



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C - 6th April 2025



Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

=====

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL) &
6.30pm (ST)

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 at SL

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30-6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

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)

Isaiah 43:16-21, Ps 125. R. v.3, Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel Reflection on **John 8:1-11**

Meditation: Are you ready to be changed and transformed in Christ-like holiness? God never withholds his grace from us. His steadfast love and mercy is new every day. Through the gift and grace of the Holy Spirit we can be changed and made new in Christ. He can set us free from our unruly desires and passions.

Unjust accusations against Jesus: The scribes and the Pharisees

brought to Jesus a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. John writes that they wanted to "test" Jesus on the issue of retribution so "they might have some charge to bring against him" (John 8:6). Jewish law treated adultery as a serious crime since it violated God's ordinance and wreaked havoc on the stability of marriage and family life. It was one of the three gravest sins punishable by death. If Jesus said the woman must be pardoned, he would be accused of breaking the law of Moses. If he said the woman must be stoned, he would lose his reputation for being the merciful friend of sinners.

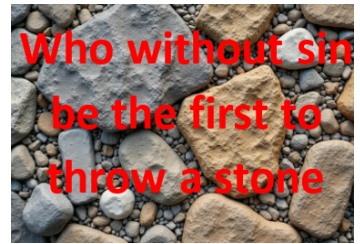
Jesus then does something quite unexpected - he begins to write in the sand. The word for "writing" which is used here in the Gospel text has a literal meaning "to write down a record against someone" (for another example see Job 13:26). Perhaps Jesus was writing down a list of the sins of the accusers standing before him. Jesus now turns the challenge towards his accusers. In effect he says: Go ahead and stone her! But let the man who is without sin be the first to cast a stone. The Lord leaves the matter to their own consciences.

Pardon, restoration, and new life: When the adulterous woman is left alone with Jesus, he both expresses mercy and he strongly exhorts her to not sin again. The scribes wished to condemn, Jesus wished to forgive and to restore the sinner to health. His challenge involved a choice - either to go back to her former way of sin and death or to reach out to God's offer of forgiveness, restoration, and new life in his kingdom of peace and righteousness. Jesus gave her pardon and a new start on life. God's grace enables us to confront our sin for what it is - unfaithfulness to God, and to turn back to God with a repentant heart and a thankful spirit for God's mercy and forgiveness. Do you know the joy of repentance and a clean conscience?

A humble examination, by Bede the Venerable, 672-735 A.D.

"In line with our usual human way of doing things, we can understand that the reason why the Lord might wish to bend before his unprincipled tempters and to write on the ground was that by directing his look elsewhere he might give them the freedom to go away. He foresaw that as they had been astounded by his answer, they would be more inclined to depart quickly than to ask him more questions... Figuratively speaking, the fact that both before and after he gave his opinion he bent and wrote on the ground admonishes us that both before we rebuke a sinning neighbour and after we have rendered to him the ministry of due correction, we should subject ourselves to a suitably humble examination, lest perhaps we be entangled in the same things that we censure in [our neighbours] or in any other sort of misdeeds. For it often comes about, for example, that people who publicly judge a murderer to be a sinner may not perceive the worse evil of the hatred with which they themselves despoil someone in secret. People who bring an accusation against a fornicator may ignore the plague of the pride with which they congratulate themselves for their own chastity. People who condemn a drunkard may not see the venom of envy with which they themselves are eaten away. In dangers of this sort, what saving remedy is left for us except that, when we look at some other sinner, we immediately bend down - that is, we humbly observe how we would be cast down by our frail condition if divine benevolence did not keep us from falling? Let us write with a finger on the ground - that is, let us meticulously ponder with discrimination whether we can say with blessed Job, 'For our heart does not censure us in all our life' (Job 27:6), and let us painstakingly remember that if our heart censures us, God is greater than our heart and he knows all things."

© 2024 Servants of the Word, author Don Schwager.



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

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

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

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

Next Week's Daily Readings 7 April - 13 April 2025

MONDAY, Apr 7 Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, Ps 22, Jn 8:1-11

TUESDAY, Apr 8, Num 21:4-9, Ps 101:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30

WEDNESDAY, Apr 9 Dan 3:14-20, 24-25, 28, Dan 3:52-56, Jn 8:31-42

THURSDAY, Apr 10 Gen 17:3-9, Ps 104:4-9, Jn 8:51-59

FRIDAY, Apr 11 Jer 20:10-13, Ps 17:2-7, Jn 10:31-42

SATURDAY, Apr 12 Ezek 37:21-28, Jer 31:10-13, Jn 11:45-56

SUNDAY, Apr 13 Is 50:4-7, Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11, Lk 22:14-23:56

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

(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.

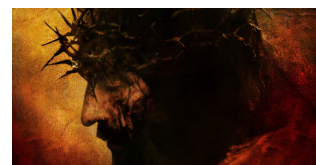


THE PASSION OF CHRIST STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday:

St Luke's at 3pm followed by Divine Mercy.

St Timothy's at 5.30pm followed by 6:30pm Mass.



MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

5 and 6 April

Edna Lee
Kelvin Chen
Darren McLean
Molly Hemsley & Trevis Yee
Hoa Doan & Thuan Tran

12 and 13 April

Godfrey Thong & Olive Hammill
Hubert Lobo
Joe Ferlazzo & Mae McKeown
Geneveive Hemsley & Trevis Yee
Thu Ngo & Doan Pham

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Lucy Ferris
Susan Chen
Megan McLean
Anico Yee
Hung Dinh

Lucy Ferris
Susan Chen
Margaret Gearon
Chin L Tay
Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Choir
Michelle Chen
Paul Tierney
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

Choir
Michelle Chen
Rosemary Donaldson
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 5/6 APR

5:00pm Edna Lee
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

12th April - Maree's team
Maree Moss, Allen Leung,
Serena Ng, & Lynda Kilroe-Smith

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers for Lent

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers for Lent

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 5:
Anico Yee & Pabs Gonzales
Next week Team 6:
Peggy & Ngery D'Cruz

SL WELCOMERS 12/13 APR

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

ST CHURCH CLEANING

12th April @ 8am to 11am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh, Hieu Nguyen,
Dieu Nguyen, Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,
Dzung Nguyen & Trong Nguyen

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Pope Francis, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, , Margaret Anderson, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, Bernadine O'Meara, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially Sylvia Tnay who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Catherine Fogarty, Fr James Kierce, Ellen Kelly, Jack Stephenson, Marion Deakin, Verna Dughard, Mary Teresa Hosking, Delia Di Campli San Vito, John McEwan, Janelle Kingman Madigan, Lois Whiteoak, Yolanda Wong, Keith Buchanan Henry, Maria D'Astoli, Giovanni & Nunziata Panettieri, Enzo & Amelia Capizzi, Adriano Eisola, Claire Mayo, Maurie Wilmott, Lilian Chapman, Maria Villani, Shirley Hammond, Liz Rava & Maria Lobo. May they rest in peace.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL:

For the use of the new technologies: Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Melbourne iSTAND Conference

Calling all students in year 8 - 12 to join in a one day Youth Retreat where you can connect with fellow young people while learning more about yourself, others and God through games, prayer, reflection, testimonies and talks.

DATE: Saturday 12th April: 9am - 9pm

Where: St Timothy's Parish Hall, 17 Stevens Road, Vermont VIC 3133

Contact: Anthony - YMT Manager on 0419 103 511
Please **register** with the permission of your parents via QR Code or via <https://form.jotform.com/222197682279872>



ST TIMOTHY'S FOOD BANK: Parishioners may be unaware that for at least the past 15 years, a food bank has been quietly operating at St Timothy's servicing those less fortunate in our community in conjunction with our local St Vincent de Paul conference. They would love some more volunteers to assist with preparing casseroles etc. Please contact Colleen O'Meara on 0400 047 849 for more information or to volunteer to help.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Serving others with conscience and compassion](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Joy and Love](#)

THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK: On The Journey This Week: Fr John Corrigan says Jesus turns an accusation into a profound teaching opportunity. Mother Hilda says we can have both the "shadows" of shame and pain in our own lives and also be "stone throwers." Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Trish McCarthy, and Fr Sean Cullen. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

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 Envelopes: \$70

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$220

Vietnamese Donation: \$270.25

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$337

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$396

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & 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: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

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

Communion Antiphon: Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.



The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

Reading the Bible should bring us closer to Christ, but understanding it is often difficult. The good news is that you can understand the Bible, and The Bible Timeline, a twenty-four-part Bible study, makes it easy.

Presenter Jeff Cavins shows you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and gives you the keys to understanding the amazing story woven throughout Scripture. In this revolutionary approach to Bible study, The Bible Timeline divides the Bible into twelve color-coded time periods that make it easier to follow its narrative thread. Using a unique color-coded chart, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith.

We will be offering The Bible Timeline beginning on **Thursday 22nd May at 7.00PM at St Timothy's.**

Participants will meet every fortnight to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. To register please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1382977> For more information, contact Lynda on stlukesandtimothysga@gmail.com or 0400270970 or have a chat with Father Alex.

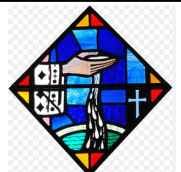
PARISH PRIEST APPOINTMENT

Parishioners will be pleased to know that Archbishop Peter Comensoli has appointed Fr Alex Chow to be Parish Priest of St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South and St Timothy's, Forest Hill for a period of six years from April 1st 2025.

Congratulations to Fr Alex on his appointment!

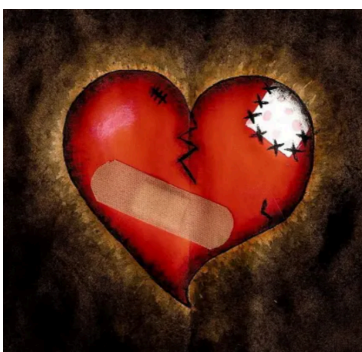
BAPTISM

Congratulations to David West who will celebrate his baptism at St Luke's church on Sunday, April 6th. He has been journeying with us for the past seven months. We pray that he may continue to be a true missionary disciple of Jesus Christ who bring the Joy of the Gospel to those around him. We will have a cuppa after Mass to celebrate.



PALM SUNDAY HOSPITALITY - ST LUKE'S

Note that there won't be hospitality after the 5pm Saturday 12th April Mass. Join us for coffee/tea after 8:30am Sunday 13th April Mass.



MERCY NIGHT: SECOND RITE OF SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Where: St Luke the Evangelist Church, Blackburn South
When: Thursday 10 April 2025 from 6:30pm to 8pm

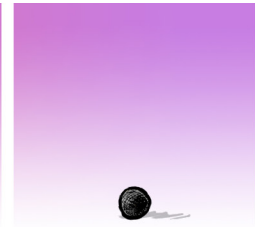
Let us prepare ourselves spiritually, so that our hearts may receive the joy of the Risen Christ. Come and join us for a time of scripture reading, reflective music, examination of conscience followed by confession and absolution.

CONFESS, FORGIVEN, RESTORE



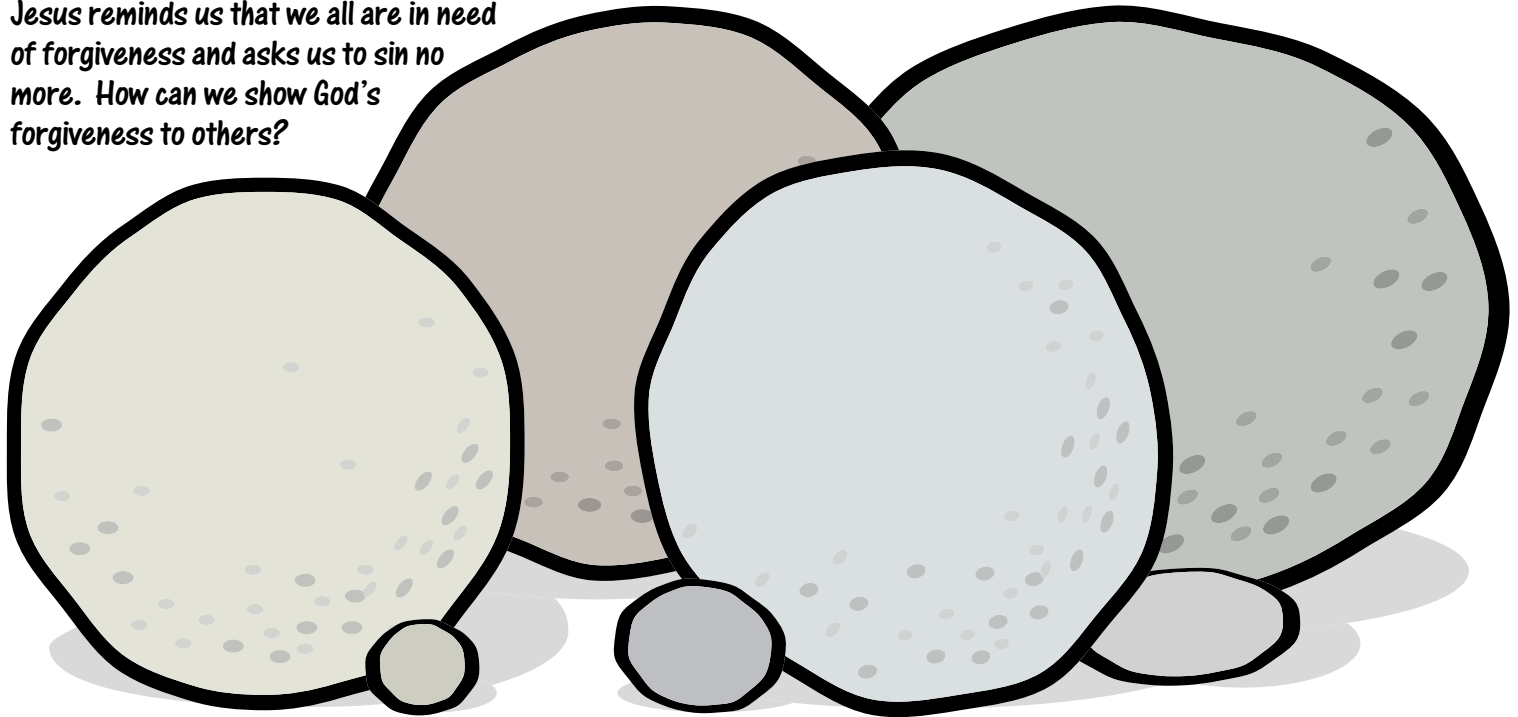
if any of you have never
sinned then go ahead and
throw the first stone

my name is



5th Sunday of Lent, Year C

Jesus reminds us that we all are in need
of forgiveness and asks us to sin no
more. How can we show God's
forgiveness to others?



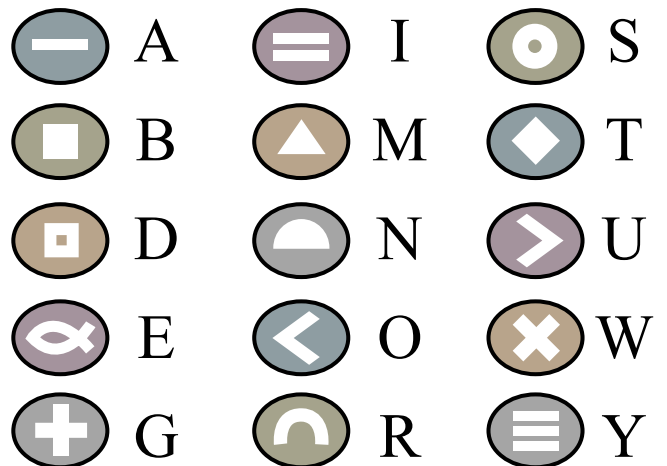
During this final week of Lent we can all work really hard at being
the best Christians we can be, in preparation for Holy Week.

At the start of Lent, what was one of the things
about your life that you wanted to improve?

How well do you think you have done so far?
Give yourself a score between 5 (Great!!)
and 1 (hmmm..not so great).

What are some ways you can do even better
during this final week of Lent and Holy Week?

Use the code below to work out what
Jesus said to the accused woman



"



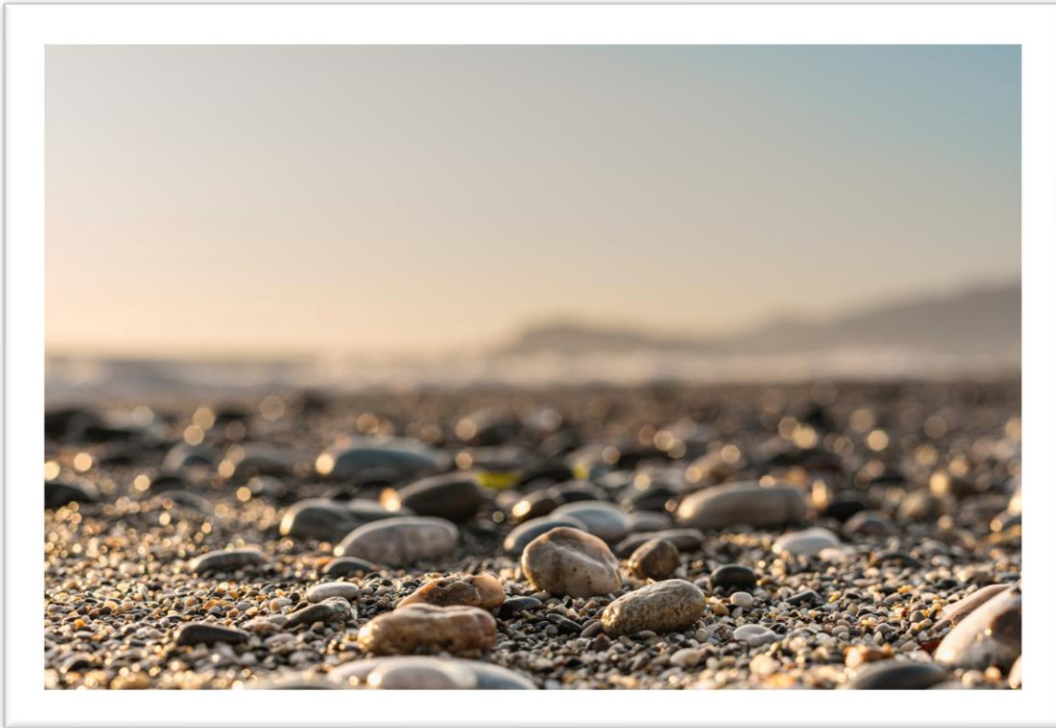
,



"



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 6 APRIL 2025



COLLECT

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

The raising of Lazarus explores the rich symbol of new life and has for centuries been used in connection with Christian initiation. It is assigned to the Fifth Sunday of Lent in Year A but can always be chosen for this Sunday, especially if there are adults to be initiated at Easter. Year A texts are found at the end of the book.

The Year C Cycle offers us, however, a powerful story that we need to hear: the woman caught in adultery. In these days of internet and social media, everyone has a forum where they are able to express an opinion, and they do! Often their judgements are extremely prejudicial. Knowledge of the facts or the background of an event seems to be completely unnecessary. Innocent people are trolled mercilessly. The more unbalanced or outrageous an opinion, the more excitement and reaction it stirs up. We need to hear the humbling message: Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone.

Lent urges us to forgiveness and reconciliation and leads us to the Sacrament of Penance.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 43:16–21

Thus says the Lord,
who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters;
who put chariots and horse in the field
and a powerful army,
which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

First Reading

Memory and hope are constantly interwoven in the scriptures and in the liturgy. This poetic reading is about new beginnings, in the past and still to come. Isaiah's prophetic words of hope are delivered to the exiles languishing in Babylon.

First is an invitation to remember the new beginning of the Exodus – crossing the Red Sea marks the end of oppression and a new future in a new land.

Then comes the climax of the poem, the central declaration: *See, I am doing a new deed,*

even now it comes to light; can you not see it? The reader proclaiming the text should make this highpoint clear for the hearers.

In the second half of the reading, there is the promise of new beginnings to come – *paths in the wilds*, wild beasts tamed, *water in the wilderness*. And the people of God will sing praise!

Delivering this final sentence with a flourish, the reader will call forth in the assembly a sentiment of wonder at the greatness of God's 'new deed', forever taking place in our midst.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125

R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said: What marvels
the Lord worked for them!
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 125/126 picks up from the first reading the sense of joy and wonder at God's mighty deeds. Delivered from bondage, we have songs and laughter on our lips. Yes, God has worked marvels for us!

The second half of the psalm recognises that sometimes life may be challenging. Remembering the great things God has done for us in difficult times will help us to come back with a song in our hearts.

This beautiful psalm is well-matched as a response to the first reading: the cantor/reader should display joy and hope in its proclamation.

Care should be taken with the two-part response, if it is spoken and not sung, so that the assembly does not break in too early.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3:8–14

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become

perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 8:1–11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again.

When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'

'No one, sir,' she replied.

'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

Second Reading

Before starting to prepare this text, recall the story of Paul's conversion. He was zealously persecuting Christians when, in a blinding light, he encounters Christ. Here in this text he is talking about what meeting and getting to know Christ has meant for him. He invites his hearers also to an encounter with Christ.

Paul realises that it is not what he can do that matters, only what Christ can do in and through him. He has been captured by Christ. He strives with the determination of an athlete to take and use the gift he has been given. It means making the pattern of Jesus' death and resurrection operative in his own life, so that he will be given a place in the glory of the resurrection.

Paul is manifestly passionate about his encounter with Christ. By a vigorous proclamation, the reader should try to communicate to the assembly the power which lies in our own encounter with Christ.

"Brothers" should be read as "brothers and sisters".

Gospel

In a story filled with drama, a woman stands publicly humiliated, the man nowhere to be seen, while the authorities are baying for her blood. In the end, self-righteous anger, prejudice and judgement are all undone by mercy, wisdom and compassion.

Jesus does not fall into the trap and does not buy into the question of the law. (In fact, in the case of adultery, the law required both parties to be put to death – Lev 20:10, Dt 22:22 – so the accusers' use of the law is partial at best.)

Jesus' response instead recalls his saying in Matthew's gospel: *Judge not lest you yourselves be judged* (Mt 7:1). Jesus neither excuses nor blames her. He simply refuses to condemn her. When her accusers slink away, Jesus dismisses her with a call to conversion.

Our engagement with Christ's mercy and compassion in this story might lead us to uncover our own judgemental prejudices and bring us to conversion of heart. As Lent draws to a close, we might then seek reconciliation and God's forgiveness.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Prayer over the People (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

Bless, O Lord, your people,
who long for the gift of your mercy,
and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire
they may receive by your generous gift.
Through Christ our Lord.
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 Prayer over the People for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Roman Missal p. 283)

An alternative translation of the scripture readings is given here from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). This may be particularly useful for those in parishes which use the NRSV Lectionary.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING (NRSV)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 43:16–21

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (NRSV)

Psalms 126.1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6 (R.3)

R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R.**

Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced. **R.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the desert of the Negev.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy. **R.**

Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING (NRSV)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 3:8–14

I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things,
and I regard them as rubbish,
in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him,
not having a righteousness of my own
that comes from the law,
but one that comes through faith in Christ,
the righteousness from God based on faith.

I want to know Christ
and the power of his resurrection
and the sharing of his sufferings
by becoming like him in his death,
if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this
or have already reached the goal;
but I press on to make it my own,
because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own;
but this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and straining forward
to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL (NRSV)

A reading from the gospel according to John 8:1–11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.
Early in the morning he came again to the temple.
All the people came to him
and he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman
who had been caught in adultery;
and making her stand before the people,
they said to Jesus,
“Teacher; this woman was caught
in the very act of committing adultery.
In the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women.
Now what do you say?”
They said this to test Jesus,
so that they might have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.
When the scribes and Pharisees kept on questioning him,
Jesus straightened up and said to them,
“Let anyone among you who is without sin
be the first to throw a stone at her.”
And once again Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground.

When the scribes and Pharisees heard what Jesus had said,
they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders;
and Jesus was left alone
with the woman standing before him.

Jesus straightened up and said to her:
“Woman, where are they?
Has no one condemned you?”
She said, “No one, sir.”
And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.
Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

ST LUKE'S

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday 12th April
5pm Vigil

Sunday 13th April
8.30am

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday 17th April
6pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday 18th April
10.30am Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Passion of our Lord

EASTER SATURDAY

Saturday 19th April
7.30pm Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 20th April
8.30am

ST TIMOTHY'S

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday 12th April
6.30pm Vigil (E) (12/4)

Sunday 13th April
10.30am (E)
5pm (V)

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday 17th April
7.30pm (E & V)

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday 18th April
2pm Stations of the Cross (E&V)*
3pm Passion of our Lord (E&V)*
*Both concelebrated by Fr Thien
& Bishop Thinh Nguyen DD

EASTER SATURDAY

Saturday 19th April
7.30pm Easter Vigil (E&V)

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 20th April
10.30am (E)
5pm (V)

Note: All Services at St
Luke's are in English

E=English
V = Vietnamese



ONE PARISH, TWO CHURCHES



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:
per person (twin share)

**OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:**

AUD\$ 8,490*
AUD\$ 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)

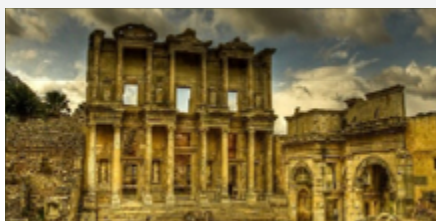
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

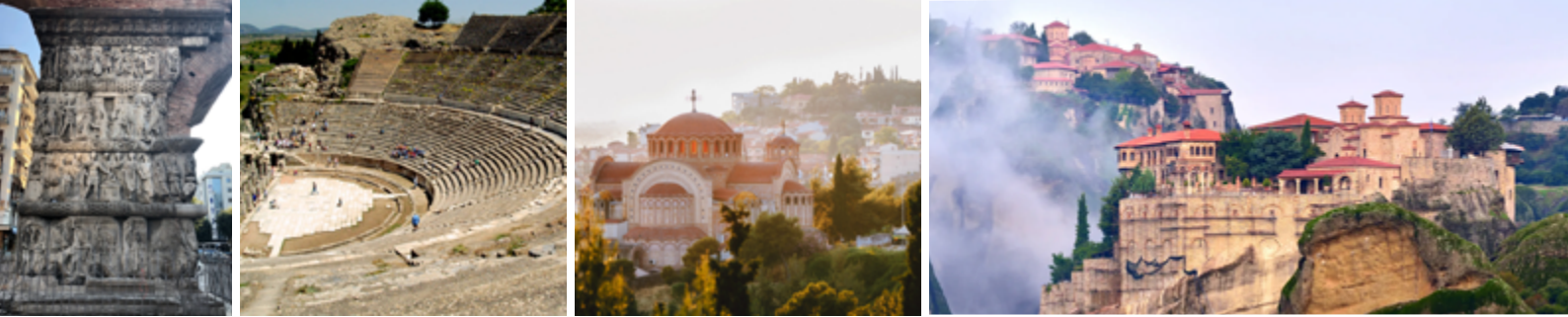
Today is for Thessaloniki exploration. Welcome to Greece's second city, founded in 315 BC, and where St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. See the ramparts of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius and the Roman Agora where St Paul once 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





Our Lady of Sion College

TALK AND TOUR MORNINGS

Please visit
our website
to book



APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7, 2027

close 15 August 2025

EMBRACE CREATIVITY

Talk and Tour Mornings
Term 1

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY, 9.30 AM

Term 2

THURSDAY 01 MAY, 9.30 AM | MONDAY 23 JUNE, 9.30 AM

Our Lady of Sion College
Catholic Girls' College Years 7-12
1065 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128

P 9890 9097
E info@sion.catholic.edu.au
W sion.catholic.edu.au

Be GOOD SHEPHERD THE



By
Olivia
Dawson