



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 5th October 2025

Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell
Wednesdays,
Thursdays & Fridays
10am – 2pm

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL),
10:30am (ST),
5pm (ST, Vietnamese)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm (SL)

Wed. 9.15am (ST*)

*1st Wed Mass of Anointing
@10am*

Thurs.

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)

YAM GROUP - 1st & 3rd Wed.

each month at 7pm

at St Luke's Presbytery

Habakkuk 1:2-3,2:2-4, Ps 94:1-2, 6-9, 2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14.

Gospel Reflection on Lk 17:5-10

How much faith does one have to have? How much faith is enough? How is it possible to measure one person's faith against another?

When the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith, what exactly were they asking of him? These fishermen and nobodies chosen as disciples by Jesus must surely have had moments of realisation that they were not the sorts of young men normally chosen by Rabbis to be disciples. They must have looked around at the disciples of other teachers and seen that, by comparison, they weren't really in the same league. So they ask Jesus to increase their faith. What they're saying is: make us more like the sorts of people we think we should be. Jesus counters their request by telling them that if they had faith the size of a tiny mustard seed they could accomplish great things. It's not a matter of how much faith one has but what they do with it. How much faith does it take to do great things? Jesus says that it only takes the tiniest scrap of faith.

Jesus follows up this statement by pointing out to the disciples that no matter how small the amount of faith, it carries with it a responsibility and duty to act upon it. One shouldn't be looking for acclaim and special treatment when one acts out of faith as that is simply what is expected. The gift of faith carries with it a duty to live that faith and act upon it.

Historical Context – Servants and Slaves

When speaking about doing what is expected, Jesus uses the image of a servant or slave. Whilst this image may be a difficult one for us, Jesus is simply using an image that would have held meaning to his audience. The sense of doing what is expected without anticipating acclaim was best captured in the time by talking about a servant or slave. This does not suggest that Jesus condoned the practice of slavery or servitude – they were just cultural norms at the time. When Jesus spoke about these matters it was only to ensure that slave and servants were treated fairly.

Scriptural context – A lesson for the disciples

For the last few months, in the Sunday gospel readings, we have been working our way through the second half of the gospel of Luke. From the end of chapter 9 onwards, the gospel charts the journey of Jesus towards Jerusalem. Throughout this journey, Jesus teaches his disciples and attempts to prepare them for his departure and their need to step up and take on his ministry. Today's passage is an example of this instruction to the disciples. Jesus makes clear that they are being called to give their lives to faith in service of others without expecting any return – just as Jesus does!

Gospel Focus – Faith

The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith, but their question – and the reply given by Jesus – does not make clear the faith that they want increased. Is it their faith in God; their faith in themselves; or their faith in the people they are called to serve? The response by Jesus suggests that, in fact, it is faith in all these things. Faith in God and faith in self are intrinsically linked and Jesus makes plain to the disciples that this faith must find its expression in selfless service to others.

© Greg Sunter

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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 6 Oct - 12 Oct

MONDAY, Oct 6 Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11
Jonah 2:3-5, 8 Lk 10:25-37

TUESDAY, Tues 7 Jonah 3:1-10
Ps 129:1-4, 7-8 Lk 10:38-42
Our Lady of the Rosary

WEDNESDAY, Oct 8 Jonah 4:1-11
Ps 85:3-6, 9-10 Lk 11:1-4

THURSDAY, Oct 9 Mal 3:13-20
Ps 1: Lk 11:5-13

FRIDAY, Oct 10 Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2
Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9 Lk 11:15-26

SATURDAY, Oct 11 Joel 4:12-21
Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Lk 11:27-28

SUNDAY, Oct 12 2 Kg 5:14-17
Ps 97:1-4, 2 Tim 2:8-13
Lk 17:11-19

28th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

*(Taken from
ORDO 2025, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2024)*

The Jubilee Prayer



Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

SOME USEFUL CATHOLIC RESOURCES:

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

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

UNIVERSALIS website and App. (<https://universalis.com/index.htm>)

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

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

4 and 5 OCT

Michael Ballek
Beryl Chelliah
Stefanie Chin
Duc Nguyen, Mai Le & Loc Le

11 and 12 OCT

Olive Hammill
Darren McLean
Joelle Rousetty
Thuan Tran, Hoang Nguyen & Dung Luong

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Olive Hammill
Kana Chelliah
Anico Yee
Hung Dinh

Marg Yore
Megan McLean
Eleanor Mendes
Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
Megan McLean
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

Choir
Paul Tierney
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 4-5 OCT

5pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

18th Oct - Kellie's team
Kellie McCarthy, Emma Brodawka,
Toni Wynne & Daniella Manolopoulos

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

4th Oct: Jenny & Vanessa Marino
11th Oct: Kate Skowronka

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 11-12 OCT

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

ST CHURCH CLEANING

11th Oct @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

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

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Fr Jim Staunton, Mary Goodwin, Kevin Ryan, Agatha Wink, Ronda Smith, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Beatrice Patrick, Jim Grant, Kathleen Canavan, Teresa Arelette, Carlton Gleeson, Natasha Mikolic, Doris Beatty, Maurice Rodrigues, Kate McLoney, Cris Canete, Fr. Tom Jones, Percy Alwis, Kathleen Donnithorne, Donald Wood, Margaret Regester, Giuseppina Defina, Isaura Tenorio, Antoni & Wanda Rusc, Mary Kim Yian Yeo and Bertha Andrews.
May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER:

For collaboration between different religious traditions. Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

UPCOMING WEEKDAY MASS CHANGES: There will be **NO 9.15am MASS** on Thursday 9th Oct at St Timothy's.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): An RCIA program will start on Thursday October 23rd. It will run from October to March 2026 with meetings on Thursdays starting at 8pm both in person and via Zoom. For more information or to join in please contact the parish office.

RCIA REGIONAL NETWORK GATHERING: Parish clergy, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults teams and all interested in beginning an RCIA team are invited to the Eastern Region meeting on Wednesday 15th Oct., 6.30 to 8.30pm at St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe. Register at <http://trybooking.com/DETAB>
For any enquiries contact proclaim@cam.org.au

A WARM WELCOME: We warmly welcome Nathalie & Francisco who are presenting their daughters Antonella & Isabella this weekend ahead of their Baptism on Saturday 11th October at the 5pm Vigil Mass at St Luke's.

OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN: Next weekend we will commence our Offertory Giving Program which will run over the next five weeks. Please pray for our community as we enter into this time of discernment. Our offering is a powerful witness and a personal prayer. You are encouraged to engage prayerfully with the content presented and provided over this time and we look forward to growing and going deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ through this process.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Together on the journey of faith](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Pray the Rosary](#)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses.

ST: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$440.40

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$300.60

Vietnamese Donation: \$266.15

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$374.20

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$505.25

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

SL: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalewski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Miguel Ilagan & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Margaret Gearon &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Response to the Psalm: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The word of the Lord stands for ever; it is the word given to you, the Good News. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.



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The LukeTim YAM (18-35 Yrs) is an outreach program of St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South and St Timothy's, Forest Hill.




NEXT MEETING
WHEN: Wed. 15th Oct @ 7pm
WHERE: St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South
TOPIC: **The Gift of Faith**
What is faith?
Is it reasonable?
Taking a step of faith.

An evening of nibbles, praise & worship, talk, sharing & games to deepen our relationship with Christ in a fun, safe and inclusive environment. Further enquiries to Jersey or Sarah at luktimyam@gmail.com

menALIVE MAX 2025 MOUNTAINS

Date: **10-12 October 2025**
Venue: **Edmund Rice Centre, Amberley, Lower Plenty, VIC**

A national Catholic event for men. Join us as we gather to 'listen, learn and long for the fullness of life' in groups or in workshops. We desire to grow into the men we were made to be, better husbands, fathers, and men of God.



REGISTER NOW

This weekend is designed to offer you a sanctuary of peace and spiritual growth. It will be a time of renewal and inspiration for men. To register go to: https://app.tickets.org.au/MA/MAX2025MEL_vaacM

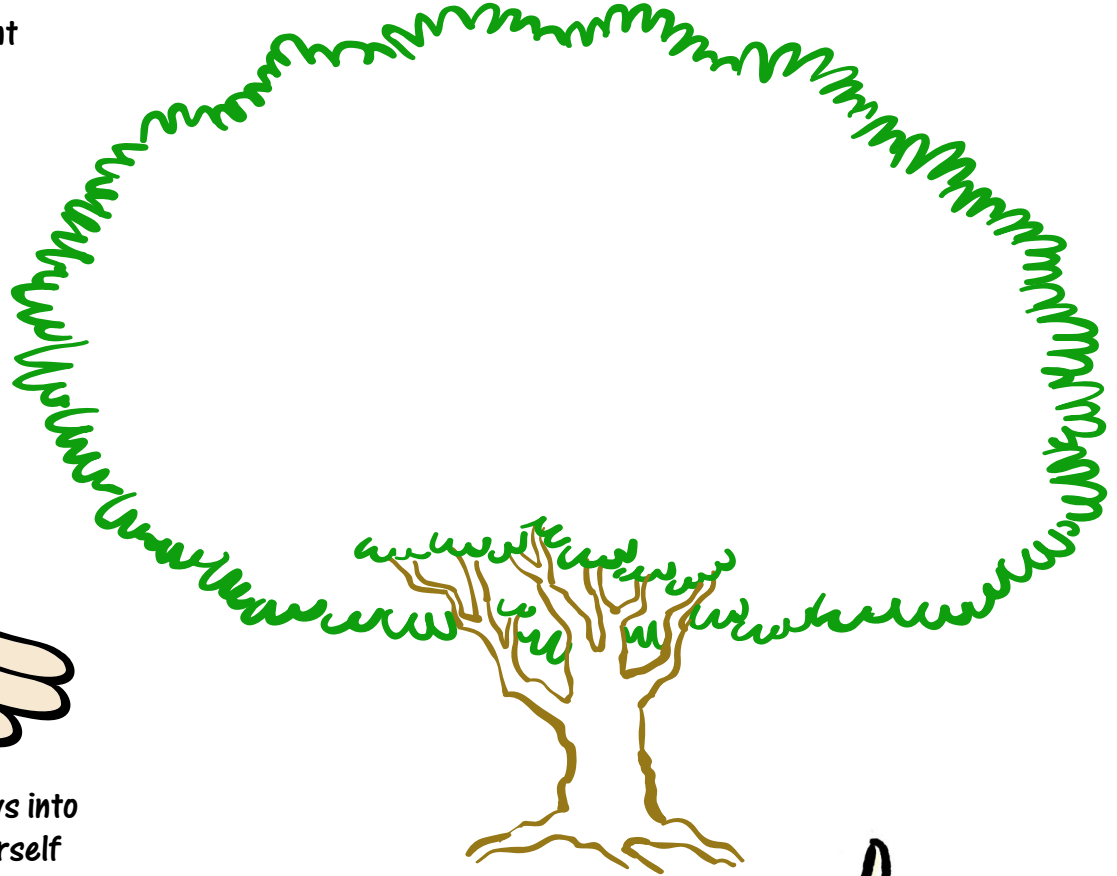
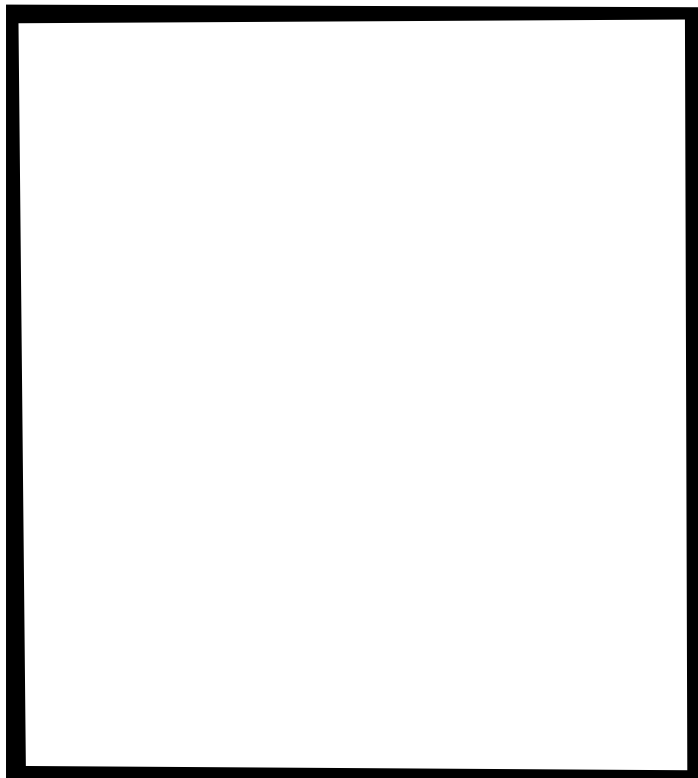
Make our faith stronger

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

With even the smallest amount of faith we can achieve a lot. Write in the tree some good things that you can do this week which show how much you believe in Jesus.



Jesus says our faith can grow, like a mustard seed that grows into a tree. Draw a picture of yourself doing something that helps your faith in Jesus to grow.



MUSTARD SEED

How many words can you make from the letters in the words MUSTARD SEED?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 5 OCTOBER 2025



COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
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

Faith is about a relationship, a relationship of trust in response to God's self-revelation to us. It is not a dry intellectual assent to a series of propositions. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, believing in God means coming to know God's greatness and majesty; it means living in thanksgiving, for everything we are and everything we have comes from God; it means knowing the unity and true dignity of all, since everyone is made in the image and likeness of God; it means making good use of created things because they bring us into contact with the creator; it means trusting God in every circumstance, even in adversity (CCC 222-227). Faith is the human response to God's initiative of grace, a free commitment of ourselves to God's self-revelation (see Vatican II, *Dei Verbum* 5).

If we make our own the prayer of the apostles: *Increase our faith*, we are seeking a deeper, more trusting relationship with a God of love and compassion.

A reading from the prophet Habakkuk 1:2–3; 2:2–4

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help
while you will not listen;
to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear
and you will not save?
Why do you set injustice before me,
why do you look on where there is tyranny?
Outrage and violence, this is all I see,
all is contention, and discord flourishes.
Then the Lord answered and said,

'Write the vision down,
inscribe it on tablets
to be easily read,
since this vision is for its own time only:
eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive;
if it comes slowly, wait,
for come it will, without fail.
See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights,
but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

First Reading

Part One: The prophet Habakkuk looks around and sees oppression and injustice, tyranny and violence, contention and discord. In a series of fierce rhetorical questions, he complains that God is not fixing things up. He protests that God is not listening and will not save him.

We look at the world today and can also cry out to God in frustration and despair.

Part Two: God replies with a calm and peaceful but also enigmatic oracle. It isn't clear what 'the vision' refers to. Yet the promise will be fulfilled – it may take time, but come it will, without fail. The passage ends with an exhortation to faithfulness, to trust in God's providence however bleak things may seem.

It is here that the prophet opens up the gospel prayer: *Lord, increase our faith.*

It will not be difficult for the reader to distinguish the two parts of the reading both by the tone of voice and also by a distinct pause between the sections. The final couplet could be read in the plural and the word 'man' omitted.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1–2, 6–9

R. If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 94/95 may be understood as a call to corporate worship.

The first stanza evokes an entry procession accompanied by joyous songs of thanksgiving. The second stanza moves us into the mode of adoration and reverence. It acknowledges that God is our creator and we belong to God's people, the flock he brings to pasture.

The response is taken from the third stanza which urges people to listen to God's word. We are reminded that in the past, people's hearts have not always been open to hear God's voice. This introduces a cautionary note to an otherwise strong psalm of trust.

The cantor/reader will need to take care of the two-part response and the two five-line verses to facilitate the participation of the assembly.

**A reading from the second letter of
St Paul to Timothy**

1:6–8, 13–14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard

from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke**

17:5–10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately?" Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."

Second Reading

Today the Lectionary moves us to the second letter to Timothy, the first of four selections. Attributed to Paul, it presents itself as a farewell message reflecting on Paul's ministry and giving final instructions to his colleague and successor.

Paul has handed on leadership by the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Centuries later as rites of ordination were developed, this liturgical gesture would remain central.

Great prominence is given to the Holy Spirit in the service of leadership. The Spirit will bring power for suffering and witness, love for drawing the Christian community together, and guidance to preserve the precious teaching which enables the Christian community to encounter Christ.

Gospel

These verses offer two different pieces of advice on discipleship.

The first is centred on the short and memorable request, *Increase our faith*. With typical Hebrew hyperbole, Jesus uses the startling image of the mulberry tree. He is not promoting showy wonder-working. Faith is about trusting in God and God's power – to this, there are no limits. People of faith accomplish nothing by their own human power. The second piece of advice surprisingly addresses the disciple as an upper-class landowner who has a servant to work on the farm and to serve at table. The point of the example is to speak to them of a leadership of service. At the Last Supper, Jesus himself will point out that he is among the apostles as 'one who serves' (Lk 22:26-27). Jesus here pricks the bubble of pride: *we are merely servants...*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time III)

May almighty God bless us in his kindness
and pour out saving wisdom upon us.

Amen.

May he nourish us always with the teachings of the faith
and make us persevere in holy deeds.

Amen.

May he turn our steps towards himself
and show us the path of charity and peace.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us and remain with us for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III, Roman Missal p. 715)

JOIN US

Installation Mass



Father Alex

and

**FEAST OF
ST LUKE**

SAT | 18 OCT

5 PM

**ST LUKE THE
EVANGELIST**



B.Y.O POTLUCK DINNER CELEBRATION WITH DJ 80S MUSIC & MORE



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BLACKBURN SOUTH



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



20TH APRIL –
3RD MAY 2026

LED BY
FR ALEX CHOW

14
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE: AU\$8,490*
per person (twin share)

OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AU\$1,150

FULLY
ESCORTED

*Conditions apply. Subject to change.
Price estimated based on group
size of 20 pilgrims. Actual pricing
will be known in late May 2025.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.’ (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

‘For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

‘Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love’

(Ephesians 4:2)

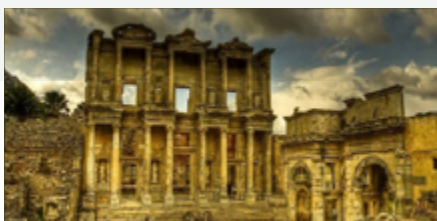
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written. It will be an opportunity of spiritual renewal, deepen our relationship with God as we reflect and experience the incredible journey of Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

REGISTER FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION at 7pm ON THURSDAY, 5th JUNE

* Enjoy full travel briefing * Meet your fellow Pilgrims * Have your questions answered

CONTACT FR ALEX OR OLIVE TREE TRAVEL TO REGISTER & GET THE DETAILS



NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Alex or Olive Tree Travel or by [CLICKING HERE.](#)
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$500 per person is payable by 16th June 2025 (unless sold out prior)
3. Final balances will be due by late February 2026.



Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696
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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

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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

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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:

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 South and St Timothy Forest Hill
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By
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Dawson