

ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST, BLACKBURN SOUTH & ST TIMOTHY'S, FOREST HILL
ONE MISSION, TWO PARISHES

In August 2021, St Timothy's & St Luke the Evangelist Parishes came under the guidance of one parish priest as separate communities. They now have one combined Parish Pastoral Council and are working together well.

Currently the Parish office is located at St Timothy's Church, 17 Stevens Road, Vermont.

The parishioner age demographic leans towards a middle age to senior population.

Parishioners have a strong sense in contributing and volunteering to community outreach and social issues. The parishes promote an array of spiritual and outreach ministries, centred on the opportunity to attend daily mass, rosary, and weekly Eucharistic Adoration, along with Advent / Lenten reflection programs. The local SVDP conference in both parishes is strong and active.

Education

Both parishes have one MACS primary school, St Luke the Evangelist (approx. 140 students) and St Timothy's (approx. 40 students). The parish priest has an active involvement in the life of the schools, often invited to assist in the sacramental and general religious instruction of the students. The schoolchildren frequently attend weekday mass during the school term, and the students are familiar with the church environment. The incoming priest will be welcomed, and it would prove to be a rewarding ministry. Like many parishes the challenge is motivating the parents to see the importance of Sunday Mass as it competes with Sunday sports.

Finance

Both parish finances are healthy and the old presbytery at St Timothy's has been leased to a childcare centre which brings in monthly rent. In 2023, the exterior of the church and parish hall at St Luke's were painted and maintenance is up to date on both churches and the presbytery at St Luke's.

Administration

Currently the secretary works part time Wednesday – Friday (10am-2pm).

Presbytery

The St Luke's Presbytery provides pleasant and comfortable accommodation for the Parish priest. It also has a guest room for visitors. Parishioners in the past have provided meals for the priest if desired. Weekly presbytery cleaning is also available.

Vietnamese Community

St Timothy's has a very active Vietnamese community who contribute their time and energy to many ministries and have an active youth group. There is a 5pm Mass every Sunday in Vietnamese and the Christmas and Easter ceremonies are combined with the english speaking congregation, which works really well.

Mass Times

At present, there are weekday Masses at similar times in both churches which are supported by supply priests. There is a monthly Anointing Mass at St Timothy's. The weekend timetable is 6pm Vigil Mass in both churches and 8.30am at St Luke's and 10.30am at St Timothy's on Sundays.

Community

The parishioners at both parishes clean the churches via a roster system which works well. There are approximately 110 volunteers at St Timothy's and 180 at St Luke's who help with the various ministries and contribute their time and talents.

Conclusion

This is a friendly and welcoming community who have always looked after their parish priest and will continue to do so.