

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



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 8th Feb. 2026

Isaiah 58:7-10, Ps 111:4-9, 1 Cor 2: 1-5

### GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:13-16

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

**Meditation:** Jesus used ordinary images, such as salt and light, to convey extraordinary truths that transform our minds, hearts, and lives. What does salt and light have to teach us about God and the transforming power of his kingdom? Salt was a valuable commodity in the ancient world. People traded with it, like we trade with valuable goods, such as gold and stock. Salt also served a very useful purpose, especially in warmer climates before the invention of electricity and refrigeration. Salt not only gave rich flavor to food, it also preserved food from going bad and being spoiled.



**The salt of God's kingdom for all:** Jesus used the image of salt to describe the transforming effect of God's work in our lives - and how the Holy Spirit wants to work through us to bring the power and blessing of God's kingdom to others. Salt, in the ancient world, was used for three things. It was used to preserve food. For example, we know that the fish caught in the Sea of Galilee were salted with salt from the Dead Sea and transported to places like Rome. Salt was also used to produce rich flavour for our daily food, we, too, as disciples of Jesus, are "salt" for the world of human society. The Lord wants to work in and through us to purify, preserve, and spread the rich flavour of God's kingdom everywhere - his "kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17). And, thirdly, it accompanied the sacrifices offered to the Lord God in the Temple in Jerusalem.

**Don't lose your saltiness:** What did Jesus mean by the expression "if salt has lost its taste... it is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot" (Matthew 5:13)? Salt in the ancient world was often put into ovens to intensify the heat. When the salt was burned off and no longer useful it was thrown out on the ground where it would easily get stepped on and swept away (Matthew 5:13). How can we lose our "saltiness"? When we allow the world, sin, and Satan to corrupt us. The Lord wants us to preserve our "saltiness" - through virtuous living and rejection of sin - not only for our own sake but also for the sake of others.

**The aroma of Christ in the world:** Paul the Apostle reminds us that we are called to be "the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life" (2Corinthians 2:15-16). Do you allow the fragrance of Christ's love, truth, and holiness to permeate every area of your life, your thoughts, words, actions, and relationships?

**Light that shines for all to see:** Jesus used the image of light and a lamp to further his illustration of God's transforming work in and through us. Lamps in the ancient world served a vital function, much like they do today. They enable people to see and work in the dark and to avoid stumbling. The Jews also understood "light" as symbol or expression of the inner beauty, truth, and goodness of God. In his light we see light (Psalm 36:9). His word is a lamp that guides our steps (Psalm 119:105). God's grace not only illumines the darkness in our lives, but it also fills us with spiritual light, joy, and peace. Jesus used the image of a lamp to describe how his disciples are to live in the light of his truth and love. Just as natural light illumines the darkness and enables one to see visually, so the light of Christ shines in the hearts of believers and enables us to see the heavenly reality of God's kingdom. Our mission is to be light-bearers of Jesus Christ so that others may see the truth of the gospel and be freed from the blindness of sin and deception. There is great freedom and joy for those who live in the light of God's truth and goodness. Do you know the joy and freedom of living in God's light?

Le Principe du Plaisir, by René Magritte (1937), Oil on canvas © Sotheby's New York, 12 November 2018, lot 35, sold \$27 million.  
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Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

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** - First &  
third Wednesday of every  
month, at 7pm,  
at St Luke's Presbytery



**COMING SOON: 23 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 9 Feb - 15  
Feb**

**MONDAY Feb 9** 1Kg 8:1-7, 9-13  
Ps 131:6-10 Mk 6:53-56

**TUESDAY Feb 10** 1Kg 8:22-23, 27-30  
Ps 83:3-5, 10-11 Mk 7:1-13  
**St Scholastica, virgin**

**WEDNESDAY, Feb 11** 1 Kg 10:1-10  
Ps 36:5-6, 30-31, 39-40 Mk 7:14-23

**THURSDAY Feb 12** 1Kg 11:4-13  
Ps 105:3-4, 35-37 Mk 7:24-30

**FRIDAY Feb 13** 1Kg 11:29-32; 12:19:  
Ps 80:10-15 Mk 7:31-37

**SATURDAY Feb 14** 1Kg 12:26-32;  
13:33-34 Ps 105:6-7, 19-22 Mk 8:1-10  
**Sts Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop**

**SUNDAY Feb 15** Sir 15:15-20  
Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34:  
1 Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37

**6<sup>th</sup> 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

**7 and 8 FEB**

Melina Barcellona  
May McKeown  
Alfred Lee

**14 and 15 FEB**

Marg Yore  
Michael Ballek  
Trevis Yee

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

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

Godfrey Thong  
Margaret Gearon  
Anico Yee

Val Gardiner  
Liliana Restrepo  
Pat Kawalevski

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

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

Choir  
Paul Tierney  
Lee Min Yee

Choir  
Rosemary Donaldson  
Manny Gonzalez

**SL WELCOMERS 7 - 8 FEB**

5pm Volunteer  
8.30am Volunteer  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

14th Feb - Sonya's team  
Sonya O'Farrell, Netty Solomon,  
Anthony Fernandez & Eng Peng Sim

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**  
14th Feb - Jenny & Vanessa  
21st Feb - Volunteer

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**  
Flowers: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 14 - 15 FEB**

5:00pm John Ryan  
8.30am Janette Clark  
10.30am Volunteer

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

13th Feb  
Laura Cigana, Betty Digby,  
Trevis Yee & Ben Perera

**ST COUNTERS**  
This week Team 1:  
Raj Fonn & Harin Perera  
Next week Team 2:  
Kelvin Chen & Patrick Rajaratnam

## **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 Margaret Howard, Carmel McCormick, Jaime Narciso, Frederick Bradley, Bernandino Marques, Peter Shannahan, Josef Fabian Radinja, Jerome Chen, John O'Hagan, Leo Belot, Robert Withers, Alan Maher, Wanda & Anthony Rusc, Roger Patte, Thevathasan Saverimutty, Michelle Gooden & Jaime Flores.  
May they rest in peace.

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

For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

**LOURDES DAY MASS:** The Order of Malta invites you to the annual Lourdes Day Mass to pray for the sick and infirm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral.

**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.

**OLD GLASSES:** If you have any unused spectacles (prescription, reading or sunglasses) laying around the house, we would be happy to take them from you for donation to orphanages and seniors' homes in Thailand. Please place your donation in the box in the foyer of both churches before 22 Feb 2026. Many thanks and God bless you.

**FIRST FETE MEETING:** Our bi-annual St Luke's parish and school fete will be happening on Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> this year. All are invited to our first meeting of the year to discuss plans and brainstorm ideas on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7pm in the parish hall kitchen. Please contact Sonya in the parish office if you have any questions or suggestions.

**TAI CHI CLASSES:** Blackburn Tai Chi Academy holds classes on Monday evenings at St Luke's Parish Hall. Tai Chi is an art to train physical and mental well being. It offers flexibility, balance, concentration, health, and energy. It suits all ages. For enquiries, please call John on 9802 2910 or 0422 92 42 65.

[Resources .....](#)

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** [Sturdy boots and bold vision](#)

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** [Fighting Back Against Cancer](#)

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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 come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

**Response to the Psalm:** A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

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

**Communion Antiphon:** Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**ST TIMOTHY'S:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 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 continue on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 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.

### SOME USEFUL CATHOLIC RESOURCES:

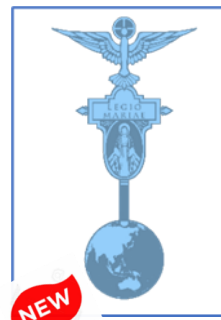
#### PRAY AS YOU GO

(<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>)



NEW

### LEGION OF MARY

We are planning to start a Legion of Mary praesidium at St Luke the Evangelist and St Timothy's Parish. We plan weekly meetings which include saying the rosary, prayers, allocution by the Spiritual Director, and planning apostolate work such as home and aged care visits by members, under the guidance of the Parish Priest, Fr Alex. If you are interested to join or find out more, please contact Lucy Ferris at [lucyfe1112@gmail.com](mailto:lucyfe1112@gmail.com) or 0419591423

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES



**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

**9.15am Mass at St Timothy's,  
17 Stevens Road, Vermont**

**7pm Mass at St Luke's,  
46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South**

### 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, February 10th @ 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.





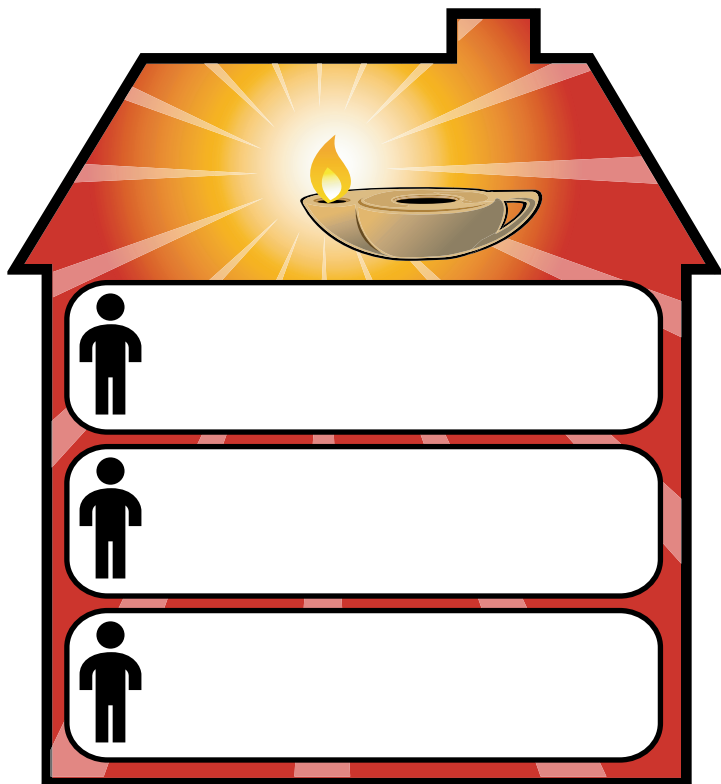
# You are the Light of the World



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

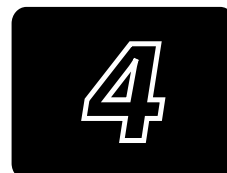
Draw a picture of yourself setting a good example to others.

# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



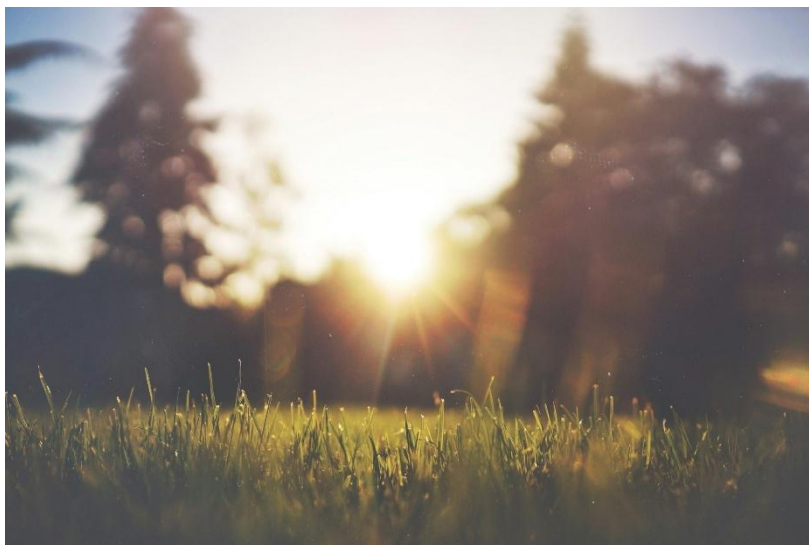
Write down a way you can let your light shine for each person in this house?

Unscramble and decipher these tiles to reveal one of Jesus' sayings from this week's Gospel.



“  
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# 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 8 FEBRUARY 2026



## COLLECT

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care,  
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,  
they may be defended always by your protection.  
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

Michel Quoist (1921-1997) was a French priest who worked with young people. In 1954, he wrote a book of prayers which was translated into English in 1963 as *Prayers of Life*. It sold millions of copies in 27 languages. He hoped all life would become a sign and all of life would become a prayer. The book has striking meditation prayers on ordinary things – the telephone, the brick, the tractor, the sea... For generations, it has provided a new and creative way of approaching personal prayer.

To appreciate the Scriptures and the liturgy, we need to learn to see, to read the signs around us with new eyes, to become capable of understanding the language of symbols. Today's gospel is a good example. Jesus takes salt and a lighted lamp as key images from which he teaches. Jesus' parables often work in this way.

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 111:4-9

**R.** A light rises in the darkness for the upright.  
or

**R.** Alleluia!

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just.  
The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honour. **R.**

The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever.  
He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **R.**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
His head will be raised in glory. **R.**

## First Reading

This passage from Isaiah sets out some inspirational actions in favour of establishing justice and equity in society. If you do these things, says the prophet, your 'light will rise in the darkness and shine like the dawn'. This is the connection with the gospel: you are the light of the world, a lamp shining out.

This raises a theme common in many of the prophets: God prefers a life lived in justice and in service of those in need rather than fasts and temple offerings.

It is a strong reading. It begins with a series of imperatives: 'share, shelter, clothe, turn not...' The examples are vivid and concrete: 'the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word...' It should be read firmly but not belligerently, with an encouraging tone of voice that invites the listeners to assent.

The reading is arranged in eight couplets, and this will help the reader in shaping the cadences. 'The man' could be read as 'those'.

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 111/112 fits today's sequence of readings perfectly. It emphasises the importance of being generous, merciful and just; these behaviours will shine like a light in the darkness, for they show us what God is like.

Inclusive translations put this psalm into the plural: 'The good/just man' could become 'good/just people' and 'he/his' become 'they/their'. The translation of the response is probably better than that given in the first line of the psalm. Adapting the wording would require careful preparation and attention on the part of the cantor/reader.

**A reading from the first letter of  
St Paul to the Corinthians 2:1-5**

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

**A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew 5:13-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

**Second Reading**

In last week's message to the people of Corinth, Paul pricks the bubble of their self-importance which had been leading them to competitiveness and rivalry. This week he follows up with his own example. He did not come with dazzling oratory or learning, he says, but quite simply to witness to Christ, in fact, a Christ who was humbled on the cross. Paul was not promoting himself. He wanted to make it clear that the Christians in Corinth were not his disciples but Christ's disciples by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit. God's power is manifest in human weakness, not in intellectual arguments.

Such a personal testimony in which Paul shows his vulnerability in the face of the worldly-wise Corinthians can be proclaimed with genuine sincerity of heart. It should move the liturgical assembly to deeper faith in Christ.

**Gospel**

This teaching of Jesus in his sermon on the mount gives two clear vivid images: salt and light. If salt does not preserve food and give it flavour, it might as well be sand for the footpath. If a light is not shining out for everyone in the house, it might as well be bric-a-brac stored under a tub. And if Christian people are not living in justice, reaching out in love for those in need, they might as well... (*how would you finish this sentence?*).

Not that our gospel actions are any credit to us; they are simply our response to the gifts of God's grace which we have already received. That is why, when people see Christian acts of care and concern, they give praise to God whose Spirit is at work in us.

To avoid exclusive language, the phrase 'by men' can simply be omitted and the words 'of men' can be read as 'of others'.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

May the God of all consolation order our days in his peace  
and grant us the gifts of his blessing.

**Amen.**

May he free us always from every distress  
and confirm our hearts in his love.

**Amen.**

So that on this life's journey  
we may be effective in good works,  
rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity,  
and may come happily to eternal life.

**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 IV, Roman Missal p. 716)



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)*

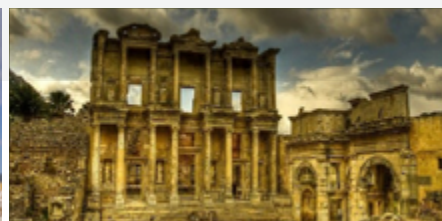
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

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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!

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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:

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 Administrator of St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn  
 South and St Timothy Forest Hill  
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Olivia  
Dawson