



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



The Epiphany of the Lord, Year A - 4th Jan. 2026

### 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),

### 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

### RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

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

Second weekend of each month - bring a plate to share (optional)

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

Isaiah 60:1-6, Ps 71:1-13, Ephesians 3:2- 6,

Gospel Reflection: **Matthew 2:1-12**

*Meditation: If Jesus truly is who he claims to be, the eternal Son of God and Saviour of the world, then why is he not recognized by everyone who hears his word and sees his works? John the Evangelist states that when Jesus came into the world the world knew him not and his own people received him not (Jn 1:10-11). Jesus was born in obscurity. Only the lowly shepherds recognized him at his birth. Some wise men also found their way to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn King of Israel. These men were not Israelites, but foreigners. They likely had read and discussed the Messianic prophecies and were anxious to see when this Messianic King would appear. God led them by means of an extraordinary star across the desert to the little town of Bethlehem where Jesus was born.*



John Chrysostom (347-407), in his homily on this passage from Matthew 2, explains the significance of the star of Bethlehem: "Note how fitting was the order of events: the wise men saw the star, were received by the Jews and their king; they heard prophecy to explain what had appeared; the angel instructed them; and then they journeyed from Jerusalem to Bethlehem by the guidance of the star. From all this we learn that this was not an ordinary star, for no other star has this capacity to guide, not merely to move but to beckon, to "go before them" drawing and guiding them along their way. The star remained after bringing them to the place, in order that the child might also be seen. For there is nothing conspicuous about the place. The inn was ordinary. The mother was not celebrated or notable. The star was needed to manifest and illumine the lowly place, until they had reached their destination at the manger."

In their thirst for knowledge of God, the wise men from the East willingly left everything, their home and country, in pursuit of that quest. In their diligent search they were led to the source of true knowledge - to Jesus Christ, the Light and Wisdom of God. When they found the newborn King they humbly worshiped him and gave him gifts fitting for a king. Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah.

The Lord of the universe who revealed the star of Bethlehem to the Gentiles of the East so they could come and worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and King of Kings (Revelations 19:16), gives each one of us the same light of revelation to recognize and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. It is through the help of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and opens the eyes of the mind, that we are able to understand, accept, and believe the truth which God has revealed to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. In faith, the human will and intellect cooperate with grace. "Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace" (Thomas Aquinas). To know and to encounter Jesus Christ is to know God personally. In the encounter of the wise men with Jesus we see the plan of God to give his only Son as King and Saviour, not just for the Jewish people but for all the nations as well. The Lord Jesus came that both Jew and Gentile might find true and lasting peace with God. Let us pray today that Jew and Gentile alike will find the Lord and Saviour on their journey of life. Do you bring the light of Jesus Christ to those you meet through the witness of your life and testimony?

The Adoration of the Magi by Gerard David (circa 1515) © National Gallery, London  
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Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au / Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

**Next Week's Daily Readings 5 Jan - 11 Jan**

**MONDAY Jan 5** 1 Jn 3:22 - 4:6 Ps 2:7-8, 10-11 Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**TUESDAY Jan 6** 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 71:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

**WEDNESDAY, Jan 7** 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 71:1-2, 10-13 Mk 6:45-52

**THURSDAY Jan 8** 1 Jn 4:19 - 5:4 Ps 71:1-2, 14-15, 17 Lk 4:14-22

**FRIDAY Jan 9** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

**SATURDAY Jan 10** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6 Jn 3:22-30

**SUNDAY Jan 11** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 28:1-4, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17

**The BAPTISM of the LORD**

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

*All who are sick*, especially 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*, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially John Carman, Marek Mazaraki, Hugh Deakin, Richard Rowlands, Maria Dinh Thi Nhu, Mary Rose Ryan, Mario Cardenti, Victoria Saverimuttu, Lester Hickman, Peter Pajic, William Flood, Cely Treyes, Shane Coney, Paul Borg, David Jenner, Rudy Beatty, Kay Hincks, Lemuel Baylon, Mary Frances Smith, Noel Jones, Liam Hynan, Eileen McCoy & Gregory Rusc. May they rest in peace.

**Entrance Antiphon:** Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

**Response to the Psalm:** Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

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

**Communion Antiphon:** We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP**

Parishioner assistance is requested to tidy up the Christmas decorations at St Luke's on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. at 10.15am and at St Timothy's on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan after the 10.30am Mass. Please come along if you can help!

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

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

**3 and 4 JAN**

Melina Barcellona  
Peter McKeown  
Alfred Lee

**10 and 11 JAN**

Melina Barcellona  
Michael Ballek  
Volunteer

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

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

Melina Barcellona  
Margaret Gearon  
Eleanor Mendes

Melina Barcellona  
Megan McLean  
Volunteer

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

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

Choir  
Volunteer  
Lee Min Yee

Choir  
Volunteer  
Manny Gonzalez

**SL WELCOMERS 3-4 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**

Christmas Flowers:  
Marie Parker

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Flowers: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 10-11 JAN**

5:00pm Volunteer  
8.30am Volunteer  
10.30am Volunteer

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

To be advised

**ST COUNTERS**

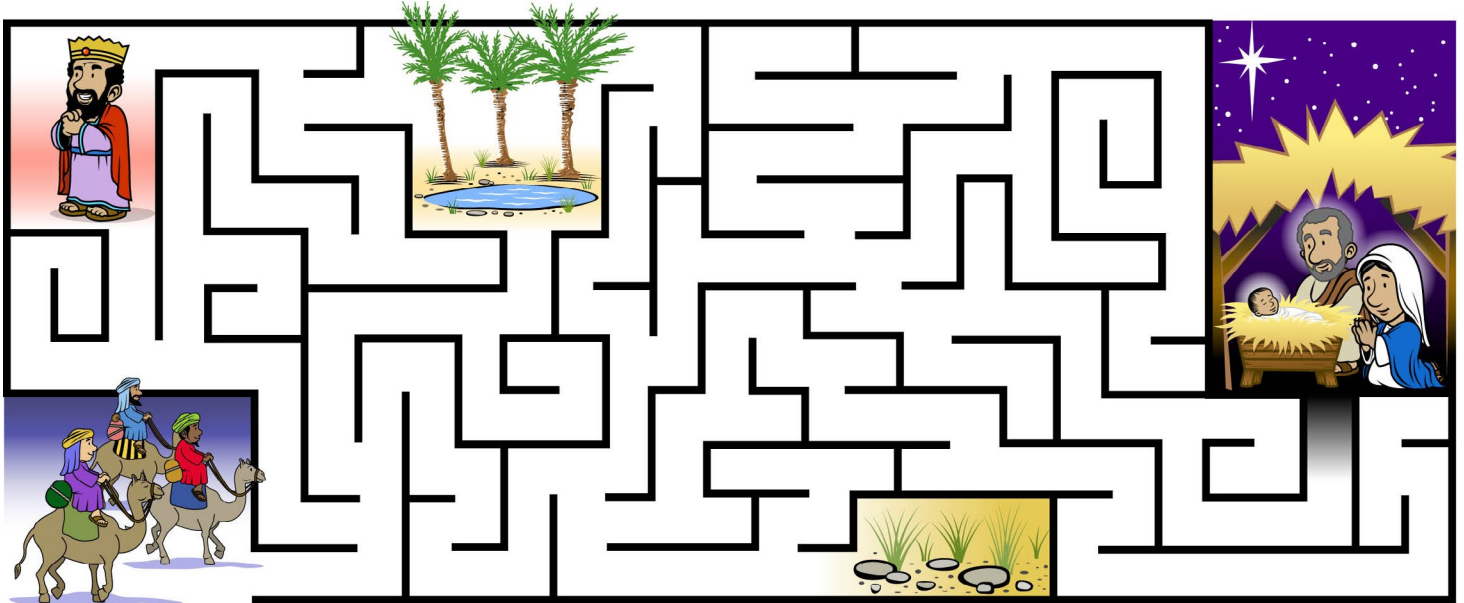
This week Team 4:  
Mary Choy & Eileen Chang  
Next week Team 5:  
Anico Yee & Pabs Gonzales


# Wise men came from the East

The Epiphany of the Lord



Help the wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!



 The wise men had to search for Jesus.  
Where are some of the places we  
can find Jesus in our world today?


Draw yourself offering a gift to Jesus



# EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – 4 JANUARY 2026



## COLLECT

O God, who on this day  
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star,  
grant in your mercy  
that we, who know you already by faith,  
may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.  
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

Initially, the Church in the West celebrated the nativity of the Lord on 25 December while the Church in the East celebrated it on 6 January. By the fourth century, both feasts were being celebrated in East and West. January 6 came to focus on the arrival of the wise men. In other words, Christmas uses the Gospel of Luke while the Epiphany takes the Gospel of Matthew.

The star is a beautiful symbol for the Epiphany – light shining in the darkness. The wise men, outsiders from the East, are seekers and they come looking for the Christ who is revealed to them. Today's feast affirms all those who seek for meaning and greater depth. It is a revelation of Christ the Saviour to the whole world and a celebration of God's inclusive care for all people and all of creation.

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,  
though night still covers the earth  
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises  
and above you his glory appears.  
The nations come to your light  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:  
all are assembling and coming towards you,  
your sons from far away  
and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,  
your heart throbbing and full;  
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;  
the wealth of the nations come to you;  
camels in throngs will cover you,  
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;  
everyone in Sheba will come,  
bringing gold and incense  
and singing the praise of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1–2, 7–8, 10–13

**R.** Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgment to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgment. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba  
shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

### First Reading

As the second feast of Christmas, the Epiphany star continues the theme of light rising, shining in the darkness. This is firstly the stars and moon during the night, and then the increasing brightness of the dawn. These are visual and poetic images of the glory of the Lord.

It is Christ the light who draws all the nations together. All are assembling from far away. The Epiphany celebrates the universality and inclusiveness of the revelation of Christ as king and saviour.

In this hopeful oracle, Isaiah speaks about a new age for a people who have been in exile and bondage. His words have been influential: Matthew picks up the gifts of gold and incense, and our Christmas iconography always shows the wise men arriving on camels.

In painting the picture with words, the reader will help the assembly *grow radiant, hearts throbbing and full... and singing the praise of the Lord.*

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 71/72 praises the king for his wise and right judgment, his promotion of justice for the poor and needy, and his care and protection of the weak and helpless. This is one of several psalms that are commonly called 'royal'.

Since the king was understood to represent the people before God and to rule over them in God's name, these psalms really say more about God than the ruler. The attributes belong to God whose rule the king is meant to mirror.

The antiphon adapts one of the verses to apply it to the Christ child and looks forward to homage of the wise men of the gospel.

The reader/cantor should be careful of the extra lines in verse three.

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

**3:2–3, 5–6**

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**2:1–12**

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah  
you are by no means least among the leaders of  
Judah,  
for out of you will come a leader  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out.

And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

### **Second Reading**

Paul is the great champion of the gospel outreach to Gentile Christians, that is, those with a pagan background instead of a Jewish one.

The Epiphany as an open manifestation of Christ to all nations captures Paul's central concern: pagans now share the same inheritance, they are part of the same body, they have received the same promise in the gospel. The feast and the reading prompt us to be 'catholic' – all embracing.

The text should be read clearly and emphatically. Don't skip over the repeated word 'same'. God's unconditional love for all people is still a surprising revelation for many people today.

'Men' should be read as 'people'.

### **Gospel**

Camels and kings often appear on Christmas cards. Today the figures of the wise men are placed in the Christmas crib. The gospel story says nothing about camels, does not call them kings and does not tell us how many there were (only that they brought three gifts). Read the story with fresh eyes.

It is an inspiring story of those who seek the truth, often despite considerable hardship. It is an exciting story of naivety and cunning, of deception and betrayal. It is a delightful and joyous story of a mission accomplished. It culminates with revelation, acknowledgement and adoration.

Readers should drop their voice at the words of the prophet so that it is easily heard as a quotation. The response of Herod: *let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage* should be dripping with irony. The reader should help the assembly to accompany the Magi and discover the Christ child with a sense of wonder.

## BLESSING FOR EPIPHANY

May God, who has called us  
out of darkness into his wonderful light,  
pour out in kindness his blessing upon us  
and make our hearts firm  
in faith, hope and charity.

**Amen.**

And since in all confidence we follow Christ,  
who today appeared in the world  
as a light shining in darkness,  
may God make us, too,  
a light for our brothers and sisters.

**Amen.**

And so when our pilgrimage is ended,  
may we come to him  
whom the Magi sought as they followed the star  
and whom they found with great joy, the Light from Light,  
who is Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Epiphany, Roman Missal p. 711)



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: 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)*

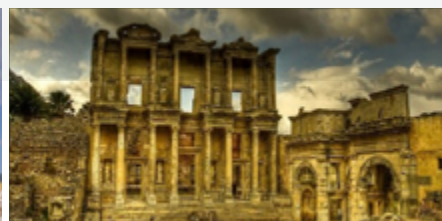
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

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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!

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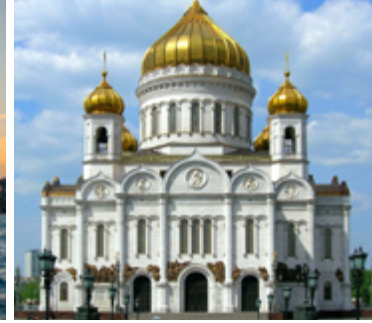
Itinerary subject to change \*\*

**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:

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 South and St Timothy Forest Hill  
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hope

By  
Olivia  
Dawson