



Catholic Parishes of:  
St. JOSEPH'S & St. ITA'S  
Warragul Drouin

# PILGRIMAGE IN THE STEPS OF ST PAUL TO GREECE

FEATURING 4 NIGHT AEGEAN CRUISE WITH EPHESUS

11<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
2026

LED BY  
FR BRENDAN  
HOGAN, DIOCESE  
OF SALE

15  
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE:  
per person (twin share)

AUD\$ 8,990\*

OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM/CABIN  
SUPPLEMENT:

\$2,095\*

FULLY  
ESCORTED

\*Conditions apply. Subject to change. Price is based on minimum group size of 25 pilgrims.\*\* Strict limits apply on single cabins. Pilgrims opting for single supplement may need to twin share on the cruise. Subject to cabin availability.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



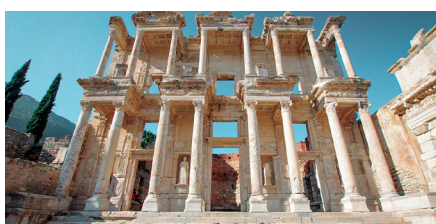
Dear Pilgrims,

*I write to you with hope and enthusiasm for our pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St Paul, in April 2026. St Paul has been one of the most influential figures in the history of Christianity. Through his numerous letters we can confidently say that no Christian is without his influence. His conversion has been the inspiration of many throughout the centuries, for nothing is impossible for God. As we make our way through these important steps we pray for open minds and hearts so that we too can be inspired to be bold*

*and brave Christians that our world needs at this time.*

*I look forward to sharing the journey with you, listening deeply to the movement of the Holy Spirit as we ponder his life and gaze upon his traveled path.*

Fr Brendan Hogan



NEXT  
STEPS

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Brendan, Olive Tree Travel or by
2. To secure your place on the pilgrimage, a deposit is due by 30th May 2025
3. Final Balances will be due by the beginning of February 2026.

[CLICKING HERE](#)

OLIVE TREE  
Travel

Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696  
info@olivetretravel.com.au www.olivetretravel.com.au  
103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



### **DAY 1 SAT 11 APRIL | DEPART AUSTRALIA**

Depart Australia this evening on your Emirates flight to Dubai. Upon arrival in Dubai, transfer to your Emirates flight bound for Athens.

### **DAY 2 SUN 12 APRIL | ARRIVE ATHENS DINNER - OVERNIGHT IN ATHENS**

Upon arrival in Athens, you are met by our local escort. When ready, load the bus and depart for the hotel. Check-in and have some free time. Enjoy a wonderful welcome Mass. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (D)

### **DAY 3 MON 13 APRIL | CRUISE, MYKONOS - OVERNIGHT ON BOARD**

We'll board our Celestyal cruise ship in the late morning, sailing for Mykonos at 13:00 pm. You can explore and enjoy dinner on Mykonos from 18:00 to 23:00. Return to the ship for onward sailing overnight. (BD)

### **DAY 4 TUE 14 APRIL | CRUISE, EPHEBUS, PATMOS - OVERNIGHT ON BOARD**

We arrive in Kusadasi at 7:00 in the morning and meet the guide for an excursion to the well-preserved ancient ruins at Ephesus where the Apostle Paul founded a church. At 13:00, continue onward to Patmos, arriving at 16:30. We'll join an excursion to the cave of the Apostle John, the author of Revelation, as well as the monastery. Depart Patmos at 21:30. Overnight on board. (BLD)

### **DAY 5 WED 15 APRIL | CRUISE, RHODOS (RHO-01) - OVERNIGHT ON BOARD**

Arrive at Rhodes this morning. We travel first to Lindos. It is here where the Apostle Paul first set foot on the island in the year 52 AD. Lindos is about 55km from Rhodes Town and high above the village sits the impressive Acropolis with the Doric Temple of Athena, built in 300 BC. Captains' mansions constructed between the 16th and 18th centuries are dotted here and there and in the heart of Lindos is the Church of the Virgin Mary with lovely frescoes from the 15th Century. Back in Rhodes is where we are really immersed in the history of the island in the Knights' Quarter. We stroll through Gate d'Amboise to walk along the Street of the Knights and see where they lived, separated according to Order, their crests still visible today. We will also see (outside) the imposing Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes, a medieval castle also known as the Castello. It's one of the few examples of Gothic architecture in Greece. The Byzantine citadel was built in the 7th Century, the palace itself in the fourteenth. Where the palace sits today could well have been the spot where the Colossus once stood, according to recent studies. Return to the ship and sail off into the sunset for another night at Sea. (BLD)

### **DAY 6 THU 16 APRIL | CRUISE, CRETE, SANTORINI - OVERNIGHT ON BOARD**

We arrive in Crete at 7:00 am where you'll have an excursion to visit the Minoan palace of Knossos, where we will be able to explore the large Central Court, the wonderful Throne Room, the imposing Grand Staircase and see the fresco of the 'Prince of the Lilies'. We will also hear the Cretan legend of the Minotaur. We depart Crete at 12:00 pm, arriving in Santorini at 16:30 where you will have free time on your own to explore the island. Depart Santorini at 21:30, sailing overnight to Athens. (BLD)

### **DAY 7 FRI 17 APRIL | DISEMBARK. VISIT ANCIENT CORINTH. DINNER OVERNIGHT IN ATHENS**

This morning, we will arrive back at the port of Lavrion at 6:00 am. We will disembark and continue on a mesmerizing trip to the Ancient Corinth and the Bema of St Paul. We will drive through the coastal road to the Corinth Canal, which separates Peloponnese from the Greek mainland and connects the two Seas, the Ionian and the Aegean. We will continue to Ancient Corinth, one of the most important trading cities of ancient Greece dating back to the 6th century B.C. While visiting the archaeological site we will come across the Temple of Apollo, the agora, the sacred spring and the Peirene Fountain. The apostle Paul resided in Corinth for 18 months in A.D. 51-52. We will visit the site of the Bema of St. Paul, where he preached.

Return to Athens and check-in the hotel for dinner and overnight. (BD)

### **DAY 8 SAT 18 APRIL | VISIT ATHENS, ACROPOLIS AND MUSEUM. DINNER OVERNIGHT IN ATHENS**

Today we will explore Athens and we will visit the Acropolis. Athens, the capital of Greece, is one of the oldest cities in the world spanning a history of 3,400 years. Home of the great minds, philosophers, and teachers of ancient times such as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle, Athens is the birthplace of democracy and the cradle of Western Civilization.

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We will walk through the architectural wonders of the Golden Age of Pericles; the Propylaea, the Parthenon, and the Erechtheion. We will walk to Areopagus or Mars Hill, the site where trials were heard before the Council of Elders and where St Paul delivered his speech to the Athenians. Then, we continue our tour with a visit to the Acropolis museum.

Before returning to the hotel, we will enjoy a bus tour which will guide us through the highlights of Athens; House of Parliament, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Presidential Palace, Panathenaic Stadium, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Hadrian's Arch. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B,D)

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### **DAY 9 SUN 19 APRIL | VISIT OSIOS LOUKAS AND CONTINUE TO KALAMBAKA. DINNER OVERNIGHT IN KALAMBAKA**

This morning we load the coach and leave Athens to the monastery of Osios Loukas, a World Heritage site, overlooking a remote valley 23km southeast of Arahova, located between the villages of Distomo and Kyriaki. It is considered a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture and one of Greece's best-preserved monasteries. In recognition of its importance, the Monastery of Osios Loukas was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990. Built in the Byzantine times, this monastery has often been in the centre of conflict during the Greek Revolution, due to its geographical location. Major destruction were caused by the Ottoman troops during the Greek Liberation War (1823) and by the bombarding during the World War II (1943). We continue towards Kalambaka, where we check in at the hotel for dinner and overnight. (BD)

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### **DAY 10 MON 20 APRIL | EXPLORE METEORA. OVERNIGHT IN THESSALONIKI**

This morning, we commence the day with a visit to two of the Meteora Monasteries, dating back to the 14th century, which stand amongst striking scenery, perched on sheer-sided rock pinnacles of varied and spectacular shapes making them appear to be suspended in mid-air. Here we will get the opportunity to see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art and gain insights into the life of the monks still residing there. This site is now inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (BD)

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### **DAY 11 TUE 21 APRIL | VISIT PHILIPPI AND KAVALA. DINNER OVERNIGHT IN THESSALONIKI**

This morning, we travel briefly to Philippi where Paul preached his first sermon and baptized the first Christians on European soil. We visit the Roman crypt where St Paul was imprisoned. See the famous Acropolis, the Marketplace, the Basilica, and the Theatre. Visit the Octagonal church, an early Christian monument thought to be built on the site where St. Paul had established a house of prayer. Later we visit the baptismal site where Lydia surrendered her life to Christ. Continue to Kavala (Ancient Neapolis), Greece's spectacular mainland port with a most elegant harbor. Paul landed here with his disciples, Timothy, and Silas. Luke, the Evangelist, also came here from Troas. This ancient city of Neapolis was later renamed Christoupolis as it was the first European city to accept Christianity. We will see the Aqueduct and the Acropolis in this beautifully located city, known since the 5th century as Kavala. Return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (BD)

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### **DAY 12 WED 22 APRIL | VISIT THESSALONIKI. DINNER OVERNIGHT IN THESSALONIKI**

Today we have an early start to commence our exploration of Thessaloniki, a major Greek city and the destination of two of Paul's letters. We'll explore the city, coming across the White Tower, the Arch of Galerius, standing on the Egnatia Way, an ancient Roman road. We will then visit the Rotonda, the oldest of Thessaloniki's churches, Aristotelous Square as well as the Byzantine churches of St Sophia and St. Dimitrios, an early convert to Christianity martyred by the Romans. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. (B,D)

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### **DAY 13 THU 23 APRIL | DEPART GREECE**

After breakfast, we check out and transfer to Thessaloniki airport, to check-in for our flight to Athens. Transfer to our connecting flight home to Sydney. (B)

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### **DAY 14 FRI 24 APRIL | ARRIVE MELBOURNE**

Arrive back to Melbourne this evening with wonderful memories of our pilgrimage!

**\*\*Itinerary subject to change\*\***

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## PRICE INCLUSIONS:

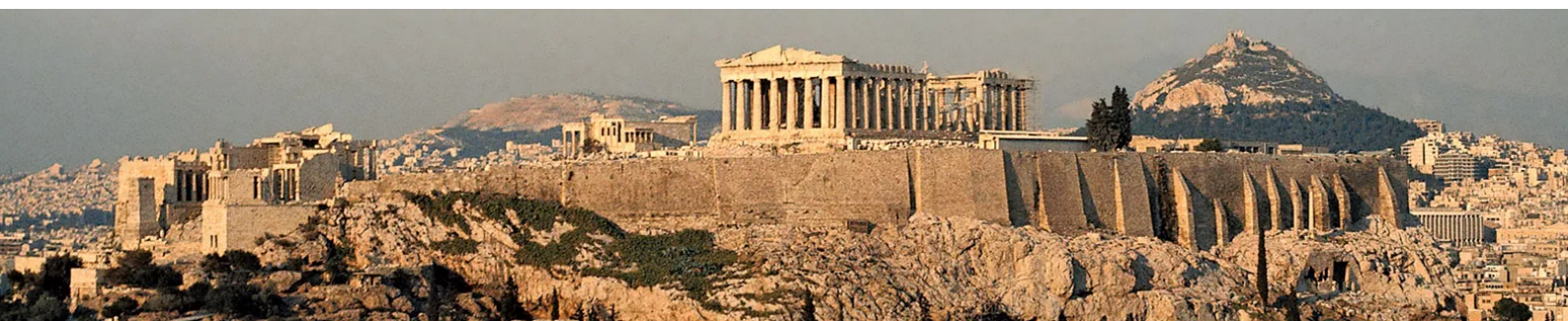
- All current airport & departure taxes
- Thessaloniki to Athens domestic flight
- Porterage, tips & gratuities throughout
- 7 nights hotel accommodation and 4 nights full board on the cruise in CAT-XB (outside cabins) on Celestyal Cruises.
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily, all meals at hotels unless otherwise specified . Lunches included on the cruise
- Shore Excursions during the cruise
  - Ancient Ephesus Through the Ages – Hellenistic and Roman
- Religious visit to St Johns Monastery & Grotto of Apocalypse
- Acropolis of Lindos and the Citadel of the Knights
- Minoan Palace of Knossos – 1st European Civilization
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Headsets
- Overnight City taxes

## ALL PRICES EXCLUDE:

- Drinks with meals
- Personal payments
- The services that are not mentioned in
- "Inclusions"
- Travel insurance

## PROPOSED HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

- |            |                            |              |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| • 3 nights | Hotel Wyndham Grand        | Athens       |
| • 1 night  | Hotel Amalia               | Kalambaka    |
| • 3 nights | Hotel Capsis               | Thessaloniki |
| • 4 nights | Celestyal Discovery Cruise | Aegean       |



## NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Brendan, Olive Tree Travel or by [CLICKING HERE](#)
2. To secure your place on the pilgrimage, a deposit is due by 30th May 2025
3. Final Balances will be due by the beginning of February 2026.

## WHO TO CONTACT:

Fr Brendan Hogan  
Catholic Parishes of St Josephs & St Ita's  
Phone: 03 5623 1642  
warragul@cdsale.org.au  
Brendan.Hogan@cdsale.org.au



Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696

info@olivetreetravel.com.au  
www.olivetreetravel.com.au

103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



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