



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A - 23rd August 2026



Isaiah 22:19-23, Psalm 137:1-3,6,8, Romans 11:33-36
GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:13-20

Meditation: At an opportune time Jesus tests his disciples with a crucial question: Who do men say that I am and who do you say that I am? He was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, Elijah, exclaimed that he was the Christ, the Son of the living God. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God.



Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD) comments on Peter's profession of faith in Jesus:

Peter did not say "you are a Christ" or "a son of God" but "the Christ, the Son of God." For there are many christs [meaning anointed ones] by grace, who have attained the rank of adoption [as sons], but [there is] only one who is by nature the Son of God. Thus, using the definite article, he said, the Christ, the Son of God. And in calling him Son of the living God, Peter indicates that Christ himself is life and that death has no authority over him. And even if the flesh, for a short while, was weak and died, nevertheless it rose again, since the Word, who indwelt it, could not be held under the bonds of death.

Jesus plays on Peter's name which is the same word for "rock" in both Aramaic and Greek. To call someone a "rock" is one of the greatest of compliments. The ancient rabbis had a saying that when God saw Abraham, he exclaimed: "I have discovered a rock to found the world upon". Through Abraham God established a nation for himself. Through faith Peter grasped who Jesus truly was. He was the first apostle to recognize Jesus as the Anointed One (Messiah and Christ) and the only begotten Son of God. The New Testament describes the church as a spiritual house or temple with each member joined together as living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5). Faith in Jesus Christ makes us into rocks or spiritual stones.

Jesus then confers on Peter authority to govern the church that Jesus would build, a church that no powers would overcome because it is founded on the rock which is Christ himself. Epiphanius, a 6th century Scripture scholar who also translated many early church commentaries from Greek into Latin, explains the significance of Jesus handing down the "keys of the kingdom":

For Christ is a rock which is never disturbed or worn away. Therefore Peter gladly received his name from Christ to signify the established and unshaken faith of the church... The devil is the gateway of death who always hastens to stir up against the holy church calamities and temptations and persecutions. But the faith of the apostle, which was founded upon the rock of Christ, abides always unconquered and unshaken. And the very keys of the kingdom of the heavens have been handed down so that one whom he has bound on earth has been bound in heaven, and one whom he has set free on earth he has also set free in heaven. (INTERPRETATION OF THE GOSPELS 28)

The Lord Jesus offers us the gift of unshakeable faith, enduring hope, and unquenchable love - and the joyful boldness to proclaim him as the one true Savior who brings us the kingdom of God both now and forever. Who do you say he is to yourself and to your neighbor?

Christ, the Son of the living God, by Epiphanius the Latin (315-403 AD)

Did the Lord not know what people called him? But by questioning he brought forth the conviction of the apostle Peter and left for us in the future a strong affirmation of faith. For the Lord questioned not only Peter but all the apostles when he said, "Who do you say that I am?" Yet one on behalf of all answered the King, who is in due time to judge the whole world. He is God, both God and man. How miserable does this make those who are false teachers and strangers now, and to be judged in eternity. If Christ is the Son of God, by all means he is also God. If he is not God, he is not the Son of God. But since he himself is the Son, and as the Son takes up all things from the Father, let us hold this same one inseparably in our heart because there is no one who escapes his hand. (excerpt from INTERPRETATION OF THE GOSPELS 28)

Photo taken by Fr Alex Chow, 24 April 2026, Meteora, Kalabaka, Greece.
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St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: luktim.church

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

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

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

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

**HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS
AT ST. LUKE'S**Second weekend of each
month - bring a plate to
share (optional)**YOUNG ADULT GROUP -**

To Be Confirmed

LEGION OF MARY -Friday 28th Aug @ 10.15am
at St Luke's Parish Hall
Kitchen. Enquiries to
Lucy 0419 591 423**Next Week's Daily Readings**
24 Aug - 30 Aug Ordinary Time**MONDAY Aug 24** Rev 21:9-14

Ps 144:10-13, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

St Bartholomew, apostle**TUESDAY Aug 25** 2 Thess 2:1-3, 14-

17 Ps 95:10-13 Mt 23 :23-26

WEDNESDAY Aug 26 2 Thess 3:6-10,

16-18 Ps 127:1-2, 4-5 Mt 23:27-32

THURSDAY Aug 27 1 Cor 1:1-9

Ps 144:2-7 Mt 24:42-51

St Monica**FRIDAY Aug 28** 1 Cor 1:17-25

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 Mt 25:1-13

St Augustine, bishop, doctor**SATURDAY Aug 29** Jer 1:17-19

Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17 Mk 6:17-29

**The Passion of St John the Baptist,
martyr****SUNDAY Aug 30** Jer 20:7-9

Ps 62:2-6, 8-9 Rom 12:1-2

Mt 16:21-27

22nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026***Adsumus Sancte Spiritus***Prayer of invocation to
the Holy Spirit for discernment**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen



melbournecatholic.org/synod



St Vincent de Paul Society, Blackburn South & Forest Hill conferences
invite new and current members to a Welcome to New Members and
Visitation workshop on Tuesday 1st September from 6.30 to 8.00pm at St
Luke's Parish Hall, 46 Orchard Gve Blackburn South. RSVP to
Saveria.Lavista@svdp-vic.org.au by Fri. 28th August for catering purposes.

MINISTERS OF THE WORDSaturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST**22 and 23 AUG**Steve Kilroe-Smith
Kana Chelliah
Trevis Yee**29 and 30 AUG**Marg Yore
Beryl Chelliah
Ryan Yee**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am STLynda Kilroe-Smith
Beryl Chelliah
Laura CiganaEdna Lee
Kana Chelliah
Eleanor Mendes**SLIDE OPERATORS**Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am STChoir
Paul Tierney
Lee Min YeeChoir
Rosemary Donaldson
Manny Gonzalez**SL WELCOMERS 22 - 23 Aug**5pm John Ryan
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer**SL CHURCH CLEANING**29th Aug - Bernard's Team
Bernard O'Malley, Joanne Nolan,
Melina Barcellona & Anne Allsopp**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**22nd Aug - Fr Alex
29 Aug - Edna Lee
ST CHURCH FLOWERS
Parishioners**SL WELCOMERS 29 - 30 Aug**5:00pm Edna Lee
8.30am Sarah Santilli
10.30am Volunteer**ST CHURCH CLEANING**28th Aug
Ben Perera & Trevis Yee**ST COUNTERS**This week Team 5
Anico Yee & Wilson D'Souza
Next week Team 6
Barry Silvester & Seng Chan

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Seng Chan, Fran Davidson, Filomena Italiano, Derek Koh, Ann Jones, Shirley Prabha, Helen MacKay, Kevin Ryan, Suzy Bookluck, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Greal, Josephine Alexander, 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 Irene O'Malley who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Hilde Bayer Ygoa, John Patrick, Philip Benizi Pereira, Melencio Salta, Bill Hurley, Annie McLoney, Gordon Owen, Francisco S. Quimbo, Sheila Bacon, Joseph Gerard Borg, John Patrick, Daniel Justin O'Carroll, Carmel Azzopardi, Donald Roy Beaton, Muriel Teresa Ellis, Patricia Bourke, John Riggs, Cayetano Rarela, Caterina & Tom Bonica, John Arelette, Agnes Ryan & Therese Monica Byrne. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST:

For evangelization in the city. Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

TIME CHANGE FOR MONTHLY ANOINTING MASS AT ST TIMOTHY'S: Please note that **from September onwards** the start time for the Anointing Mass at St Timothy's (first Wednesday of each month) will be **11am** (changed from 10am)

NEW BLUE CHAIRS FOR ST TIMOTHY'S CHURCH: We have ordered 40 new blue chairs for St Timothy's church as some of the existing chairs and benches are very well worn. This will cost \$4,774. To donate to assist with this, please contact Sonya in the parish office or use the Tap 'n Go portal in the church foyer. A total of \$3,330 has already been donated. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed. The chairs are expected to arrive at the end of August.

PARISH & SCHOOL FETE: St Luke's Fete, in partnership with St Timothy's, will be held on **Sunday October 18th**. The next fete committee meeting is on Thurs. 10th September at 7pm in St Luke's parish hall kitchen. We are seeking donations of prizes or other items for our Silent Auction. Contact Sonya in the parish office or email stlukesfete@gmail.com. **More volunteers are very welcome to join us, as many hands make light work!**

MERDEKA DAY MASS & POTLUCK DINNER: Sun. 30th August 5.30pm Mass at St Luke's Church followed by dinner in the parish hall. More information on the notice boards in both churches or speak to Fr Alex.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Finding our voices](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Bless Our Animals](#)

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

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: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me, save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Response to the Psalm: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation: You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your death O Lord and profess your resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY/FAMILY MASS

ST TIMOTHY'S: Sunday 23rd Aug @10.30am Mass

ST LUKE'S: Next Family Mass will be on Sept 12th
and on the second Saturday of each month.



Your generous gift
supports ministries
across the Archdiocese
— bringing the Good
News to life not only in
word, but in action.

Thank you.



THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the churches. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends. The Giving Weekend is this weekend, 22 & 23 August.

NEW

RCIA is starting soon!

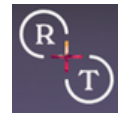
Are you interested in becoming Catholic or know someone who is? Want to learn more about the faith in a friendly, small group environment? We will be meeting at St Luke's on Tuesday nights at 7pm, starting from the **20th of October**. To join us or for more information, get in touch with Fr Alex (alexander.chow@cam.org.au) or the Parish office (blackburnsouth@cam.org.au). Watch this space for more development.

Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults

NEW

SALT Youth Ministry (Yr 7 - 12)

Date: 27th August 2026 :7:00- 8:30pm
Where: Discovery Centre, St Luke's Primary,
46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South.



Please join us on our second gathering. With our name sorted - SALT Youth - we'll now be embarking on the sacraments of Initiation. The session will include fun games, snacks, and a dive into what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches about sacraments, and their place in the spiritual life.

ST LUKE'S FETE in partnership with ST TIMOTHY'S - 18th October '26

We have started to promote the fete on our social media. Please like and share our posts to encourage everyone to attend the fete and support our generous sponsors.

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesfete2026/>

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukesfete/>