



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

### The Journey Home

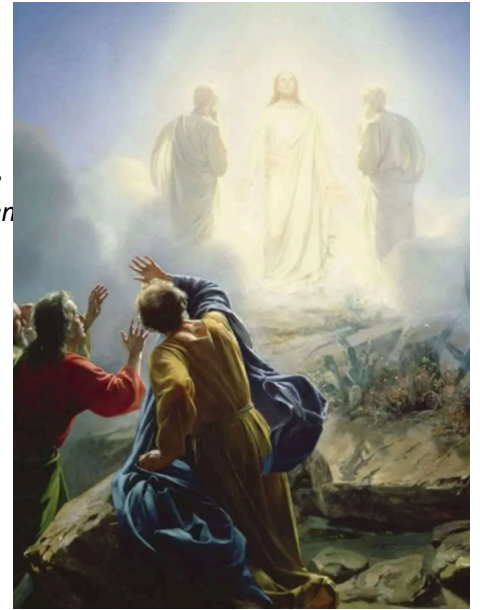
Second Sunday of Lent, Year A - 1st March 2026



Genesis 12:1-4, Ps 32:4-22, 2 Timothy 1:8-10

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'



**Meditation:** Are you prepared to see the glory of the Lord and to share in his glory as well? God made a promise to Abraham that he would make him a channel of great blessing not only to his own family and future descendants but to all the families of the earth as well (Genesis 12:3)! The condition for the fulfillment of this promise was simple and straightforward - "Go from your family and country to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). Abraham not only believed in God's promise, he promptly obeyed and did as the Lord commanded him. God chose Abraham as his instrument of blessing - that through him and his descendants would come the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ who would reveal the glory and blessing of God's kingdom and bring salvation for all who would call upon his name.

**Jesus reveals his glory to the apostles and to us:** Why did Jesus appear in dazzling light with Moses and Elijah? The book of Exodus tells us that when Moses had met with God on Mount Sinai the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God (Exodus 34:29). Paul the Apostle wrote that the Israelites could not look at Moses' face because of its brightness (2 Corinthians 3:7). After Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, had destroyed all the priests and idols of Baal in the land, he took refuge on the mountain of God at Sinai. There God showed Elijah his glory in great thunder, whirlwind, and fire, and then spoke with him in a still quiet voice. God questioned Elijah, "What are you doing here?" And then directed him to go and fulfill the mission given him by God. Jesus, likewise, appears in glory with Moses and Elijah, as if to confirm with them that he, too, is ready to fulfill the mission which the Father has sent him to accomplish.

Jesus went to the mountain knowing full well what awaited him in Jerusalem - betrayal, rejection, and crucifixion. Jesus very likely discussed this momentous decision to go to the cross with Moses and Elijah. God the Father also spoke with Jesus and gave his approval: This is my beloved Son; listen to him. The Father glorified his son because he was faithful and willing to obey him in everything. The cloud which overshadowed Jesus and his apostles fulfilled the dream of the Jews that when the Messiah came the cloud of God's presence would fill the temple again.

**Christ's way to glory:** The Lord Jesus not only wants us to see his glory - he wants to share this glory with us. And Jesus shows us the way to the Father's glory - follow me - obey my words. Take the path I have chosen for you and you will receive the blessing of my Father's kingdom - your name, too, will be written in heaven. Jesus fulfilled his mission on Calvary where he died for our sins so that Paradise and everlasting life would be restored to us. He embraced the cross to win a crown of glory - a crown that awaits each one of us, if we, too, will follow in his footsteps.

**We are partakers of his glory:** Are you spiritually awake? Peter, James, and John were privileged witnesses of the glory of Christ. We, too, as disciples of Jesus Christ are called to be witnesses of his glory. We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18). The Lord wants to reveal his glory to us, his beloved disciples. Do you seek his presence with faith and reverence?

Transfiguration of Jesus, Painting by Heinrich Bloch (1872)© Frederiksborg Palace, Hillerød, Denmark  
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Office (for both Churches): 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133 (St Timothy's)

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**

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

**Young Adult Group -**

Third Wednesday of every  
month, at 7pm,  
at St Luke's Presbytery



**COMING SOON: 30 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 Australian Edition, ALPHA Chinese Mandarin** (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) or register your interest via the QR code  
 We'd love to see you at Alpha!

**Next Week's Daily Readings 2 Mar - 8 Mar**

**MONDAY Mar 2** Dan 9:4-10  
Ps 78:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6: 36-38

**TUESDAY Mar 3** Is 1:10, 16-20  
Ps 49:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

**WEDNESDAY Mar 4** Jer 18:18-20  
Ps 30:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

**THURSDAY Mar 5** Jer 17:5-10  
Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

**FRIDAY Mar 6** Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28  
Ps 104:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**SATURDAY Mar 7** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20  
Ps 102:1-4, 9-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**SUNDAY Mar 8** Ex 17:3-7  
Ps 94:1-2, 6-9 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8  
Jn 4:5-42

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**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

**28 FEB and 1 MAR**

Mia Perang  
Greg McKeown  
Michelle Chen

**7 and 8 MAR**

Catherine Koh  
Beryl Chelliah  
Molly Hemsley

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

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

Anne Lobo  
Margaret Gearon  
Laura Cigana

Kevin Rogers  
Kana Chelliah  
Volunteer

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

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

Choir  
Megan McLean  
Manny Gonzalez

Choir  
Paul Tierney  
Lee Min Yee

**SL WELCOMERS 28 Feb - 1 Mar**

5pm Edna Lee  
8.30am Marie Pekish  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

14th March - Bianca's team  
Bianca Broccio, Shirley Prabha,  
Libby Theodore & Franca Leo

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

No flowers for Lent

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

No flowers for Lent

**ST COUNTERS**

This week Team 4:  
Pabs Gonzales & Seng Chan  
Next week Team 5:  
Anico Yee & Wilson D'Souza

**SL WELCOMERS 7 - 8 Mar**

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

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

6th March  
Susan Chen  
& Isaac Cheng

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**All who are sick**, especially Brian Koh, Brian McHugh, Suzy Bookluck, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Kevin Ryan, Agatha Wink, 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 Tony Alexander, Albert Johnson, John Cotter, Carol Carla Maria Papillo, Dorothy Faulkner, Carmel Curtain, Elio Lessio, Peter Waddington, Robert Defina, Rosemary Cardenti, Aquinaldo Buaquina, Angelita Gonzales, Andrew Joseph Yeo, Ferruccio Cigana & Graham Williams.  
May they rest in peace.

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

For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT:**

**St Luke's, Blackburn South:** Tuesdays @ 5.30pm including confession & adoration, followed by 6.30pm Mass and Fridays at 3pm (followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

**St Timothy's, Forest Hill:** Fridays @ 5.30pm including confession & adoration, followed by 6.30pm Mass.

**MERCY NIGHT:** Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at St Luke's after the 6.30pm Mass. Come, reflect and experience an evening of God's merciful and forgiving love in God's presence. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available with visiting priests.

**PARISH & SCHOOL FETE:** Our first fete meeting was held last week and the plans are underway. Dates for the next two meetings are Thurs. 19<sup>th</sup> March and Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> April, both at 7pm in the St Luke's parish hall kitchen. **More volunteers are very welcome to join us**, as many hands make light work!

**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.

**TAI CHI CLASSES:** Blackburn Tai Chi Academy holds classes on Monday evenings at St Luke's Parish Hall at 7.30pm. 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 924 265.

[Resources ....](#)

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** [A real hunger for God: record numbers at Rite of Election](#)

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** [Goodbye to Summer](#)

## **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 Kawalevski*

### **Parish 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*

*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:** Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

**Response to the Psalm:** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

**Communion Antiphon:** This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**ST TIMOTHY'S:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 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 7<sup>th</sup> March at the 5pm Mass at St Luke's. This will run on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2026

**First Reconciliation** - May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> from 3.30 to 5.30pm

**Confirmation** - June 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

**First Eucharist** - August 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm

Parents of children who do not attend Catholic schools are asked to contact the parish office asap to enrol in preparation sessions for any of the above sacraments.



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 0419 591 423



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**



Second Sunday of Lent  
28 February – 1 March 2026

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot. Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.



**RITE OF ELECTION @ St Luke's,**  
28 Feb 2026 - Graeme Robertson

**RITE OF ELECTION @ St Timothy's,**  
1 March 2026 - Dewen Ling

Please pray for the catechumens and candidates as they prepare for reception into the Catholic church at Easter.



In partnership with the National Eucharistic Congress, *The Heart of Prayer* is an 8 session retreat with Bishop Andrew Cozzens, offering contemplative, practical guidance from Scripture and the saints to deepen prayer, quiet the heart and help you to hear God's voice clearly. Login to Formed.org to watch this series today!

<https://app.formed.org/app/collections/1473553>



This is my own dear Son  
Listen to what he says!

2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A

Peter, James and John saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. The true nature of Jesus and his work was revealed to them as they witnessed the Transfiguration. Draw Jesus, Moses and Elijah on top of the mountain as the apostles look on.



God wants us to listen to Jesus. Write down three things that Jesus is telling you.

By using the words below, can you work out what the voice from the cloud said to the apostles?

**SON AM LISTEN TO SAYS  
BELOVED HIM IS PLEASED**

THIS \_\_ MY  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
AND I \_\_\_\_  
WITH \_\_\_\_  
\_\_ WHAT HE \_\_\_\_.

# 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – 1 MARCH 2026



## COLLECT

Let us pray.

O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your 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

Lent is a time of preparation for celebrating Easter. At Easter, we solemnly commemorate the Paschal Mystery, that is, the totality of Jesus' death, resurrection and his abiding presence in the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis wrote about our amazement before the Paschal Mystery, in particular as it is experienced in the liturgy, and especially each time we celebrate the Mass. If there were lacking our astonishment at the fact that the paschal mystery is rendered present in the concreteness of sacramental signs, we would truly risk being impermeable to the ocean of grace that floods every celebration (Desiderio Desideravi, 24). At Mass, we truly encounter Christ in his Paschal Mystery.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus has been talking to his disciples about the fact that he will be put to death and that his followers must be prepared to take up their cross and follow him. A week later, we have the transfiguration (the story in today's gospel). It completes the picture of the Paschal Mystery by offering us a glimpse of the resurrectio

## A reading from the book of Genesis 12:1–4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:  
I will curse those who slight you.  
All the tribes of the earth  
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

## First Reading

With the story of Abraham (note, at this stage, he is still called 'Abram'), the Genesis myths of the creation, the fall and the flood begin to morph into what we know as 'history'. Abram will be the father of a great nation, blessed by God. The call that he receives is radical – leave country and family and embark on a journey into the unknown. He does so and therefore is called in the first Eucharistic Prayer, 'our father in faith'!

This story will speak strongly to the elect who are on the journey to Easter when – by Baptism, Confirmation and Communion – they will join a new family with a new culture and tradition.

For all the baptised as well, the call of their Lenten repentance is about making a new start. Each year in Lent, we turn again and embrace afresh the way of the gospel.

These Lenten journeys are an expression of trust in God's goodness and an openness to receiving God's blessing in our lives. The reader's warmth of tone should evoke the invitation to come to a new place where we encounter God's goodness.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:4–5, 18–20, 22

**R.** Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

## Responsorial Psalm

These verses from Psalm 32/33 follow on well from the Genesis reading which emphasised what God was doing for Abram: *I will show you... I will make you... I will bless you...*

Likewise, this psalm reiterates God's faithfulness and love and articulates our response. We revere God and hope in his love; we wait for the Lord and place all our hope in him.

The cantor/reader should pray this psalm with trusting faith and so draw the people to rely more and more on God's mercy, love and protection.

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul  
to Timothy 1:8–10**

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

**A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew 17:1–9**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

**Second Reading**

This passage from Paul's letter to Timothy provides a good foil to the gospel story of the transfiguration. The context of the story in Matthew's gospel is that of Jesus' looming suffering and death and the exhortation that disciples should take up their cross and follow him.

Here Paul speaks of the hardships both he and Timothy suffer for the sake of the Good News. We are saved only by God's grace, revealed in Jesus Christ. He is our passage through death to life, glory and immortality.

The reading is short and clear enough, but the complex structure of the sentences will need to be carefully studied and mastered if the message of encouragement is to come through. The reader could helpfully emphasise the final contrast between 'abolished death' and 'proclaimed life'.

**Gospel**

It is only a few weeks since we heard the story of Jesus' baptism in which the heavens opened and the Father's voice was heard. Now, a similar revelation-event occurs in the presence of Peter, James and John. The heavens open and light, bright as the sun, shone around Christ. And again the voice: *This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour; followed by the added exhortation: Listen to him.*

These disciples have received the gift of a glimpse of the resurrection. Memory of this vision returned, no doubt, to make sense of their bewildering experience of the Paschal Mystery when they witness Christ's agony in the garden before he is arrested.

For the disciples, as now for us, beholding Christ in the Paschal Mystery fills us with awe ('fear of the Lord'). The proclamation of this story should aim to evoke a sense of amazement on the part of the assembly, a wonder which will be reinforced in the celebration of the Eucharist.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord,  
with a blessing that endures for ever,  
and keep them faithful  
to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son,  
so that they may always desire and at last attain  
that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body,  
to the amazement of his Apostles.  
Through Christ our 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 Prayer over the People for 2 Lent, Roman Missal p. 252)



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



St Luke the Evangelist Primary School Blackburn South  
9877 4023 | [www.slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au)



# 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)*

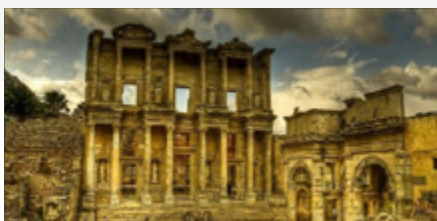
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

**DAY 9 TUESDAY 28TH APRIL** **THESSALONIKI – IZMIR (SMYRNA) - KUSADASI** This

morning, we depart Thessaloniki Airport for our flight to Izmir (via Istanbul or Athens). Upon arrival we will be met by our Turkish guide and commence our touring programme by visiting the Ruins of Ancient Smyrna, one of the 7 Churches. After the Agora visit we will drive to the coastal city of Kusadasi. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (D)

**DAY 10 WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL** **EPHESUS PILGRIMAGE**

Today we visit the famous city of Ephesus. Ephesus, as we will see, is in a very good state of preservation and the overall existing view of this ancient city will make it evident that she was a wealthy, cultural, and commercial centre in the 1st century. Paul's preaching in the area resulted with the uproar of the Guild of Silversmiths and the evangelisation of the whole province of Asia. Highlights include the ancient temple to the Roman Emperor, the 'slope' houses, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Fountain of Trajan, the brothel, and the large theatre in which the riot of Acts 19 took place. Not far from the theatre, we visit the Church of St Mary, where it is said that Mary spent the later years of her life. Celebrate Mass. Finally you will visit the restored remains of the 6th century Basilica of St John at Celcuk where a small church was originally built over the tomb of St John the Evangelist. Return to your hotel in Kusadasi for dinner and overnight (BD)

**DAY 11 THURSDAY 30TH APRIL** **KUSADASI - ISTANBUL** After

breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for Izmir Airport to catch our flight at 10:00AM. On arrival, we will be met and transferred to old city to visit Basilica Cistern, the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns that lie beneath the city. We'll also get to see one of the Eastern Orthodox Churches. This afternoon visit the Byzantine Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque and nearby Hagia Sophia (meaning 'Holy Wisdom'). Built in 548 AD, Hagia Sophia was the greatest Church in Christendom until 1453 when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire. Onwards then to the Grand Bazaar, with over 4000 exotic tiny shops. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

**DAY 12 FRIDAY 01ST MAY** **ISTANBUL**

Commence the day with a special morning cruise along the Bosphorus River, where you will sail past the Ottoman Palaces, Byzantine fortresses, Beylerbeyi Palace and Suleiman's Mosque. An opportunity to celebrate Mass at a Catholic Church. Enjoy a brief visit to Topkapi Palace. After the visit, transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

**DAY 13 SATURDAY 02ND MAY** **ISTANBUL - AUSTRALIA**

End your pilgrimage with a transfer to Istanbul Airport for your departure flight to Dubai. Transfer to your connecting flight back to Melbourne. (B)

**DAY 14 SUNDAY 03RD MAY** **ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**

Arrive back to Melbourne this evening with wonderful memories from your pilgrimage!

\*\*

Itinerary subject to change \*\*

**Interested in continuing the Footsteps of St Paul and visiting other amazing sites in Rome?**

Instead of flying straight home from Istanbul, we will hold a limited number of seats out of Rome, allowing pilgrims to enjoy an independently arranged Rome Pilgrimage in the Eternal city and surroundings as organized with/by Fr Alex Chow.

Fr Alex has lived in Rome as a seminarian for 4 years. Fr. Alex has offered to assist pilgrims in finding

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modest but clean and comfortable accommodation. The Roman stay will consist of the following (depending on time availability):

1. Sites of St Paul: Basilica of St Paul Outside the Wall, Tre Fontana (where St Paul was imprisoned and executed), via Ostiense (where St Peter and St Paul met in Rome)
2. 3 major Pontifical Basilica: Basilica of St Peter, Basilica of Mary Major, Basilica of John Lateran
3. Churches of Saints of the Roman Canon: St Cosmos and Damian, St Clement, St Agnes in Agony, St Cecilia, St Bartholomew
4. Beautiful Rome: Colosseum, Rome Forum, Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza di Popolo, etc...
5. Churches of the Passion of Jesus Christ: Church of the Holy Steps, Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem, Basilica di Santa Prassede (Column of the Flagellation)
6. Elegant Churches: San Luigi dei Francesi (Caravaggio - calling of Matthew), Basilica of Saint Mary of Minerva (the tomb of St Catherine of Siena), Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria (Bernini's dramatic carving "The Ecstasy of Teresa."), Chiesa del Gesu.

**\*\*Olive Tree Travel will arrange your flight from Istanbul – Rome\*\***

### PRICE INCLUSIONS:

- Emirates Flight from Melbourne to Athens via Dubai and then return Istanbul to Melbourne via Dubai
- One way flight from Thessaloniki to Izmir
- One way flight from Izmir to Istanbul
- 11 nights in total: 7 nights in Greece and 4 nights in Turkey in hotel accommodation in twin share rooms.
- Breakfast and Dinner daily. Breakfasts and Dinners at hotels unless otherwise specified.
- All tips, gratuities and portorage (where available)
- Whisperer headsets
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- Air-conditioned coach

### NOT INCLUDED:

- Drinks with meals
- Travel insurance
- Incidentals, laundry
- Lunches
- Turkey Visa – currently US\$66 and obtained privately before departure

### HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

• Hotel Luwian	Athens	3 nights
• Hotel Amalia	Kalambaka	1 night
• Hotel Imperial Plus	Thessaloniki	3 nights
• Korumar Hotel	Kusadasi	2 nights
• Port Bosphorous Hotel	Istanbul	2 nights

### NEXT STEPS

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

### WHO TO CONTACT:

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