in commences at 9.00am.*

**When:** Saturday, 28 February 2026, 10am - 3pm  
**Location:** Mary Glowrey Building, Australian Catholic University, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy Vic 3065.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1534804>



# Be reconciled before you offer your gift to God



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Jesus wants us to make peace with those who we have wronged

When someone does wrong things against me, I can make peace with them by....

When I do wrong things against someone, I can make peace with them by....

**I'M SORRY**

"When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift."

Find your way through the maze

▶ **START**

◀ **FINISH**

# 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 15 FEBRUARY 2026



## COLLECT

O God, who teach us that you abide  
in hearts that are just and true,  
grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace  
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.  
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

Matthew was most likely a follower of Christ with a Jewish background. Repeatedly, he shows how Jesus is the fulfillment of ancient prophecies. He tries to help Jewish believers reconcile their long-standing tradition with their newer recognition of Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah.

This perspective is very clear in today's gospel with its constant refrain: *You have learnt how it was said... but I say this to you...* The old covenant and the new are a continuous story of God's love and fidelity.

## A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin

## First Reading

The Book of Ecclesiasticus, sometimes named after its author Ben Sirach, is part of a collection called 'the Wisdom books'. Each in its own way offers insight into human life, its challenges and joys.

This brief passage raises the question of free will. Human beings are not puppets in the hands of fate or the gods. We can make our choices: water or fire, life or death, good or evil. Of course, our choices have consequences. That is why God, in all-seeing wisdom, draws us to what is good, to keep the commandments faithfully.

A better inclusive version of this reading is given in the NRSV translation below.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

**R.** Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,  
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**

You have laid down your precepts  
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm  
to obey your statutes. **R.**

Bless your servant and I shall live  
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider  
the wonders of your law. **R.**

Teach me the demands of your statutes  
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,  
to keep it with my heart. **R.**

## Responsorial Psalm

We have here four stanzas from the very long Psalm 118/119. They have been chosen because they focus on God's law and so set us up to listen to the gospel reading. The law is not an imposition; it is God's gift of wisdom to us to help us and make us happy. Because it is a blessing we have received, we are encouraged to embrace it with all our heart.

The cantor/reader should proclaim the text with lightness and joy.

## **A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-10**

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:17-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: [‘ Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

‘For] I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court [; if a man calls his brother “Fool” he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him “Renegade” he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have

## **Second Reading**

Paul’s next contribution for encouraging humility and reconciliation among the Christians in Corinth is to contrast the masters and philosophy of the time with the mystery of God’s wisdom revealed by the Spirit in Christ. The crucified Lord of Glory opens up to us the depths of a God of love, something utterly beyond worldly understanding. Paul, in preaching Christ crucified and risen, is bringing them what is beyond human imagination, what no eye has seen or ear has heard. It is the Paschal mystery which should be the centre of the Corinthians’ faith and their source of unity.

The reader should study the text carefully to understand the contrasts that Paul is presenting and then try to read it in a persuasive way. Paul is attempting to convince the people of an awesome counter-cultural perspective.

## **Gospel**

This reading illustrates very well how Matthew understands Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament expectations and prophecies. He has come not to abolish the law but to complete it.

The passage is unusually long and covers several different areas. The Lectionary recognises that this may be too much for people and so provides a short form. However the shorter version is quite elliptical and may prove difficult for the assembly and the preacher. The opening sentences of the full version are particularly helpful but are omitted in the short version. An alternative course of action would be to use the full version of the text and then to shorten it by omitting the last two or three paragraphs. The reading of Chapter 5 would normally have continued on the Seventh Sunday but this will not take place this year because Lent begins on Wednesday.

However the text is presented to the assembly, it is clear that the demands of the gospel are a significant challenge to our behaviour and way of living. We are called to go beyond the letter of the law.

In tone, the reading should be an encouragement rather than an admonition. In the first paragraph, ‘the man’ could be read as ‘the one’, and in the third paragraph, ‘a man’ can be pronounced as ‘someone’.

paid the last penny]. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. [If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell.

And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.]

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all [, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black]. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

*[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]*

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

May almighty God always keep every adversity far from us  
and in his kindness pour out upon us the gifts of his blessing.

**Amen.**

May God keep our hearts attentive to his words,  
that they may be filled with everlasting gladness.

**Amen.**

And so, may we always understand what is good and right,  
and be found ever hastening along  
in the path of God's commands,  
made coheirs with the citizens of heaven.

**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 V, 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





# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL –  
3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2026

LED BY  
FR ALEX CHOW

14  
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE: 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)*

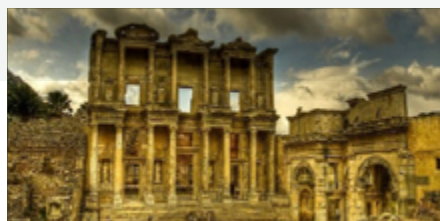
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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