



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 18th 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

In recess for the month of February

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

Isaiah 49:3. 5-6, Ps 39:2-10,1 Corinthians 1:1-3.

GOSPEL READING: John 1:29-34

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness, 'I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

Meditation: John calls Jesus the Lamb of God and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12) delivered the Israelites in Egypt from slavery and death. The Lord Jesus freely offered up his life for us on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 Corinthians 5:7). The blood which he poured out for us on the cross cleanses, heals, and frees us from our slavery to sin, and from the "wages of sin which is death"(Romans 6:23) and the "destruction of both body and soul in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

John points to Jesus' saving mission - to offer up his life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins: It is significant that John was the son of Zachariah, a priest of Israel who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people (Exodus 29). John recognized that Jesus was the perfect unblemished lamb offered by the Father in heaven as the one and only sacrifice that could cancel the debt of sin, and free us from death and the destruction of body and soul in hell.

The Holy Spirit reveals who Jesus truly is - the Son of God and Saviour of the world: When John says he did not know Jesus (John 1:31,33) he was referring to the hidden reality of Jesus' divinity. But the Holy Spirit in that hour revealed to John Jesus' true nature, such that John bore witness that this is the Son of God. How can we be certain that Jesus is truly the Christ, the Son of the living God? The Holy Spirit makes the Lord Jesus Christ known to us through the gift of faith. God gives us his Spirit as our helper and guide who opens our hearts and minds to receive and comprehend the great mystery and plan of God - to unite all things in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:10). Do you want to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ? Ask the Lord to pour his Holy Spirit upon you to deepen your faith, hope, and love for God and for the plan he has for your life.

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John points to Jesus' saving mission, by Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD) "No longer does John need to 'prepare the way,' since the one for whom the preparation was being made is right there before his eyes... But now he who of old was dimly pictured, the very Lamb, the spotless Sacrifice, is led to the slaughter for all, that he might drive away the sin of the world, that he might overturn the destroyer of the earth, that dying for all he might annihilate death, that he might undo the curse that is upon us... For one Lamb died for all (2 Corinthians 5:14), saving the whole flock on earth to God the Father, one for all, that he might subject all to God." (excerpt from the COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 2.1)

The Infant Saint John with the Lamb, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, 1660-1665, Oil on canvas, © National Gallery, London © 2025 Servants of the Word, Don Schwager.



Next Week's Daily Readings 19 Jan - 25 Jan

MONDAY Jan 19 1 Sam 15:16-23
Ps 49:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23 Mk 2:18-22

TUESDAY Jan 20 1 Sam 16:1-13
Ps 88:20-22, 27-28 Mk 2:23-28

WEDNESDAY, Jan 21 1 Sam 17:32-33, 37,
40-51 Ps 143:1-2, 9-10 Mk 3:1-6
St Agnes, virgin, martyr

THURSDAY Jan 22 1 Sam 18:6-9, 19:1-7
Ps 55:2-3, 9-14 Mk 3:7-12

FRIDAY Jan 23 1 Sam 24:3-21
Ps 56:2-4, 6, 11 Mk 3:13-19

SATURDAY Jan 24 2 Sam 1:1-4, 11-12, 17,
19, 23-27 Ps 79:2-3, 5-7 Mk 3:20-21
St Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor

SUNDAY Jan 25 Is 8:23 - 9:3:
Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17
Mt 4:12-23
3rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat. 24th Jan @ 10.15am @ St Luke's church - meeting for those interested in a new Legion of Mary group
Thurs. 29th Jan - @ St Timothy's - Bible Timeline returns
Sat. 31st Jan @ 6.30pm @ St Luke's Hall - Alpha potluck dinner for those who attended Alpha last year - for more details, contact Lynda 0400 270 970
Sat. 7th Feb @ 6.30pm @ St Luke's Hall - pizza & salad dinner & drinks to thank all parish volunteers

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Patrick Kelly, 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 Antonia Plevier & Lidija Faamau who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Angelina Italiano, Horacio Monzon, Clara Borg, Bien Tenorio, Eileen Schelleman, John Digby, Lawrence & Catherine McCarthy, James Boris Battle, Alice Naughtin & Arthur Hall.
May they rest in peace.

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Response to the Psalm: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

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

17 and 18 JAN

Lucy Ferris
Beryl Chelliah
Volunteer

24 and 25 JAN

Edna Lee
Kana Chelliah
Volunteer

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Godfrey Thong
Kana Chelliah
Volunteer

Lucy Ferris
Beryl Chelliah
Volunteer

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
Volunteer
Manny Gonzalez

Choir
Volunteer
Lee Min Yee

SL WELCOMERS 17-18 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

Flowers: No roster in January

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 24-25 JAN

5:00pm Volunteer
8.30am Volunteer
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

To be advised

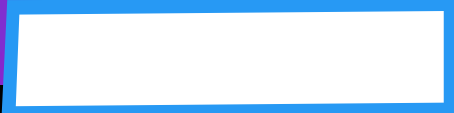
ST COUNTERS

This week Team 6:
Barry Silvester & Seng Chan
Next week Team 7:
Fela Colasanti & Sarah Ahmed



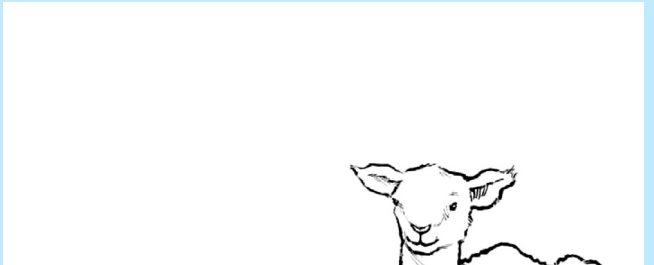
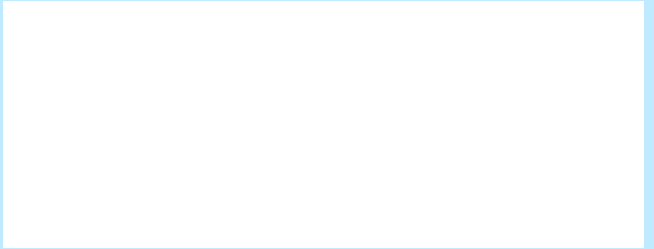
Here is the Lamb of God

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

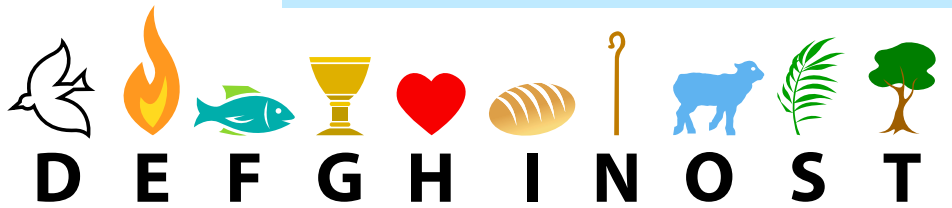









Jesus baptised his disciples with the Holy Spirit. Draw yourself being baptised by Jesus.









John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God, because he was the pure and spotless gift to God the Father. What can we do to be pure and spotless in the eyes of God?



Use the code key to decipher what John the Baptist knew about Jesus



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 18 JANUARY 2026



COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
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

Last Sunday's feast of the Lord's Baptism was a hinge – it is the last celebration of the Christmas season and the first in Ordinary Time. So today is already the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time! This year, the cycle of Sunday gospel readings follows the Gospel of Matthew but, for this Sunday each year, the gospel passage is taken from John. He provides a transition from the Christmas Cycle. Today the evangelist extends our engagement with John the Baptist, but the focus is on Christ who is beginning his public ministry.

Throughout Ordinary Time, no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honoured in its fullness, especially on Sundays (Norms, Liturgical Year, 43). Ordinary Time runs until the beginning of Lent (this year, mid-February) and then resumes after the Lent-Easter cycle (this year, at the end of May).

A reading from the prophet Isaiah**49:3, 5-6**

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

First Reading

Isaiah offers messages of hope to a people who are oppressed and living in exile.

Here he speaks of a 'servant' of God who draws strength from the Lord, one who was formed by God in the womb to restore the fortunes of the nation. Isaiah's vision sees the servant going beyond mere restoration to become the 'light of the nations', one who will bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth. Hearing these words, Christian people will recognise Jesus the Christ. He is the light of the world, the one who, when he is lifted up on the cross, will draw all people to himself (see *Jn 8:12 and 12:32*).

The text is up-beat and hopeful and should be read to convey this warmly optimistic spirit. The last two lines should form a strong climax to the proclamation.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10**

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **R.**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **R.**

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **R.**

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 39/40 is a good companion to the reading from Isaiah. God's servant stands ready to do God's will and receives God's help.

The words "holocaust" and 'victim' will be wrongly heard by most of the assembly – the phrase is a repetition of '*sacrifice and victim*'. Perhaps this could be conveyed in the reading.

The meaning of the psalm is well summarised in the antiphon, drawn from the second and third stanzas. The disciple, ready and willing, reads God's law in the depths of the heart. Ears are open to listen and lips prepared to speak God's word.

The cantor/reader should be careful of the extra line in the first stanza.

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Corinthians 1:1-3**

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John 1:29-34**

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

Second Reading

From now until the beginning of Lent, our second reading is taken from the first section of Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth. These opening chapters of the letter address factions in their local Church and urges a unity centred on Christ.

This is the formal opening of the letter which establishes Paul's role as apostle and offers a blessing of grace and peace. It is a pity the reading does not continue with the rest of the introduction which thanks God for the manifold gifts bestowed upon the Corinthians – their divisions betray these gifts of God's grace which they have received.

A reader might imagine that Paul is standing beside them, bringing greetings to the liturgical assembly of today. Check the pronunciation of the name 'Sosthenes' in the back of the book.

Gospel

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! These words prepare us for communion each time we celebrate the Eucharist. These words of John invite us to recognise Jesus Christ and to encounter him.

John acknowledges that he did not know him at first, but then tells how he saw the Christ being anointed with the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove). 'Christ' means 'the anointed one'. Here, John says he has seen this and therefore is a witness to the reality that Jesus is the saviour sent by God.

That Christ will 'baptise with the Spirit' encourages us to engage with Christ and his message of God's love. At his last supper, Jesus promises to remain with the disciples in the gift of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to the glorious paschal mystery of Jesus' death, resurrection and the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

May the Lord bless us and keep us.
Amen.

May he let his face shine upon us
and show us his mercy.
Amen.

May he turn his countenance towards us
and give us his 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 I, Roman Missal p. 714)



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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.

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'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)

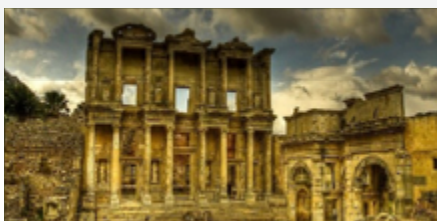
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

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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!

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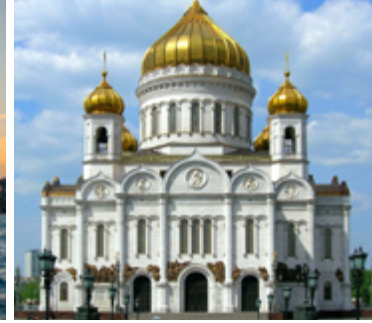
Itinerary subject to change **

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

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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:

Father Alex Chow
 Administrator of St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn
 South and St Timothy Forest Hill
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