

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



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 20th July 2025

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) &

6.30pm (ST)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL),

10:30am (ST),

5pm (ST, Vietnamese)

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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)

YAM GROUP - 1st & 3rd Wed.

each month at 7pm

at St Luke's Presbytery

Gen 18:1-10. Ps 14:2-5. Col. 1:24-28.

Gospel Reflection on Luke 10:38-42.

Like so much of the Gospel of Luke, this week's passage is, at its heart, all about hospitality. This theme has featured in the gospel readings for the last couple of weeks. It is a theme that the writer returns to over and over again throughout the gospel to reinforce not only the importance of welcoming the message of Jesus, but also the extravagantly generous hospitality and welcome that God extends to all people.

Taken at a literal level, this week's gospel passage can be a problematic one. Jesus is dining at the house of Martha and she busies herself trying to be a good host and serving her guest, while her sister, Mary, simply sits and enjoys the company of Jesus. Martha complains about her sister's apparent laziness and finds herself chastised by Jesus.

On the surface, Martha is doing the right thing: providing hospitality for her guest. Yet Mary is the one whose actions are affirmed. Like in the parable of the Good Samaritan last week, the gospel writer reminds us that being preoccupied with one's duty – even in service of God – is not what God desires. Martha has forgotten that the guest is also a gift! Having welcomed and shown appropriate hospitality to her guest, Martha should have then accepted the gift of the guest, that is, the company and presence of the welcome guest. Instead she continues to busy herself with serving while her sister shows true welcome: accepting the gift of the guest's company.

Give your concerns and pre-occupations to the Lord

Anxiety and preoccupation keep us from listening and from giving the Lord our undivided attention. The Lord bids us to give him our concerns and anxieties because he is trustworthy and able to meet any need we have. His grace frees us from needless concerns and preoccupation. Do you seek the Lord attentively? And does the Lord find a welcomed and honored place in your home?

Always welcome the Lord into your home and heart

The Lord Jesus desires that we make a place for him, not only in our hearts, but in our homes and in the daily circumstances of our lives as well. We honor the Lord when we offer to him everything we have and everything we do. After all, everything we have is an outright gift from God (1 Chronicles 29:14). Paul the Apostle urges us to give God glory in everything: "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).

When you sit, eat, sleep and when you entertain your friends and guests, remember that the Lord Jesus is also the guest of your home. Scripture tells us that when Abraham opened his home and welcomed three unknown travelers, he welcomed the Lord who blessed him favorably for his gracious hospitality (Genesis 18:1-10; Hebrews 13:2). The Lord wants us to bring him glory in the way we treat others and use the gifts he has graciously given to us. God, in turn, blesses us with his gracious presence and fills us with joy.

Action vs Reflection: Many within the Christian tradition adopt the Martha approach of responding to Christ through service and action while others see Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus as a model for contemplation and reflection. It should be noted that action that is not grounded in prayerful reflection runs the risk of becoming well-intentioned busy-ness.

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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

Next Week's Daily Readings 21 July - 27 July

MONDAY, July 21 Ex 14:5-18
Ex 15:1-6, Mt 12:38-42

TUESDAY, July 22 Song 3:1-4
Ps 62:2-6, 8-9 Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
St Mary Magdalene

WEDNESDAY, July 23 Ex 16:1-5, 9-15
Ps 77:18-19, 23-28 Mt 13:1-9

THURSDAY, July 24 Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20,
Dan 3:52-56 Mt 13:10-17

FRIDAY, July 25 2Cor 4:7-15 Ps 125: Mt 20:20-28
St James, apostle

SATURDAY, July 26 Ex 24:3-8
Ps 49:1-2, 5-6, 14-15 Mt 13:24-30
**Sts Joachim and Anne, parents of
Blessed Virgin Mary**

SUNDAY, July 27 Gen 18:20-32 Ps 137:1-3, 6-8
Col 2:12-14 Lk 11:1-13

17th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

*(Taken from
ORDO 2025, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2024)*

The Jubilee Prayer



Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

SOME USEFUL CATHOLIC RESOURCES:

PRAY AS YOU GO (<https://pray-as-you-go.org/daily-meditation>)
HALLOW (<https://hallow.com>):#1 prayer Catholic App
UNIVERSALIS website and App. (<https://universalis.com/index.htm>)

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

19 and 20 July

Tony Lobo
Patrick Kelly
Beryl Chelliah
Stefanie Chin
Youth group

26 and 27 July

Catherine Koh
Kelvin Chen
Margaret Gearon
Molly Hemsley
Hong Pham & Hieu Nguyen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Anne Lobo
Susan Chen
Kana Chelliah
Anico Yee
Youth group

Olive Hammill
Owen Grealy
Sonya O'Farrell
Chin L Tay
Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Choir
Michelle Chen
Paul Tierney
Lee Min Yee
Theresa Nguyen

Choir
Michelle Chen
Rosemary Donaldson
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 19/20 JULY

5pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

2nd August - Kellie's team
Kellie McCarthy, Emma Brodawka,
Toni Wynne & Daniella Manolopoulos

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

19th July: Kate Skowronska
26th July: Ellen Donoghue

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 26/27 JULY

5:00pm Edna Lee
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

26th July @ 8am
Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,
Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

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

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Ronda Smith, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, Bernadine O'Meara, 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 Sutarjono Djong who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Peter Narasimhan, Ashne Gardiner, Sybil Watt, Betty Wilson, Mary Cutler, Milva Cigana, Richard Moore, Betty Irene James, Vincenzo LoGiusto, John Ryan, Madelaine O'Sullivan, Philip Farrelly, Peter Bourke, Mary Kupsch, Emilea Smazewska, Annette Alwis, Miep Wasser, Shirley Willich, Alma Owen. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY:

For formation in discernment. Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

CARLO ACUTIS FIRST-CLASS RELIC EXHIBITION: We are excited to announce that St Luke's church will be hosting the Blessed Carlo Acutis Relic & Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition from July 29th to August 6th. He is scheduled to be canonised on Sept. 7th this year. For more information, please see the flyer in the church foyer this weekend or visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/events/blessed-carlo-acutis-relic-and-international-eucharistic-miracles-exhibition-2>

To register your attendance, please visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKrqIggno_InUb8uAx4DxJxcTYO2onvmO543R96NBKaVwX4Q/viewform

ST LUKE'S SCHOOL ENROLMENTS OPEN: Enrolments for all year levels in 2026 are open NOW! Please contact the school on 9877 4023 or visit the new website <https://www.slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au/>

FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION: The first preparation session for First Eucharist candidates who do not attend Catholic schools will be on Wed. July 30th from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. The sacrament of First Eucharist will be celebrated on Sunday August 24th. For more information or to join in the preparation, please contact the parish office.

TRIVIA NIGHT: St Luke's School Parents' and Friends Association invite you to their Sports Trivia Night on Sat. 26th July at 7pm in the parish hall. More details at: www.trybooking.com/DBSNJ. Discounted tickets are available for parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to attend.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Living generously in challenging times](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [In the Service of Others](#)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses.

ST: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$550.50

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$257.55

Vietnamese Donation: \$261.10

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$488.85

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$503.45

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalewski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Miguel Ilagan & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Response to the Psalm: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

6.30PM Vigil Mass at St Timothy's

Thanks to those who have reached out to Fr Alex to discuss the proposed plan to discontinue this Mass.

Your passion for your community is admirable.

The decision has been taken by the Parish Pastoral Council to discontinue this Vigil Mass from August 1st 2025.

Parishioners are invited to attend either the 5pm Vigil Mass at St Lukes, the 8.30am Sunday Mass at St Luke's or the 10.30am Sunday Mass at St Timothy's.

We know that this will not be an easy transition for those who have faithfully attended this Vigil Mass for numerous years and we recognise that change can be difficult. We hope that in time all parishioners will get used to the new timetable.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal 2025 - a Thank you

Thank you so much for your generous gift to this year's Vinnies Winter Appeal. You've joined the amazing Vinnies community in raising urgently needed funds to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable people. Your kind gift will soon be working hard to help people who are either experiencing or are at risk of homelessness.

The funds that you've contributed to will be life changing.

Importantly, your kindness will ensure that Vinnies volunteer members of St Timothy's and St Luke's can continue to be there for people who need ongoing support. Your compassion will help connect people to programs and support that help give them the tools they need to thrive long-term.

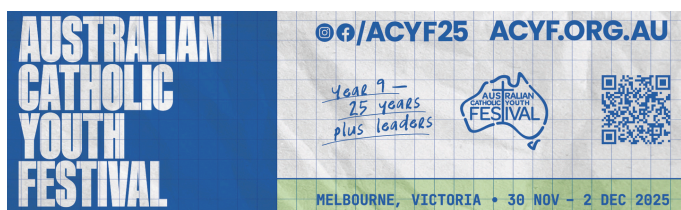
Thank you, once more, for your kind and generous donation. Your gift is gratefully received as, together, we work to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.



The Footsteps of St Paul Pilgrimage in Greece, Turkey and Rome.

Dates: 20 April – 5 / 9 May 2026 with Fr Alex Chow
'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)

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 this passionate letter and many other 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. For more information please go to <https://www.olivetreetravel.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Flyer-for-14-day-Itinerary-to-Greece-Turkey-for-Fr-Alex-Chow-low-res.pdf>. Places are still available, please email to info@olivetreetravel.com.au



Encounter: ACYF edition

Join hundreds of young pilgrims across the Archdiocese of Melbourne for a powerful night of prayer, talks and live music in the lead-up to the ACYF. Bring a friend and experience a glimpse of what the Festival will offer! Fr Rob Galea will headline this special edition of Encounter at Cathedral Hall, Australian Catholic University on Saturday August 9th from 7pm to 9.30pm.

Already registered for ACYF? This is your first stop on the pilgrim journey. Not registered yet? Join us, Age: Year 9 - 25 years. Note: Parents/guardians of under-18 participants will be required to 'sign in' and 'sign out' their children. Sign-in commences at 7.00pm.

Register at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1408994>

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 20 JULY 2025



COLLECT

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants
and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace,
that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity,
they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.
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

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome... (Mt 25:31-46).

Hospitality is one of the most basic expressions of Christian love. It is also an essential strategy for building a strong parish community. In recent years, patterns of life have changed dramatically – meetings on Zoom, working from home, liturgy live-streamed. Many parishes are still struggling to rebuild. Hospitality is key.

This is more than a cuppa after Mass. It involves smiling faces and the acceptance of everyone without judgement. It means that we do not impose our ideas and ideals on others but take people where they are. Hospitality is inclusion. When it comes to people's beliefs and practice, their lifestyle and values, we can safely leave the judgement to God.

A reading from the book of Genesis 18:1–10

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My Lord,' he said 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' he asked him. 'She is in the tent' he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail, and your wife will then have a son.'

First Reading

There are many folk tales of visitors who are welcomed and who are later revealed to be someone else altogether – the beggar who turns out to be a prince, for example. The story of the three visitors who come to the tent of Abraham and Sarah is such a story... except that the reader knows what is happening from the beginning. The first words are crucial: *The Lord appeared to Abraham...*"

It is a delightful account of oriental hospitality, more leisurely than we can imagine. What is offered is no quick snack. Bread is baked, a calf is killed and prepared, and the meal is laid before the visitors while Sarah stays in the tent and Abraham stands under the oak tree.

There is an ambiguity in the story between one and three guests, a way of describing the mystery of God with us. In return for the hospitality, Abraham and Sarah are told they will have a son. This will fulfil the promise made to Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation. Sarah laughs because she is well beyond child-bearing age but God says to Abraham: is anything impossible for the Lord?

The reader will enjoy proclaiming such a lively narrative with all its detail but should not gloss over the opening words of the reading. The final sentence also needs to be emphasised.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 14:2–5

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue. **R.**

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **R.**

He who keeps his pledge come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 14/15 expands on Abraham and Sarah's encounter with the Lord. It is the just who live in the presence of the Lord. The choice of this psalm has the effect of endorsing Abraham as a just man, with all the amplifications we see in the three stanzas of the psalm which follow.

In proclaiming the psalm, the cantor/reader might replace 'brother' with 'neighbour' and 'man' with 'one'. Some translations go further and avoid the pronoun 'he' either by putting it into the plural, or by replacing 'he who' with 'whoever'. But these moves require careful study.

This short psalm provides a checklist of how we ought deal with our neighbours if we are to live in the presence of the Lord.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Colossians 1:24–28**

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my own body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

Second Reading

The letter to the Colossians focuses on Christ. Last week we heard the early Christian hymn to Christ. This passage speaks of God's revelation – a mystery hidden for generations but now revealed in all its richness. The mystery is Christ. By his death and resurrection, he is our saviour, our hope of glory, the wisdom in which we are made perfect.

The reading begins by referring to Paul's suffering. It suggests that he is suffering for the sake of the Body of Christ, the Church. This is what is sometimes called the 'cost of discipleship'. We take up our cross to follow Christ. However, there is a very obscure phrase here: *do what I can to make up all that still has to be undergone by Christ*. The one thing that it does NOT mean is that the death and resurrection of Christ is somehow incomplete.

The reader should emphasise the second half of the text which speaks of God's revelation in Christ. The passage finishes with a strong celebration of the Christ we proclaim.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke 10:38–42**

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

Gospel

Jesus was good friends with siblings Martha, Mary and Lazarus. It is wonderful to see their hospitality as they make Jesus welcome in their home at Bethany. Martha seems to be bustling around getting food and drink to share. Mary on the other hand is content just to take part in conversation with Jesus. Jesus appears to be relaxed in his expectations and encourages Martha too to take it easy.

Interpretations of this story, however, have been incredibly diverse. Does it affirm the superiority of the contemplative life (Mary) over the active apostolic life (Martha)? Does it relegate women to the kitchen (Martha) or invite women to be scholars and disciples (Mary)? Whose side is Jesus on, or is he not taking sides at all? What are the 'many things' of which Jesus speaks and what is the 'one thing' needed? Perhaps all stories are open to a variety of interpretations.

Certainly, it is clear that the sisters Martha and Mary are very different people. Yet, in the final analysis, Jesus is at home with them both. True hospitality rejoices in difference.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time III)

May almighty God bless us in his kindness
and pour out saving wisdom upon us.

Amen.

May he nourish us always with the teachings of the faith
and make us persevere in holy deeds.

Amen.

May he turn our steps towards himself
and show us the path of charity and peace.

Amen.

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

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III, Roman Missal p. 715)



ONE Mission, Two Churches

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



BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

FRIST CLASS RELIC AND EXHIBITION OF EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES REPORTS

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH
46 ORCHARD GROVE, BLACKBURN SOUTH

ABOUT CARLO ACUTIS

Carlo Acutis was a young Italian boy with a deep devotion to the Eucharist, who used his self-taught computer skills to create a website and exhibition on Eucharistic miracles. Diagnosed with leukemia at 15, he offered his suffering to God, saying, "I'm happy to die, because I've lived my life without wasting a minute on things that don't please God."

Carlo Acutis will be canonised a Saint on September 7th 2025.



29TH JULY - 6TH AUGUST 2025

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

JULY 29th

- 3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
- 6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration of Relics, Adoration & Confession with contemporary Christian music
- 7:00pm: Mass
- 7:30pm: TALK: *'It is always the era of Saints'* by Josephine Plazzer, Proclaim Team
- 8:15-8:45pm: Veneration, Adoration & Confession with contemporary Christian music

JULY 30th

- 3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
- 6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
- 7:00pm: Mass
- 7:30-8:45pm: Eucharist Workshop I: **God Is with Us** video, group discussion, Q&A.

JULY 31st

- 3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
- 6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
- 7:00pm: Mass
- 7:30pm: TALK: *Holy Wild- The wildness and the adventure of holiness of Blessed Carlo Acutis* by Stephanie Sullivan, MGL.
- 8:15-8:45pm: Veneration, Adoration, Confession with Music

AUGUST 1st

- 3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
- 6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
- 7:00pm: Mass
- 7:30pm: *Carlo's weakness: Devotion to Divine Mercy* by John Canavan,
- 8:15-8:45pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet lead by Gary Pinto

AUGUST 2nd

- 3:00-4:45pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition, Veneration & Adoration
- 3:00-4:30pm: **Youth Gathering** by Youth Mission Team (Parish hall)
- 5:00pm: Vigil Mass
- 6:00-7:00pm: Light dinner and fellowship (QR Code rego).
- 7:00-8:30pm: **Eucharist Night** - Praise & Worship, Adoration, Reconciliation & testimonies - by YMT

AUGUST 3rd

- 3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
- 6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
- 7:00pm: *The Evangelisation of Carlo Acutis* by Anna Krohn, OAM
- 7:45-8:45pm: Adoration & Confession with Music Ministry

AUGUST 5th

- 3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
- 6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
- 7:00pm: Mass
- 7:30-8:30pm: Eucharist Workshop II: **The Story of the Eucharist** video, group discussion, Q&A.

AUGUST 6th

- 3:00-6:00pm: Stories of Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition
- 6:00-7:00pm: Rosary, Veneration, Adoration & Confession
- 7:00-7:30pm: Mass



REGISTER HERE

RSVP by 29th July

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS



**JOSEPHINE
PLAZZER**

Presenting 'It is always the era of Saints', Tuesday 29th July

Josephine received her formation in Rome and has extensive experience in ministry, evangelisation and spiritual formation across the U.S. and Italy and now works as a Discipleship Specialist with the Archdiocese of Melbourne, helping others encounter Christ.



**STEPHANIE
SULLIVAN**

Presenting 'Holy Wild - The wildness and the adventure of holiness', with reference to Carlo Acutis and Pierre Giorgio Frassati.', Thursday 31st July

Stephanie is in her fifth year with the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters, studying theology in Melbourne and passionate about helping others encounter God's healing love and live fully in Him.



**JOHN
CANAVAN**

Presenting 'Carlo's weakness: Devotion to Divine Mercy', on Friday, 1st August

John Canavan, a professional comedian of 20 years, experienced a life-changing conversion in 1989 and has since shared the message of Divine Mercy across Australia and Oceania.



**GARY
PINTO**

Leading the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Friday 1st August

Gary Pinto is an ARIA Award-winning, multi-platinum Soul and R&B artist, frontman of CDB, co-writer of the 2008 World Youth Day Anthem, and vocal director on The Voice, X Factor, and Eurovision, with his latest release out now via Sony Music.

DISCOVER THE STORIES BEHIND OUR SPEAKERS

Scan the QR Code below for more.



**ANNA
KROHN**

Presenting Blessed Carlo Acutis: Evangelist', on Sunday 3rd August

Anna Krohn is Executive Director of the Thomas More Centre, a writer and educator in theology and ethics, and recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for her contributions to the Catholic Church.



**YOUTH
MISSION TEAM**

Leading Youth Gathering on Saturday 02 Aug 2025

YMT is one of Australia's leading youth ministry organisations, with Melbourne's team of six young volunteers dedicating a year to full-time ministry through school retreats, youth groups, and mentoring programs.



Parents of children under 18 years are required to provide consent by using the QR Code for the Youth Gathering

EMAIL US:

Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au

CALL:

Parish Office Tel: 03 9412 8499

Presbytery Tel: 03 9877 2292

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TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



20TH APRIL –
3RD MAY 2026

LED BY
FR ALEX CHOW

14
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE:
per person (twin share)

AUD\$ 8,490*

OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AUD\$ 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)

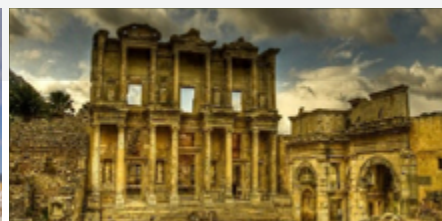
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written.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

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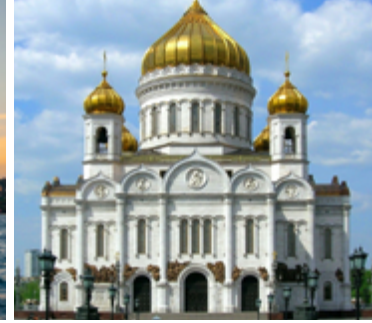
Itinerary subject to change **

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

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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
 Phone: 03 9412 8499
 Mobile: 0431 075 674



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Term 2

THURSDAY 01 MAY, 9.30 AM | MONDAY 23 JUNE, 9.30 AM

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hope

By
Olivia
Dawson