



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 27th 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)

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 18:20-32. Ps 137:1-3, 6-8. Col. 2:12-14.

Gospel Reflection on Luke 11:1-13.

In today's gospel, Jesus provides his disciples, and all Christians, with a model for prayer. In keeping with this modelling by Jesus, it is significant that the Lord's Prayer, or Our Father, is the common prayer of all Christians, regardless of denomination.

The parable and teaching that follow the Lord's Prayer make clear the particular purpose of prayer that Jesus was highlighting – prayer as petition. In this instance, Jesus assures us that if we pray for what we need with conviction and confidence, then God cannot fail to respond to our prayer. Jesus in fact encourages us to be demanding and persistent in our prayer. However, the parable used to demonstrate the persistent nature of prayer is not focused on demands for selfish purposes, but rather the neighbour needs assistance in fulfilling his obligations of hospitality to a traveller. He is not waking his neighbour in the middle of the night to ask for bread for himself; he asks for bread to give to his guest. He asks for help to fulfil his duty and responsibility. This gives us something of an idea about how we might focus our prayer. Praying for a pony or new bike isn't quite in the same league!

The final element of the gospel passage provides us with a description of God's love and care by something of a negative comparison: if human parents would not do harm instead of good to their children, God is even less likely to act like this towards us. It's a bit of an odd way around of saying that God's love is greater than anything within our experience or imagination.

Living the Gospel – Ask, Search, Knock

Jesus says in the gospel, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.' The actions of asking, searching and knocking are means by which we initiate the encounter with God. If we don't ask, search and knock, how is anyone (including God) to know our needs or know what it is that we are searching for. Particularly in our spiritual lives, it is only through the search and the knocking on the doors of different experiences that we ever come closer to finding answers.

Historical Context – Stone for bread

The stone/bread, snake/fish and scorpion/egg comparisons seem a little far fetched to us, but would have made perfect sense to a 1st Century Palestinian audience. The flat, brown stones around Lake Galilee look very similar to the flat bread that was baked in the area. The 'snake' may refer to a sea-snake – an eel – which might be caught up in a fisherman's nets but was regarded as unclean by the Jews. The poisonous scorpions of the region are very pale in colour and when curled up at rest could be mistaken for an egg.

Gospel Focus – Relationship

A crucial aspect of prayer is the attitude with which we view God. We trust in God's character that it is not a pointless exercise to ask for something. We trust that God is even more loving than a parent who tries to give their child what they need. If we did not make these basic assumptions about God, there would be little point in prayer. When our prayer lives falter at times, perhaps we need to first check out our relationship with God and our attitude towards God before trying to 'fix' the ways we pray.

© Greg Sunter

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 28 July - 3 Aug

MONDAY, July 28 Ex 32:15-24, 30-34
Ps 105:19-23 Mt 13:31-35

TUESDAY, July 29 1 Jn 4:7-16
Ps 33:2-11 Jn 11:19-27
Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus

WEDNESDAY, July 30 Ex 34:29-35
Ps 98:5-7, 9: Mt 13:44-46

THURSDAY, July 31 Ex 40:16-21, 34-38
Ps 83:3-6, 8, 11: Mt 13:47-53
St Ignatius of Loyola, priest

FRIDAY, Aug 1 Lev 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37
Ps 80:3-6, 10-11: Mt 13:54-58
St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor

SATURDAY, Aug 2 Lev 25:1, 8-17:
Ps 66:2-3, 5, 7-8: Mt 14:1-12

SUNDAY, Aug 3 Eccl 1:2, 2:21-23 Ps 89:3-6,
12-14, 17 Col 3:1-5, 9-11 Lk 12:13-21

18th 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

26 and 27 July

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

2 and 3 August

Olive Hammill
N/A
Darren McLean
Alfred Lee
Gia Nghi & Loc Le

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Olive Hammill
Owen Grealy
Lynda Kilroe-Smith
Chin L Tay
Hoang Nguyen

Marg Yore
N/A
Megan McLean
Pat Kawalevski
Hung Dinh

SLIDE OPERATORS

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

Choir
Michelle Chen
Rosemary Donaldson
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

Choir
N/A
David Prabha
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 26/27 JULY

5pm Edna Lee
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

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

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

26th July: Ellen Donoghue
2nd Aug: Edna Lee

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 2/3 AUG

5:00pm Catherine Koh
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

9th August @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 5:
Anico Yee & Pabs Gonzales
Next week Team 6:
Peggy & Ngery D'Cruz

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Agatha Wink, 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, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Tony Ferris, Maura Varese, Anne Odium, Enid Marvel Curtain, Hysynth Joseph Lihinikadu, Col Cruise, Margaret Ganley, Norah Jane Strachan, Jaime M. Flores Sr., Raymond John Everett, Joe Defina, Margaret Mary McCorquodale, Doris Fergusson and Arnold Colaco. 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 for 02 Aug Dinner, please visit:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKrq!ggno_InUb8uAx4DxJxcTYO2onvmO543R96NBKaVwX4Q/viewform

NO ADORATION & MASS ON FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST AT ST TIMOTHY'S: Please join the Adoration at 6pm at St Luke's and Mass at 7pm followed by a talk on Divine Mercy as part of the Carlo Acutis program.

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.

[Resources](#)

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Something bigger than ourselves](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly](#)

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: \$393.85

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$297.10

Vietnamese Donation: \$210.55

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$424.85

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$395.90

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

SL: 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: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Response to the Psalm: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

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.

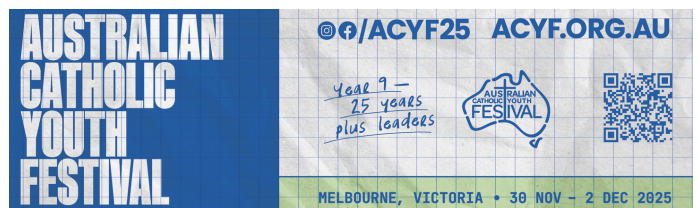
Thank you, once more, for your kind and generous donation. Your gift is gratefully received as, together, we work to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.



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>



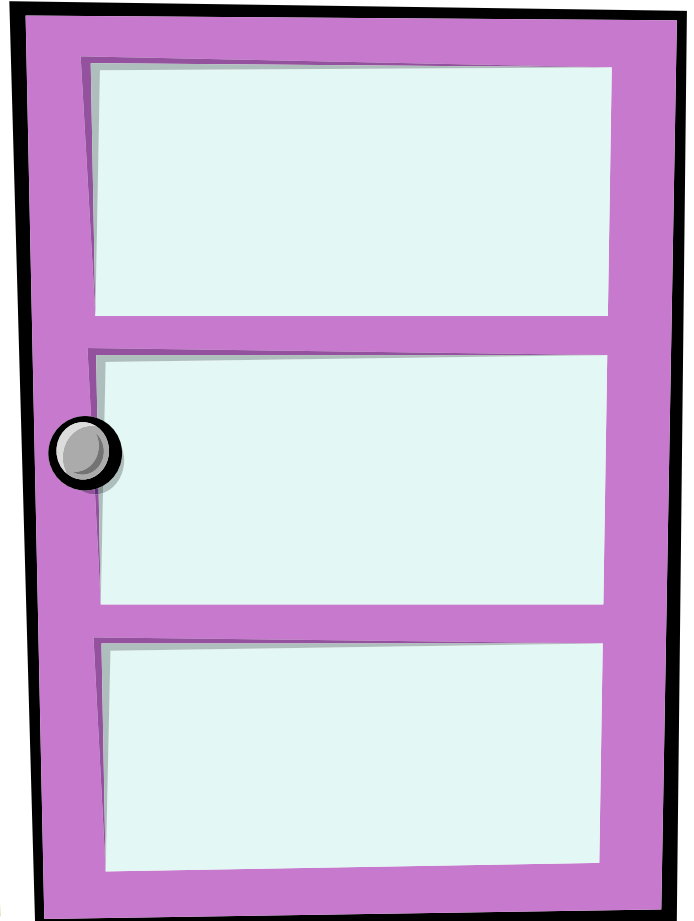
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Use the words below to complete this prayer which Jesus taught to his disciples.

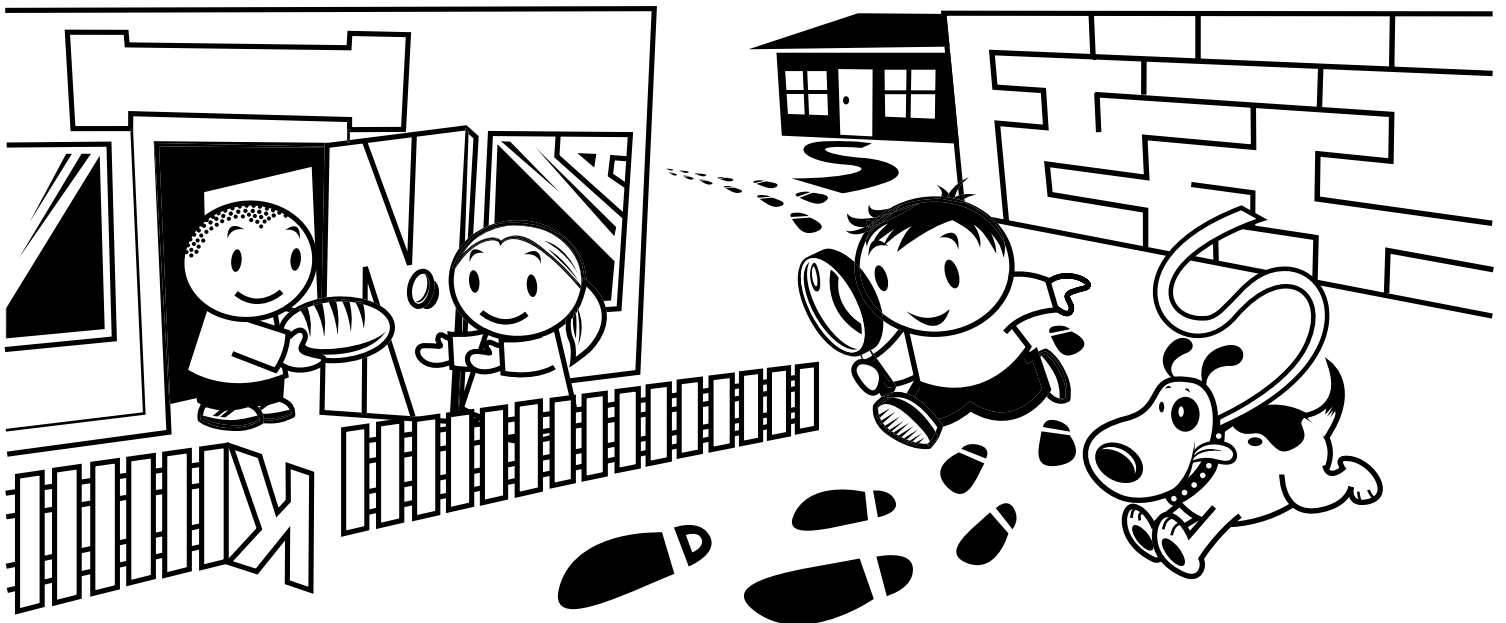
Our _____ who art in _____,
 hallowed be thy _____;
 thy _____ come, thy _____
 be done on _____ as it is in heaven.
 Give us this _____ our daily _____
 and _____ those who trespass
 _____ us, and lead us not
 into _____, but deliver us
 from _____. Amen.

will temptation name evil
 heaven bread forgive Father
 day kingdom earth against

On the door, write down three things you can ask Jesus to help you with



Find the hidden letters in the picture and use them to complete the sentence below.



Everyone who _____ will receive, everyone who searches will _____.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 27 JULY 2025



COLLECT

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
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

It comes as a surprise to some people that there are different versions of the Lord's Prayer, the prayer Jesus gave his disciples. The version given in Luke's gospel is shorter than the one given in Matthew 6 which is closer to the one we say today.

Our translation dates from the time of Henry VIII and is archaic in style. It is now the only prayer in the liturgy which uses 'thy' and 'art'; 'trespassing' has a different meaning today; and the line '*lead us not into temptation*' can easily give the wrong message.

Attempts to update the English translation have so far been unsuccessful. However other languages have made changes. The Spanish says: '*do not let us fall into temptation*'; the French says: '*do not let us enter into temptation*'; the Italian says: '*do not abandon us in temptation*'. All these will help us to understand that our Father does not lead us into temptation but helps us avoid it.

A reading from the book of Genesis 18:20–32

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No,' he replied, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will be only forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1–3, 6–8

R. Lord, on the day I called for help,
you answered me.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.

I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.

On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes. **R.**

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

First Reading

At one time or another, most people have thought that they could teach God a thing or two. Many try to bargain with God when they pray. Here we see Abraham doing both! He warns God not to think of treating the good and the bad alike: this would be unjust. Then he bargains about the numbers. God will spare the town if there are fifty good people among the population; then Abraham whittles it down with God to 45, 40, 30, 20 and they finally settle on 10.

God comes out of this tale better than Abraham. God shows endless patience and tolerance with Abraham's impertinence. God reveals a divine heart that yearns for mercy, forgiveness and compassion. It is because of God's understanding and generosity that we are encouraged to approach him with prayers of petition. Intercession is an expression of our trust in God's care for us.

Haggling and bartering can be a fine game. Readers should try to express the adventure of the negotiation in presenting this story. A reader who is bored with the repetition will not communicate with the liturgical assembly.

'Just man/just men' should be read as 'just person/just people'.

Responsorial Psalm

The words of Psalm 137/138 come from the mouth of someone who calls on God, and the Lord listens to them and answers the call. For this faithfulness and love, we thank God with all our heart.

The psalm offers us an appropriate response to the story of Abraham and prepares us for the gospel with its extensive teaching about intercessory prayer.

The cantor/reader should treat the psalm text as a prayer of thanksgiving and draw the assembly into an act of gratitude. Well proclaimed, it will stir people to trust in God.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Colossians**

2:12–14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke**

11:1–13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,
your kingdom come;
give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive each one
who is in debt to us.
And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it to him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

Second Reading

When parents bring their beautiful baby for baptism, they are sometime shocked when we start to talk about dying. But this imagery of Paul is important because the other side of the coin is our rebirth to new life.

In our baptism, we are joined to Christ, we become part of the Body of Christ, the Church. So we set aside the 'death' of sin and unbelief, and embrace 'life' as we rise with Christ through faith. The very power of God who raised Christ in the resurrection is gifted to us to sustain us in our Christian living. The pattern of Jesus' dying and rising becomes the key to understanding the call of Christian baptism and our relationship with Christ.

The ambiguous reference to the Colossians being uncircumcised simply identifies them as Gentiles; it is quite clear that Paul is not requiring circumcision of them, just the opposite.

Gospel

As they see Jesus praying, the disciples also want to pray. He teaches them to address God as 'Father'. The model he gives them first honours God and expresses trust, before it moves to intercession. The intercessions are simple: that God will care for our daily needs according to his divine providence, and that God will forgive us and protect us.

The second part of the reading, found only in Luke, is a colourful story about the need for persistence in prayer. The conversation with the friend in bed through the closed door gives the lesson on perseverance an attractive comic touch.

The third section (also found in Matthew 7) is constructed in triplets: ask, search, knock / receives, finds, opened / stone-bread, snake-fish, scorpion-egg. The images are vivid and even a bit ridiculous. The triple repetition reinforces the message.

The final sentence thumps home the good news about God who listens to our prayer: *how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him*. This should be read as the climax of the whole reading.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time IV)

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time IV, Roman Missal p. 716)



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

WEBSITE:

blackburnsouth.org.au
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20TH APRIL –
3RD MAY 2026

LED BY
FR ALEX CHOW

14
DAYS

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OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AU\$ 1,150

FULLY
ESCORTED

*Conditions apply. Subject to change.
Price estimated based on group
size of 20 pilgrims. Actual pricing
will be known in late May 2025.

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'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres'. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love'

(Ephesians 4:2)

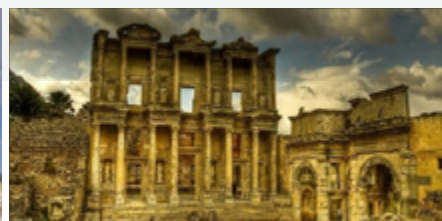
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written. It will be an opportunity of spiritual renewal, deepen our relationship with God as we reflect and experience the incredible journey of Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

REGISTER FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION at 7pm ON THURSDAY, 5th JUNE

* Enjoy full travel briefing * Meet your fellow Pilgrims * Have your questions answered

CONTACT FR ALEX OR OLIVE TREE TRAVEL TO REGISTER & GET THE DETAILS



NEXT STEPS

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



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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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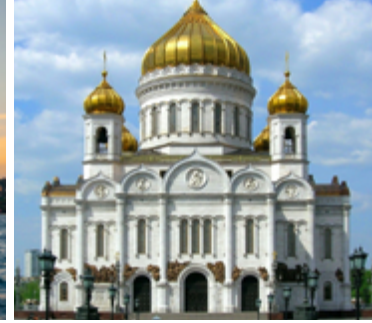
Itinerary subject to change **

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:

Father Alex Chow
 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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By
Olivia
Dawson