



# ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Year C - 20th 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)

Acts 10:34. 37-43, Ps 117:1-23, Colossians 3:1-4  
Gospel Reflection on **Luke 24:1-12**

*Meditation: What did the disciples of Jesus discover on the third day of Jesus' death? On Sunday morning the women who had stood with Jesus when he died upon the cross on Good Friday went to the tomb to pay their last tribute to a dead body. The disciples thought that everything had finished in tragedy. None of Jesus' followers were expecting to see an empty tomb and hear the angel's message, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise" (Luke 24:5-7). The angel urged them to believe that Jesus had indeed risen just as he had promised. This good news was not easy for them to grasp because their hearts were still weighed down with grief and doubt. In wonder they went to share the good news with the other disciples.*

Is it any small wonder that it was the women, rather than the apostles, who first witnessed the empty tomb and then the appearance of the resurrected Lord (Matthew 28:8-10; Mark 16:9; John 20:15-18)? Isidore of Seville (560-636 AD), a great teacher and bishop, commented on the significance of the women being the first to hear the good news of the resurrection: "As a woman (Eve) was first to taste death, so a woman (Mary Magdalene) was first to taste life. As a woman was prescient in the fall, so a woman was prescient in beholding the dawning of redemption, thus reversing the curse upon Eve." The first to testify to the risen Lord was a woman from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons. What is the significance of the stone being rolled away? It would have taken several people to move such a stone. And besides, the sealed tomb had been guarded by soldiers! This is clearly the first sign of the resurrection. Bede (672-735AD), a renowned scripture commentator from England, wrote: "[The angel] rolled back the stone not to throw open a way for our Lord to come forth, but to provide evidence to people that he had already come forth. As the virgin's womb was closed, so the sepulchre was closed, yet he entered the world through her closed womb, and so he left the world through the closed sepulchre" (from Homilies on the Gospels 2,7,24).

The disciples had to first deal with the empty tomb before they could come to grips with the fact that Jesus would die for our sins and then rise triumphant. They disbelieved until they saw the empty tomb. Bede explained 'Our Lord and redeemer revealed the glory of his resurrection to his disciples gradually and over a period of time, undoubtedly because so great was the virtue of the miracle that the weak hearts of mortals could not grasp this all at once.... To those who came first to the tomb, both the women who were aflame with love for him and the men, he showed the stone rolled back. Since his body had been carried away, he showed them the linen cloths in which it had been wrapped lying there alone. Then, to the women who were searching eagerly, who were confused in their minds about what they had found out about him, he showed a vision of angels who disclosed evidences of the fact that he had risen again."

One thing is certain, if Jesus had not risen from the dead and appeared to his disciples, we would never have heard of him. Nothing else could have changed sad and despairing men and women into people radiant with joy and courage. The reality of the resurrection is the central fact of the Christian faith. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord gives us "eyes of faith" to know him and the power of his resurrection. The greatest joy we can have is to encounter the living Lord and to know him personally. Do you celebrate the feast of Easter with joy and thanksgiving for the victory which Jesus has won for you over sin and death?

© 2024 Servants of the Word, author Don Schwager.



**Next Week's Daily Readings 21 April - 27 April 2025**

**MONDAY, Apr 21** Acts 2:14, 22-33, Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11, Mt 28:8-15

**TUESDAY, Apr 22**, Acts 2:36-41, Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22 Jn 20:11-18

**WEDNESDAY, Apr 23** Acts 3:1-10, Ps 104:1-4, 6-9 Lk 24:13-35

**THURSDAY, Apr 24** Acts 3:11-26, Ps 8:2, 5-9 Lk 24:35-48

**FRIDAY, Apr 25** Acts 4:1-12, Ps 117:1-2, 4, 22-27 Jn 21:1-14

**SATURDAY, Apr 26** Acts 4:13-21, Ps 117:1, 14-21, Mk 16:9-15

**SUNDAY, Apr 27** Acts 5:12-16, Ps 117:2-4, 22-27, Rev 1:9-13, 17-19 Jn 20:19-31

*(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.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

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

**19 and 20 April**

**7.30pm** As per Easter Roster  
**7.30pm** Parishioners  
Darren McLean  
Joelle Rousetty  
Youth Group & Gia Nghi

**26 and 27 April**

Catherine Koh  
Maria Deayton  
Shirley Prabha  
Jane D'Souza  
Hung Nguyen & Hoang Nguyen

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

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

**7.30pm** Beryl Chelliah  
**7.30pm** Parishioners  
Megan McLean  
Anico Yee  
Youth Group

Anthony Fernandez  
Peter Naughtin  
Melina Barcellona  
Laura Cigana  
Hoang Nguyen

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

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

**7.30pm** Choir  
**7.30pm** Choir  
Volunteer  
Manny Gonzalez  
Theresa Nguyen

Choir  
Michelle Chen  
Paul Tierney  
Lee Min Yee  
Toan Tran

**SL WELCOMERS 19/20 APR**

**7:30pm** Tony Fernandez  
8.30am Janette Clark  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

26th April - Kellie's team  
Kellie McCarthy, Emma Brodawka,  
Toni Wynne & Daniella Manolopoulos

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

Easter flowers: Jo Adams  
26th April: Marie Parker

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Easter flowers: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 26/27 APR**

5:00pm John Ryan  
8.30am Marie Pekish  
10.30am Volunteer

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

26th April @ 8am  
Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,  
Dzung Nguyen & Trong Nguyen

**ST COUNTERS**

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

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**All who are sick**, especially 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 Tony McMahon who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Lourdes Pinaud, Avlomar Lobato Da Costa, Mary Watson, Marlene Beatty, Ann, William & Frances Reynolds, Anna Zboril, Ellen McKenna, Claire Tudor, Antonia & Bruno Marin, Doreen Parslow, John Andrew, John Bradley & Dawn Berry.  
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.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Baskets are available on the altar of both churches for parishioners to leave their Project Compassion boxes & donations. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

**FEDERAL ELECTION FUNDRAISING (St Luke's):** As you will know the Federal Election will be held on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and once again we are running our fundraising stall in collaboration with the school Parents' Association. Cake plates are available in the foyer at St Luke's for those who can assist by baking some yummy treats. We will also need helpers to work on the stalls on the day so please contact Sonya in the parish office or sign up using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFAE2DA5F8C70-56321076-stlukes> Thanks in advance for your generous support!

**VOLUNTEER ROSTERS (St Luke's):** The rosters for the next three months will be prepared next week. Please register your name on the sign-up sheets in the church foyer if you are willing to assist with welcoming, reading, communion distribution, slide projector operation or bringing up the gifts at Mass. Remember volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless!

Resources .....

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** [Walking the way of the cross together](#)

**ARCHBISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE:** [By his wounds, we are healed](#)

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** [Easter Joy!](#)

---

## **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: \$142

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$175

Vietnamese Donation: \$262.15

**SL:** Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$217

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$266

## 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 Kawalewski

### **Stewardship Counters**

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

### **Parishes Safeguarding Committee**

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

### **Parish history**

SL: Margaret Gearon

### **Parish Accountant**

Bernard Negline

### **SL: Hall Hire**

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

### **Church Sacristan**

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

### **Church Housekeeping**

ST: Margaret King

### **Church Cleaning & Flowers**

SL: Megan McLean

### **Church Linen**

SL: Beryl Chelliah

### **Parish Garden Maintenance**

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

### **Parish Choirs**

ST: 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:** I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

**Response to the Psalm:** This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

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

**Communion Antiphon:** Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

### ***DILEXIT NOS - He Loved Us***

Pope Francis' encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus

“‘He loved us’, St Paul says of Christ (cf. Rom 8:37-39), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever “separate us from that love”: Pope Francis’ fourth Encyclical, which takes its title from the opening words, *Dilexit nos*. Here Pope Francis reflects on “the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ,” calling for a renewal of authentic devotion to avoid forgetting the tenderness of faith, the joy of serving, and the fervour of miss. In a time when many have become disconnected from authentic spiritual life and love, we are called to the Core of the Gospel - the love of Christ as revealed in His Sacred Heart.

Jesus’ open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us His love and friendship, the Pope writes in the introductory paragraph. “For ‘He loved us first’ (cf. 1 Jn 4:10). Because of Jesus, ‘we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us’ (1 Jn 4:16).”

The Sacred Heart of Jesus represents God’s tender, incarnate, and transformative love for humanity. In a world driven by consumerism, rationalism, and disembodied spirituality, the Pope calls for a return to the heart—to rediscover the true meaning of life, identity, and relationship. The heart is where we meet God and discover our deepest identity. Modern society has devalued the heart in favour of reason, control, and productivity. The Sacred Heart teaches that love is the only force that unites and gives meaning. It reflects God’s desire for intimacy and mercy with humanity through personal encounters, compassion, and ultimately, His suffering and death on the Cross. The devotion to the Sacred Heart is rooted in Scripture and tradition—not just private revelations nor is it a nostalgic religious practice. It represents divine and human love, showing Jesus’ deep emotional and spiritual connection to humanity. It should lead to personal transformation, communal renewal, and a mission of mercy in the world. The love of Jesus satisfies a soul thirsting for authentic of love and connection. From Christ’s pierced side flows the water of the Spirit, an open fountain of love and healing. Saints and mystics have rested in this Heart, finding peace and purpose.

To read more, hardcopies of *Dilexit Nos* available in the church foyer for \$5 per copy. Or <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html>

### ***EASTER MESSAGE***

*Archbishop Peter A Comensoli,  
Archbishop of Melbourne.*

When Jesus stood among his disciples after the resurrection, he showed them his wounds, the marks of his crucifixion. Those marks were not just proof of what he had suffered; they were proof of what he had done. Jesus wanted his disciples to see, with their own eyes, that he had taken their wounded lives into his own body. St Peter, who was there that day, never forgot this. Later he would write, ‘By his wounds, you have been healed’ (1 Peter 2:24).

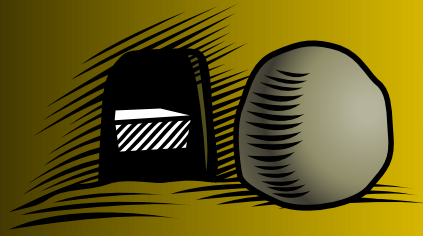
In his crucifixion, Christ carried the full weight of our failures, our hurts, the injuries done to us, and the damage we have done to ourselves and others. He did so knowing we could not heal them alone.

In his resurrection, he stood before his friends with a body bearing our wounds, yet gloriously alive. The resurrection of Christ was a declaration: nothing we carry is beyond his power to redeem. No injury too deep. No past too broken. No heart too far gone. The wounds we bear can feel like the end of our story. They threaten to define us, to trap us. They try to tell us there is no way ahead.

But Easter speaks another word: a healing word, a forgiving word. Easter tells us that our wounds are not where the story ends. Easter shows us there is a path to healing, and a vista onto a new dawn.

The risen Christ, bearing his crucifying marks, is the sign of hope we need. He entered fully into the depths of our brokenness, so that we might emerge with him, healed.

This is the promise of Easter: that in him, our wounds do not have the final word. Life does. For we are healed in the crucified and risen Christ.

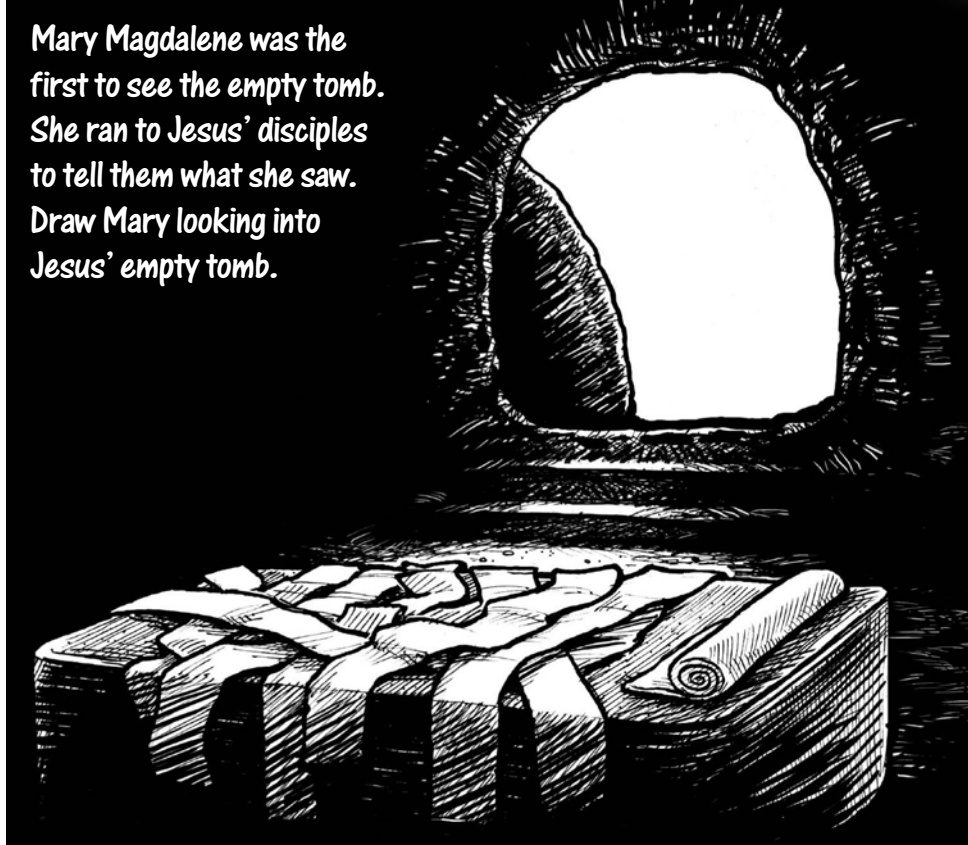


# He is risen! Alleluia!

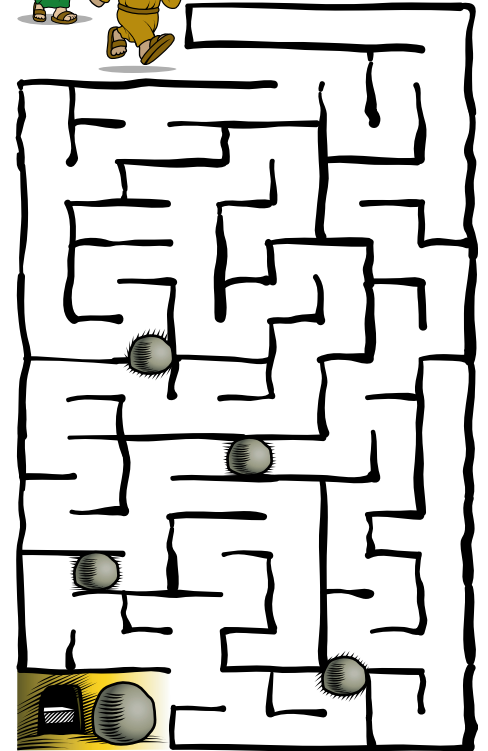


## Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Mary Magdalene was the first to see the empty tomb. She ran to Jesus' disciples to tell them what she saw. Draw Mary looking into Jesus' empty tomb.



Help the disciples find their way to Jesus' empty tomb.



This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice!



What can you do to make people glad today?

---

---

---

---

---

---

Fill in the missing words below to find out what the letters in the boxes spell.

Mary M  went to the tomb.

"They have taken the  from the tomb", she said.

Peter was a d\_\_\_\_\_  of Jesus.

The other disciple ran f\_\_\_\_\_  than Peter.

He saw the strips of  cloth lying inside the tomb.

B  he did not go in.

When he saw  he believed.

The Scriptures s  Jesus would rise to life.

# EASTER SUNDAY – 20 APRIL 2025



## COLLECT

O God, who on this day,  
through your Only Begotten Son,  
have conquered death  
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,  
grant, we pray, that we who keep  
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection  
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,  
rise up in the light of life.  
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 Sacred Easter Triduum which began on Holy Thursday evening ends on the evening of Easter Sunday. Today is also the first Sunday of the Easter Season which ends with Pentecost Sunday.

*The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one 'great Sunday'. These are the days above all others in which the Alleluia is sung. The Sundays of this time of the year are considered to be Sundays of Easter... (GNLYC 22-24).*

After all the energy and effort of the Easter Vigil, there is no room for weariness this morning. Excellent music and fine attention to the proclamation of the word of God are a necessity.

In the Easter season, the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles, not the Old Testament. It witnesses to the life of the early Church in which the Spirit-filled reality of the resurrection is unfolded, first through Peter and then through Paul. The Gospel each week is taken from John.

## A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34, 37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

**R.** This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.

or

**R.** Alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.' **R.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

## First Reading

The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of the Gospel of Luke. It tells the story of the early Church where we see a wonderful widening of the circle: the message of Christ is meant for all nations. Luke's gospel ends with a final instruction from the risen Lord: In the name of the risen Lord, *repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be preached to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this...* (Lk 24:47-48). How this comes to pass is the subject matter of the Acts of the Apostles.

So here in this text, we see Peter preaching the resurrection not to the Jewish community but to the household of Cornelius, a pagan Roman centurion.

Peter's proclamation stands in stark contrast to the account of the resurrection that we will hear in the gospel. Here we have a direct, excited and forthright eye-witness account of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection. All are called to believe in Jesus and have their sins forgiven.

Readers should engage confidently with the testimony of Peter and make it come alive for the hearers at Mass.

## Responsorial Psalm

The responsorial psalm for the Mass of Easter Day (Psalm 117/118) is identical to the Alleluia of the Easter Vigil. Alleluias would make an excellent response this morning as well.

Verses from this psalm are also used next Sunday. On both days we hear the verse cited in the synoptic gospels, the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter: *The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.* It speaks to the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection.

References to 'triumph', 'raising', and 'live' make it clear why the psalm has been chosen for Easter.

Obviously, the cantor/reader should proclaim the text with exultant joy, and the assembly should sing full-throated Alleluias.

## **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:1–4**

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

### **Alternative Second Reading**

## **A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:6–8**

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:1–9**

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

## **Second Reading - Colossians**

The first alternative for today's second reading contrasts heaven and earth. The previous chapter has referred to our baptism as a dying and rising with Christ. That is the context for understanding this passage. In our baptism we have come to new life with Christ as part of God's family.

The reading ends with the promise of glory with the risen Christ. The reader should try to evoke the radiance of the resurrection which all the baptised are called to share.

## **Second Reading – 1 Corinthians**

The second alternative for today's second reading uses the image of yeast and bread baking. These days we would probably use the image of one rotten apple in a basket rather than 'old yeast'. However the bread reference and the mention of Christ our Passover has helpful eucharistic overtones. Easter and the Eucharist both call us to newness of heart. United with the risen Lord, we put aside the old ways of immorality and embrace sincerity and truth.

The image may not be obvious to the hearers. The reader should perhaps emphasise the '*completely new batch of bread.*'

## **Gospel**

There is excitement. People are running. But at the centre of this story is the quiet enigma of an empty tomb. The setting is mysterious – very early, still dark. The very ambiguity invites us to wonder with the disciples what is going on.

The first of the disciples to encounter this unexpected event is Mary of Magdala. Naturally she assumes Jesus' body has been taken away. Peter and John go back with her, see the wrapping cloths and go into the tomb. Then they understand the teaching that Jesus would rise from death, and they believe.

In what follows in John's gospel, Mary encounters the risen Lord in the garden (at first thinking he is the gardener). It is a pity we do not hear this part of the story.

Still, we have the whole Easter season to uncover the full reality of the risen Lord. The ambiguity of this account of the resurrection actually fits our own experience well, for we encounter the risen Lord in the mystery of word and sacrament.



## CONCLUDING PRAYER

### Prayer over the People (Easter Sunday)

May almighty God bless us through today's Easter Solemnity  
and, in his compassion,  
defend us from every assault of sin.  
**Amen.**

And may he, who restores us to eternal life  
in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten,  
endow us with the prize of immortality.  
**Amen.**

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close,  
may we who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast  
come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit,  
to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.  
**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 the Easter Vigil, Roman Missal p. 422)

# 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 celebrated 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)



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)*

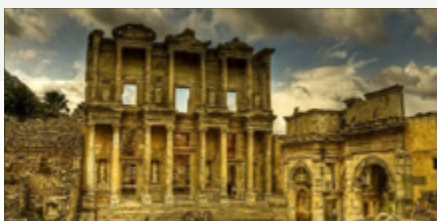
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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





# 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](mailto:info@sion.catholic.edu.au)  
**W** [sion.catholic.edu.au](http://sion.catholic.edu.au)

# Be GOOD SHEPHERD THE

2025



Year  
of  
hope

By  
Olivia  
Dawson