

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



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 25th Jan. 2026

Isaiah 08:23 -9:3, Ps 26:1-14, 1 Cor 1:10-17

### GOSPEL REFLECTION Matthew 4:12-23

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.



**Meditation:** Do you know the joy and freedom of the good news (Gospel) of the kingdom of God? John the Baptist's enemies had sought to silence him, but the good news of God's kingdom of salvation cannot be silenced. As soon as John had finished his testimony Jesus began his in Galilee. Galilee was at the crossroads of the world and much traffic passed through this little region. It had been assigned to the tribes of Asher, Naphtali and Zebulun when the Israelites first came into the land (see Joshua 9). For a long time it had been under Gentile occupation.

**Jesus brings the light and truth of salvation to the world:** The prophet Isaiah foretold that the good news of salvation would reach Jews and Gentiles in the "land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations" (Isaiah 9:1). Jesus begins the proclamation of the Gospel here to fulfil the word of God. The Old Testament prophets spoke of God's promise to send a Redeemer who would establish God's rule. That time is now fulfilled in Jesus who brings the light and truth of the Gospel to the world. The "good news" brings peace, hope, truth, promise, immortality, and salvation: Jesus takes up John's message of repentance and calls his hearers to believe in the good news he has come to deliver. What is the good news which Jesus brings? It is the good news of peace - the Lord comes to reconcile and restore us to friendship with God. The good news of hope - the Lord comes to dwell with us and to give us a home with him in his heavenly kingdom. The good news of truth - the Lord Jesus sets us free from the lies and deception of Satan and opens our mind to understand the truth and revelation of God's word (John 8:32). The good news of promise - Jesus fulfils the promise of God to reward those who seek him with the treasure of heaven. The good news of immortality - Jesus overcomes sin and death for us in order to raise our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body which will never die again. And the good news of salvation - the Lord Jesus delivers us from every fear, every sin, and every obstacle that would keep us from entering his everlasting kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. The Gospel is the power and the wisdom of God - both power to change and transform our lives and wisdom to show us how to live as sons and daughters of our Father in heaven. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit the Lord makes it possible for us to receive his word with faith and to act upon it with trust and obedience.

**The Gospel demands a response of faith and obedience to God's gift of salvation:** In announcing the good news, Jesus makes two demands: repent and believe! Repentance requires a change of course - a turning away from sin and disobedience and a turning towards the Lord with faith and submission to his word of truth and righteousness (right living according to God's truth and moral goodness). The Holy Spirit gives us a repentant heart, a true sorrow and hatred for sin and its bad consequences (the wages of sin is death - Romans 6:23), and a firm resolution to avoid whatever would lead us into sin. The Holy Spirit gives us grace to see our sin for what it is - rebellion and a rejection of the love of God. God's grace helps us to turn away from all that would keep us from his love.

**We believe, hope, and love Him as He loved us first and drew us to Himself:** Faith or belief is an entirely free gift which God makes to us. Believing is only possible by grace and the help of the Holy Spirit who moves the heart and converts it to God. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of the mind and makes it possible for us to accept and to grow in our understanding of the truth. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we can know God personally and the truth he reveals to us through his only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. To believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior is to accept God's revelation of his Son as the eternal Word of God and the Redeemer who delivers us from the tyranny of sin, Satan, and death. Out of his great love for us God the Father made the supreme sacrifice of his Son on the cross to atone for our sins and to bring us back to himself. Do you want to grow in the knowledge of God's love and truth? Ask the Holy Spirit to renew in you the gift of faith, the love of wisdom, and the heart of a disciple who desires to follow the Lord Jesus and his will for your life.

*Earth, Gaia at Salisbury Cathedral, © 2025 Servants of the Word, Don Schwager.*

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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

**Parish Priest**

Fr Alex Chow

**Parish Secretary**

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

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**SUNDAY MASS**

**Saturday Vigil:** 5pm (SL)

**Sunday:** 8:30am (SL)

10:30am (ST)

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**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

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**RECONCILIATION**

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

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**EXPOSITION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT &  
EVENING PRAYER**

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

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**HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS  
AT ST. LUKE'S**

In recess for the month of  
February

**Young Adult Group** - in  
recess until Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Feb  
2026, at 7pm,  
at St Luke's Presbytery



**COMING in late APRIL 2026**

*Thinking about life, purpose, and what  
really matters.* If you're asking

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

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

We'd love to see you at Alpha!

**Next Week's Daily Readings 26 Jan - 1 Feb**

**MONDAY Jan 26** 1 Is 32:15-18  
Ps 84:9-14 1 Cor12:4-11 Mt 5:1-12  
**Australia Day**

**TUESDAY Jan 27** 2 Sam 6:12-15, 17-19  
Ps 23:7-10 Mk 3:31-35

**WEDNESDAY, Jan 28** 2 Sam 7:4-17  
Ps 88:4-5, 27-30 Mk 4:1-20  
**St Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor**

**THURSDAY Jan 29** 2 Sam 7:18-19, 24-29  
Ps 131:1-5, 11-14 Mk 4:21-25

**FRIDAY Jan 30** 2 Sam 11:1-10, 13-17  
Ps 50:3-7, 10-11 Mk 4:26-34

**SATURDAY Jan 31** 2 Sam 12:1-7, 10-17  
Ps 50:12-17 Mk 4:35-41  
**St John Bosco, priest**

**SUNDAY Feb 1** Zeph 2-3; 3:12-13  
Ps 145:7-10: 1 Cor 1:26-31  
Mt 5:1-12

**4th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**ALTAR SERVING MINISTRY**

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

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

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

**24 and 25 JAN**

Edna Lee  
Kana Chelliah  
Volunteer

**31 JAN and 1 FEB**

Lucy Ferris  
Liliana Restrepo  
Joelle Roussety

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

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

Lucy Ferris  
Beryl Chelliah  
Volunteer

Edna Lee  
Megan McLean  
Chin L Tay

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

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

Choir  
Volunteer  
Lee Min Yee

Choir  
Volunteer  
Manny Gonzalez

**SL WELCOMERS 24-25 JAN**

5pm Volunteer  
8.30am Volunteer  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

31st Jan - Kellie's team  
Kellie McCarthy, Emma Brodawka,  
Toni Wynne & Daniella Manolopoulos

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

No roster in January  
7th Feb - Jenny & Vanessa

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Flowers: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 31 JAN -1 FEB**

5:00pm Volunteer  
8.30am Volunteer  
10.30am Volunteer

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

6th Feb  
Susan Chen & Isaac Cheng

**ST COUNTERS**

This week Team 7:  
Fela Colasanti & Chin L Tay  
Next week Team 8:  
Sarah Ahmed & Ann Abrero

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

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

**All who have died**, especially Patrick (Paddy) Kelly and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Carmelinda Leo, Carmen Nicoli, Peter Grech, Viola Ellul, John Blanchfield, Terry Drew, Peter Burns, Teresa Vu Thi Tot, Vin McCarthy, Thomas McLoney, Paul Gordon, Eugenio Mariniello, Dot McLeish, John Foard, Judy Pitcher, Margaret Valladares, Yin-Foong Kong, Pam Lissenden, John Chiarilli & Eileen Hilliard. May they rest in peace.

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

For prayer with the Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

**FUNERAL:** The funeral for Antonia Plevier, former sacristan and longtime parishioner of St Luke's, will be held at St Luke's on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 11am with refreshments in the parish hall afterwards. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**ALPHA DINNER:** Did you join us for ALPHA last year and maybe want to help this year even in a small capacity? Please join us for a potluck dinner on Saturday 31st January @ 6.30pm St Luke's Hall. Contact Lynda if you have questions on 0400 270 970.

**THANK YOU DINNER FOR PARISH VOLUNTEERS:** All volunteers at St Luke's and St Timothy's are invited to a pizza and salad dinner on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm at St Luke's parish hall. Drinks will be provided. Please bring dessert and snacks to share. RSVP for catering purposes on the clipboards in the foyer of both churches or by email to the parish office.

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

**BAPTISM:** We warmly welcome Amy and James Carpenter who are presenting their children Edward and Georgia to the parish community this weekend. They will be baptised next Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February at the 8.30am Mass.

## **Resources ....**

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** [Australia Day](#)

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## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

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

*The Second collection is for parish expenses.*

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

## **Parish Groups & Contacts**

### **Volunteers and Rosters:**

*Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),  
Margaret Gearon (SL)*

**Baptism Preparation:** Fr Alex

### **Parish Collection Preparers**

*ST: Barry Silvester &  
Michael Kawalewski*

### **Parishes Safeguarding Committee**

*Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,  
Darren McLean & Janette Clark*

### **Parish History**

*SL: Margaret Gearon*

### **Parish Accountant**

*Bernard Negline*

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

*Sonya O'Farrell @ 9877 2292*

### **Church Sacristan**

*ST: Roster of Parishioners  
SL: Greg Grant*

### **Church Cleaning & Flowers**

*SL: Megan McLean  
ST: Susan Chen*

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

### **Parish Garden Maintenance**

*ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,  
& Anico Yee  
SL: Darren McLean*

### **Parish Choirs**

*ST: Miguel Ilagan  
SL: Fr Alex*

**Bible Timeline:** *Chris Lim*

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

### **Young Adult Ministry:**

*Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto*

**RCIA:** *David West*

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

*For Assistance: 1800 305 330  
(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)  
ST: John McCoy  
SL: Margaret Gearon &  
Steve Kilroe-Smith*

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

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

**Communion Antiphon:** Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**ST TIMOTHY'S:** Sunday 25th January at the 10.30am Mass at St Timothy's. This will run on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month.



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

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

### BIBLE TIMELINE RESUMES

Our Bible Timeline sessions resume on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January at St Timothy's Church. Tea & coffee are available from 6.45pm ahead of a 7pm start. Please ensure you are prepared for the session so the momentum continues.

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Congratulations to the following winners of our Christmas Raffle:

- 1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE - ESTELA GONZALEZ
- 2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE - IVAN RUSAK
- 3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE - KANA CHELLIAH
- 4<sup>th</sup> PRIZE - DON MCKENZIE
- 5<sup>th</sup> PRIZE - LOUISE ROLFS
- 6<sup>th</sup> PRIZE - GLENIS LIMAYE

Thanks to all parishioners for your support of our Christmas Raffle and Christmas Market which covered the costs of sending our young parishioners to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

### SOME USEFUL CATHOLIC RESOURCES:

#### PRAY AS YOU GO

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

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

**UNIVERSALIS** website and App

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

### The LukTim YAM

(18-35 Yrs)

#### NEXT MEETING

**WHEN: Wed. 4 Feb. @ 7pm**

**WHERE: St Luke's Presbytery,  
46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South**

**TOPIC: *The Light of Christ?* Have you ever felt the presence of God in your life? What does God mean to you? Ideas and images of God. Where did you learn about Jesus?**

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](mailto:luktimyam@gmail.com)



### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a 5 month program for those who are interested and would like to know more about

the Catholic faith as well as the possibility to encounter Jesus Christ in a personal way. It is a journey together with other enquirers as well as parishioners. The RCIA program will continue on Tuesday, January 27th @ 7pm at St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South. It will run until March 2026 with weekly meetings (1.5hrs) both in person and via Zoom. For more information or to join in please contact the parish office.

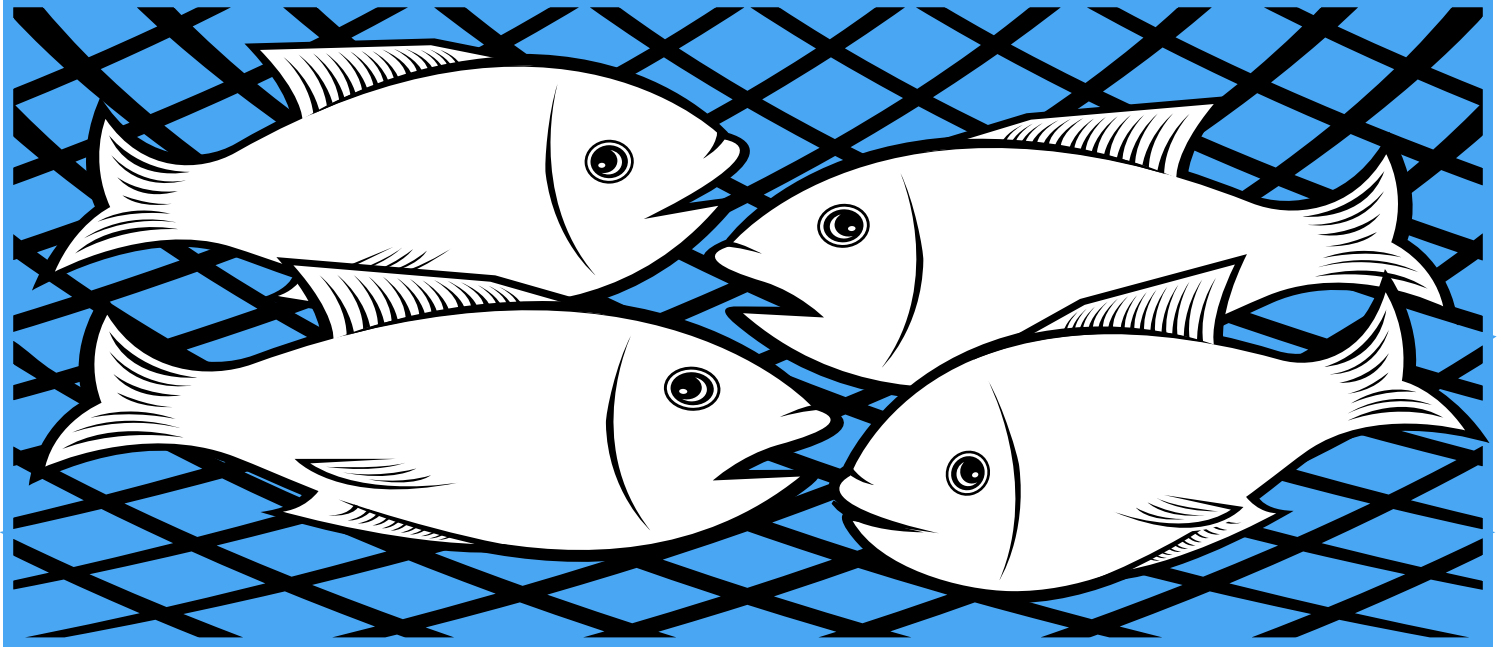




*Come with me!*

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

The disciples were called by Jesus to bring people to God. Inside the fish write down some of the ways that we can bring people to God in our everyday lives.



Write down the names of four people you know who follow Jesus. For each person give an example of how they follow Jesus.

The first disciples to be called by Jesus were all fishermen. Connect each of these apostles with his correct description.



Also known as Simon, Jesus called him the “rock” upon which he would build the church. After the Ascension, he became a leader of the apostles and is regarded as the first pope.

He was the brother of John and one of the sons of Zebedee. He was chosen by Jesus to be one of the witnesses to the Transfiguration. He was the first of the apostles to be martyred.

He was one of the sons of Zebedee and a close friend of Jesus. He stood at the foot of the cross with the virgin Mary during Jesus’ crucifixion. One of the Gospels bears his name.

He was the brother of Peter and the first called by Jesus. He was martyred by being crucified on an ‘X’ shaped cross, which became his symbol. He is the patron saint of Scotland.

# 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 25 JANUARY 2026



## COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,  
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,  
that in the name of your beloved Son  
we may abound in good works.  
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

On this Australia Day long weekend, it would be good to pray for the nation, asking God to help us become a more just, harmonious and respectful society. A parish might even choose to use the prayer texts from the Missal, though these readings from the Third Sunday should be retained. The prayer themes of light and the stars of the Southern Cross fit the themes of the readings well. One of the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation might also be helpful.

If celebrating Australia Day seems divisive in a particular community, the second reading urging oneness in Christ will be important for the people to hear, as well as Jesus' first message in his public ministry calling people to a change of heart (repentance).

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah

8:23-9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14

**R.** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! **R.**

## First Reading

Most of this text was heard on Christmas night. Its images of light and darkness, gladness and joy are memorable. The text is read again today because it is quoted by Matthew as Jesus begins his public ministry.

For Isaiah, writing in a time of dark defeat and foreign oppression, it is a vision of new hope. There will be light, liberation and joy. For Matthew, this prophesy is fulfilled in Jesus as he begins his ministry, proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom in word and action. Isaiah's message of hope is one we need to hear in our troubled world today as much as people ever did. The reader should not let the prosaic introduction mask the triumphant and poetic proclamation of Isaiah's vision. The contrast here is between "humbled" and "confer glory". Check the pronunciation of the proper names so that it can be read smoothly without stumbling. Keep it fairly low-key so that the key darkness-light lines can be duly emphasised. "Men" should be read as "people/they"

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26/27 picks up the image of light and encourages us to trust in God's help. The overtones of fear mentioned in the first stanza are not spelled out in these selected verses: the emphasis is on the positive.

In the Isaiah reading, it is the Lord who gives light in the dark, increases joy and lifts the burden of the oppressor. The psalm reinforces our utter dependence on God's power and goodness: Hope in the Lord, hold firm and take heart! These verses are a strong ending to the psalm.

The cantor/reader will delight in this powerful affirmation of faith in God, though care should be taken with the longer second verse so that the assembly is given a clear cue for its response.

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13, 17**

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollo', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:12-23**

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.

[As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.]

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

**Second Reading**

The Christian community in Corinth was blessed with many gifts, but there was rivalry and competition among the people. Paul urges them to focus on their unity in Christ instead of aligning themselves with one faction or another. He tries to persuade them to make up the disagreements between themselves, to live in unity and to be reconciled.

Perhaps there will be some parallels in our own Christian communities today as we mark the Australia Day long weekend. Difference of opinion need not produce friction and disagreement but can instead led to a deeper respect for one another. Our unity in the cross of Christ demands no less.

The reader should try to convey Paul's energy and emotion as he argues his case, quoting slogans and throwing out rhetorical questions.

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

**Gospel**

Matthew is always keen to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of ancient prophecies and hopes. Hence this long quotation from Isaiah to mark the beginning of his account of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus proclaims that God's glorious kingdom is at hand, an idea that recurs in the summary of Jesus' mission at the end of the reading.

It would be a great pity not to use the longer version of today's gospel which includes the call of his first four disciples. The two pairs of brothers were humble fisherman, working hard. Yet they are instantly ready to heed the call, follow Christ and share his ministry. This is an important witness for all of us today who count ourselves disciples of Christ.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

May the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**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 II, Roman Missal p. 715)



ST. LUKES SCHOOL  
BLACKBURN SOUTH



# St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

## We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO  
BOOK A  
TOUR





# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



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

LED BY  
FR ALEX CHOW

14  
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE:  
per person (twin share)

AUD\$ 8,490\*

OPTIONAL SINGLE  
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

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)*

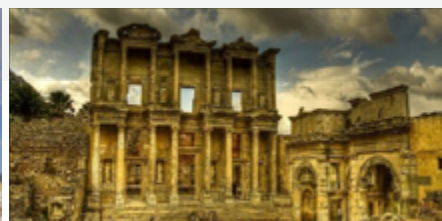
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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



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### 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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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

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### WHO TO CONTACT:

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 South and St Timothy Forest Hill  
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Olivia  
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