

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



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Year A - 10th May 2026



Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17, Ps 65: 1-7, 16,20, Peter 3:15-18

GOSPEL READING: John 14:15-21

Meditation: What makes us both fully human and truly like God? Is it not unconditional love which is unselfish, undying, and wholly directed to the good of others? The love of God unites us in an unbreakable bond of fidelity, friendship, and community with others. Jesus loved his own until the very end of his passion and death on the cross (John 13:1).

The nature of love: From the very beginning of creation God said: it is not good that man should be alone (Genesis 2:18). We were created in love for love - to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are inseparably united in a community of unbreakable love.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890) said: We love because it is our nature to love, and it is our nature because God the Holy Spirit has made it our nature. Jesus speaks to his disciples of the inseparable bound of love between himself and the Father, and of their love for humankind. In Jesus we see the fulness of God's love and how God's love is directed to our well-being. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him (1 John 4:9).

Knowing God's love: How do we know that God truly loves each one of us? In the cross we see the proof of God's love for each of us and the incredible price God was willing to pay to redeem us from slavery to sin, death, and Satan. Jesus gave up his life that we might have life - abundant, everlasting life with God - a life of love and unity with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever. Through the cross Jesus opened a new way of relationship for us as the adopted sons and daughters of God - his beloved children (Romans 8:14-17). Jesus calls his disciples to walk in his way of love through obedience to the will of the Father. True love is more than sentiment, emotion, or good intention. As important as these may be they are not the proof of sincere love. True love for God is expressed in obedience and obedience is expressed in love.

Jesus' best gift for us: Jesus promised to give his followers the best of gifts, the Holy Spirit as their Counsellor and Helper. How does the Holy Spirit help us as the counsellor?

Counsellor is a legal term for one who defends someone against an adversary and who guides that person during the ordeal of trial. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate and Helper who guides and strengthens us and brings us safely through the challenges and adversities we must face in this life.

The Holy Spirit is also the Giver of life - the abundant life which comes from God and which sustains us forever. The Holy Spirit also guides us in the way of truth, wisdom, and goodness. We can never stop learning because the Spirit leads us more and more into the knowledge of God's love, truth, and goodness. Jesus also promised his followers the gift of peace. Peace is more than the absence of conflict or trouble. Peace includes everything which makes for our highest good. Trust in God, faith in his promises, and obedience to his word lead us to peace and security in God's presence.

That is why a Christian need not fear or be troubled by anything. The love of Christ brings immeasurable joy and consolation even in the midst of our trials and suffering. Paul the Apostle states, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35,38-39).

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the knowledge of Christ's immense love and with his gift of peace.



Picture: The Peasant Lawyer, Pieter Breughel the Younger, 1620, © Grohmann Museum, Milwaukee School of Engineering
Text © 2026 Servants of the Word, source:dailyscripture.net, author Don Schwager.

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

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

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

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

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.

Thurs.

Fri. 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 -

Wednesday 13th May @ 7pm at St Luke's Parish Hall

LEGION OF MARY -

Friday 15th May @ 10.15am at St Luke's Parish Hall Kitchen. Enquiries to Lucy 0419 591 423



Third session: 14 MAY 2026 @ 7pm
Thinking about life, purpose, and what really matters. If you're asking big questions about faith or simply curious — you are very welcome.
ALPHA Australian Edition, ALPHA Chinese Mandarin (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 or register your interest via the QR code
We'd love to see you at Alpha!

Next Week's Daily Readings 11 May - 17 May

6th week of Easter

MONDAY May 11 Acts 16:11-15
Ps 149:1-6, 9 Jn 15:26 - 16:4

TUESDAY May 12 Acts 16:22-34
Ps 137:1-3,7-8 Jn 16:5-11

WEDNESDAY May 13 Acts 17:15, 22 - 18:1 Ps 148:1-2, 11-14 Jn 16:12-15

THURSDAY May 14 Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Ps 112:1-8 Jn 15:9-17
St Matthias, apostle

FRIDAY May 15 Acts 18:9-18
Ps 46:2-7 Jn 16:20-23

SATURDAY May 16 Acts 18:23-28
Ps 46:2-3, 8-10 Jn 16:23-28

SUNDAY May 17 Acts 1:1-11
Ps 46:2-3, 6-9 Eph 1:17-23
Mt 28:16-20

The ASCENSION of the LORD

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

9 and 10 MAY

Melina Barcellona
Darren McLean
Jane D'Souza

16 and 17 MAY

Godfrey Thong
Liliana Restrepo
Michelle Chen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Corey Thong
Megan McLean
Pat Kawalevski

Lynda Kilroe-Smith
Michael Ballek
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 9 - 10 May

5pm John Ryan
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

16th May - Sonya's team
Sonya O'Farrell, Netty Solomon,
& Anthony Fernandez

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

9th May - Jenny Marino
16th May - Kate Skowronska

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 16 - 17 May

5:00pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

15th May
Trevis Yee & Ben Perera

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 6:
Barry Silvester & Seng Chan
Next week Team 5:
Anico Yee & Wilson D'Souza

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Shirley Prabha, Helen MacKay, Frances O'Donoghue, Kevin Ryan, Suzy Bookluck, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially Eustace (Bill) Cole who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Pius Pereira, Palany Arunasalem, Bob Barr, Joe Pinzone, Gladys Cleary, Rodrigo Hammett, Halina Kawalevski, Spiro Saloumidis, Maria Mai Thi Ky, Marjory Hanley, Gilbert Galam, Margaret Tosh, Robert Gardner, Carmel (Pat) Slavin, Joyce Verburgt, Kevin Dridan, Salvatore Panettieri, Jack Hosking & Guido Roncolato. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY:

That everyone might have food. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

ROSTER SIGN-UP SHEETS AT ST LUKE'S: Can you offer your help to make our parish Masses run smoothly? Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer at St Luke's for the next lot of rosters for readers, eucharistic ministers, slide projector operators, procession of the gifts volunteers and welcomers. New volunteers would be very welcome. Training can be provided if required.

PARISH & SCHOOL FETE: The next fete committee meeting will be held on Thurs. 21st May at 7pm in St Luke's school. We are currently asking all parishioners and school families if they run a market stall and would like to take part or have a business that would be interested in sponsoring our fete. We are also looking for stall coordinators for our Pre-loved Books, Silent Auction, Beer Garden/Wine & Cheese & BBQ stalls. Contact Sonya in the parish office or email stlukesfete@gmail.com. **More volunteers are very welcome to join us, as many hands make light work!**

PROJECT COMPASSION: Baskets are available on the altar of both churches for parishioners to leave their Project Compassion boxes and donations. Thanks for your generosity! Donations must be finalised by the end of May.

THE WONDER OF PENTECOST, A SACRED MUSIC CONCERT AT ST PETER'S: Friday 22 May 2026 at 7pm at St Peter's Catholic Church, 581 Toorak Road, Toorak. BOOKING: trybooking.com/DJRJP

SET OF DOUBLE BUNKS & TRUNDLE BED AVAILABLE: Could you or someone you know use a set of near new double bunk beds with mattresses and a trundle bed in perfect condition? If so, please contact the parish office.

[Resources](#)

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [The day a pope came to Altona North](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Loving Our Mothers](#)

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 Kawalevski

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

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: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Response to the Psalm: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

ST TIMOTHY'S: Sunday 10th & 24th May at the 10.30am Mass. This will run on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.



ST LUKE'S: Family Mass will run on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting from June 13th.

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2026

First Reconciliation - May 26th & 27th from 3.30 to 5.30pm

Confirmation - June 25th @ 6pm

First Eucharist - August 1st @ 5pm

Parents of children who do not attend Catholic schools are asked to contact the parish office asap to enrol in preparation sessions for any of the above sacraments.

WEEKDAY MASSES FOR MAY

Kindly note the following:

NO 9.15am morning Mass on Wednesday 13th May or Thursday 14th May at St Timothy's.

Caritas Australia Lebanon Emergency Appeal

The situation in Lebanon remains extremely fragile, and civilians urgently need humanitarian support. More than 2,000 people have been killed and over 1.1 million people displaced nationwide, including more than 390,000 children. Our partners Caritas Lebanon continue to deliver emergency food, water, shelter and health support across the country, maintaining humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach areas in southern Lebanon.

Stand with the people of Lebanon today.

Learn more or make a donation today at

www.caritas.org.au/lebanon



CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria

CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. The generosity of our parish community means that CatholicCare Victoria can continue their mission; to empower communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Your compassion and generosity ensure individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives.

Thank you for helping open the door to safety, dignity and hope.

For more information about CatholicCare Victoria, please visit: www.catholiccarevic.org.au



You can still donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

"SYNOD CORNER"

8. Synodality and priests



For priests, synodality is not an added burden but a way of exercising ministry in communion. When priests foster listening and participation, parishes become more alive, missionary, and joyful. The priest presides at the Eucharist, but the whole community contributes to the Church's mission.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Our pilgrims, following in the footsteps of St Paul, have visited many places in Greece and Turkiye and are now in Rome. You can access their blog by scanning this QR code:





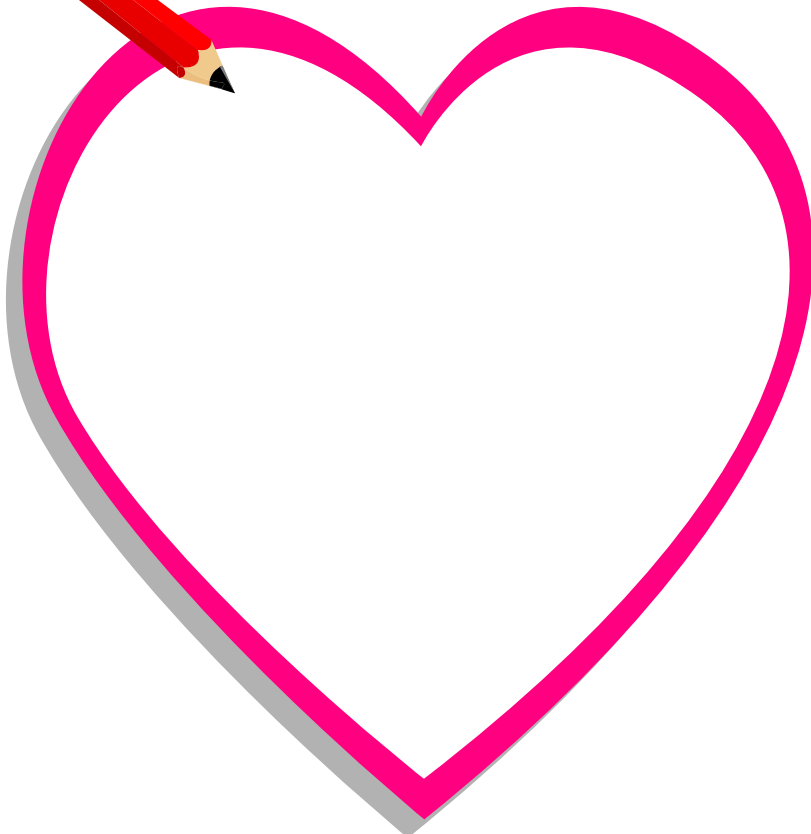
The Holy Spirit will help you and always be with you

6th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Jesus loves us and asks us to keep his commandments. Name some of the commandments?



The Holy Spirit helps us to love God and to love others. Draw a picture of someone you love.



The Spirit will show you what is true

Answer the following questions True or False

Jesus only loves those who do good deeds. _____

The Holy Spirit is always with us. _____

God sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples. _____

Jesus said "You should not love your enemies". _____

The disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. _____

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 10 MAY 2026



COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
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

For five weeks, we have been celebrating the liturgy in the radiance of Easter joy. Those who were initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil have been settling into the life-long pattern of belonging to the Christian community. In a couple of weeks, the Easter season draws to a close with the feast of Pentecost. It might be good to reflect on the support that newly-baptised Christians need at this moment. Perhaps Pentecost will be time for a celebratory gathering. Perhaps it is time to draw them into liturgical ministry so that they can help with reading, music, communion or hospitality.

The Ascension of the Lord (celebrated on a Thursday in countries where it can be kept as a holy day) will be celebrated in Australia next Sunday. Already in today's gospel there is a foreshadowing firstly of the Ascension, as Jesus promises not to leave us orphans, and secondly of Pentecost, as Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or

R. Alleluia.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! R.

'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. R.

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. R.

Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. R.

First Reading

Stephen has been stoned to death and a great persecution of Christians began in Jerusalem. The Christian leaders scatter to continue their ministry elsewhere. Philip, one of the seven appointed with Stephen, went to Samaria and was warmly welcomed. He was soon followed by Peter and John. The locals rejoice when they witness the healing power of the gospel. Many are baptised and, through the laying-on of hands, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Ironically, persecution and violence have not had the effect of repressing the mission but of helping it spread. This is good news that a reader can gladly and confidently proclaim.

Note that it would be anachronistic to interpret this passage as though it described the Catholic sacraments of baptism and confirmation (their development took centuries). The relationship between water baptism, the laying-on of hands, and the gift of the Holy Spirit is complex in the Acts of the Apostles.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 65/66 picks up the 'great rejoicing' of the Samaritan town. It also acclaims God's tremendous deeds which were so clearly manifest in the ministry of Philip. It is a most suitable response to the first reading.

The cantor/reader can proclaim this psalm strongly and positively. Recognise the regular imperatives at the start of many lines: Cry out, O sing, O render, Say, Come and see, Come and hear... They will help to make the psalm crisp and direct.

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave your orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.

Second Reading

Peter's sound and solid advice is just as relevant for Christians now as it ever was. Today, whether face to face or on social media, believers and their Christian values are often rejected.

Recognise that Christ is with you, says Peter; be ready to give an account of your faith and hope. But defend your positions with courtesy and respect. Let your wholesome way of life prove you right, even if it should bring you suffering. If this is the case, Peter points out, you will be united with Christ!

Today, it still sounds fresh. It is a message of peace in what is often an angry space. Readers should try to convey the wisdom and reasonableness of Peter's advice.

Gospel

This text follows on from last Sunday's gospel. It is a part of Jesus' long and tender farewell to his disciples which the Gospel of John sets at the Last Supper.

He is saying goodbye to them but promises that he will not leave them orphans. As risen Lord in the Holy Spirit, he will remain with them forever. The text plays with the idea of 'seeing'. They will no longer see with their eyes; instead they will see with the heart because they love him. To love Christ is to know him because God is love. Jesus repeats what he said in last week's gospel – I am in my Father – but broadens it now to include the disciples... *I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you.* All are one in love.

In the context of the Easter season, we hear Jesus speaking about his resurrection and his enduring presence with us in the Holy Spirit. It should be read as a quiet meditation.

BLESSING FOR EASTER

Solemn Blessing (Easter Time)

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son
was pleased to confer on us
the gift of redemption and of adoption,
give us gladness by his blessing.

Amen.

May he, by whose redeeming work
we have received the gift of everlasting freedom,
make us heirs to an eternal inheritance.

Amen.

And may we, who have already risen with Christ
in Baptism through faith,
by living in a right manner on this earth,
be united with him in the homeland 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 Easter Time, Roman Missal p. 712)



Try Alpha

Alpha

**Alpha @ St Luke's
Blackburn South
Starting April 30th 2026
Thursdays 7 – 9 PM**

Alpha is a safe space to explore life, purpose and the Christian faith, ask questions, and share your point of view. Alpha is free and everyone is welcome.

alpha.org.au

Scan to sign up





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



We are Companions on The Journey

2026

