

ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



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'God sent his son to save the world through him' ... John 3

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THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

Vision:

**Welcoming
Eucharistic
Transformed by the Word
Full of Grace
Proclaiming Good News**



Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit
Inspired by St Martha
We Celebrate & Witness
God's love
Using our Gifts & Talents**



*In the Spirit of St Martha,
let us continue to help others and
Carry Hope Everywhere.*

"Hope does not disappoint, it is not an illusion, it is a hope. Beside each other, in love and patience, we can prepare a better time in these days." Pope Francis (source CNA)



The HOPE Keepsakes are available outside the Church or by contacting the Parish Office.

**Don't forget to upload your images to the
St Martha's Facebook Page with #carryhope**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Monday Prayer Group has resumed in the Church from 10.30am to 11.30am.

Please note that entry to the Church will be via the side gate/entrance as the main doors of the Church will remain locked.

The St Martha's 10.00am Mass is streamed live every Sunday via the Parish Facebook Page <https://fb.me/stmarthasparishstrathfield> and YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHB3kQG9jVI&t=1842s>

Our Parish relies heavily on the contributions received during Masses via the collections and planned giving envelopes, therefore we have had to find alternative ways to keep running during these extraordinary times of COVID-19.

Ways that you can contribute:

1. Donations can now be made directly via the parish website by clicking the link on the homepage. These donations are not tax deductible.
2. Planned giving envelopes and cheques can be dropped into the parish between 9am & 3pm Monday – Thursday.
3. Monthly credit card donations are processed in the 3rd week of each month. If you wish to join or change to monthly giving, the credit card authority form can be downloaded from the website and returned to the parish office.



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JACK:

Last Sunday – the Easter season concluded with the feast of Pentecost. Today we are invited to meditate upon the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



There was a priest who would once a year give a homily in which he raised difficult theological issues. He always chose the feast of the Holy Trinity for this purpose. Parishioners thou impressed by his eloquence could understand nothing. However, the biggest problem was that the preacher himself didn't understand what he was preaching about either.

The Holy Trinity is one of the greatest mysteries of our faith... Mystery – we rather contemplate, think and feel, than fully understand the knowledge of it. But this feast also tells us that we have a simple resource like the sign of the cross to express our faith and love to our God.

Pentecost “opened” the doors of our churches more widely. Now 50 people are allowed to participate in the Eucharist and other religious activities. And here at St. Martha's we return to our previous schedule of Sunday and weekday Masses.



- Vigil Mass Saturday at 5.00 pm.
- Sunday Mass times 8.00 am, 10am and 6pm.
- Weekday Mass times as usual: Tuesday 7.30 am, Wednesday – Saturday 9.10 am.

However even with this “openness” we still have some limitations:

- 50 people per Mass,
- You must still write your name on the list when entering the church.
- Sanitise your hands and clean you seat after using it.
- Physical distance must be kept.

LIFE MESSAGES BY FR ANTONY KADAVIL

- 1) We need to respect ourselves and respect others. Our conviction that the Triune God is present within us always should help us to esteem ourselves as God's holy dwelling place, to behave well in His holy presence, and to lead purer and holier lives, practicing acts of justice and charity. This Triune Presence should also encourage us to respect and honour others as "Temples of the Holy Spirit."
- 2) We need to be aware of God as the Source of our strength and courage. The awareness and conviction of the presence of God within us gives us the strength to face the manifold problems of life with Christian courage. It was such a conviction that prompted the early Christian martyrs being taken to their execution to shout the heroic prayer of Faith from the Psalms: "The Lord of might is with us, our God is within us, and the God of Jacob is our helper" (Psalm 46).
- 3) We need to see the Trinity as the model for our Christian families: We are created in love to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in Love. From the day of our Baptism, we have belonged to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. How privileged we are to grow up in such a beautiful Family! Hence, let us turn to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in prayer every day. We belong to the Family of the Triune God. The love, unity and joy in the relationship among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit should be the supreme model of our relationships within our Christian families. Our families become truly Christian when we live in a relationship of love with God and with others.
- 4) We are called to become more like the Triune God through all our relationships. We are made in God's image and likeness. Just as God is God only in a Trinitarian relationship, so we can be fully human only as one member of a relationship of three partners. The self needs to be in a horizontal relationship with all other people and in a vertical relationship with God. In that way our life becomes Trinitarian like that of God. Modern society follows the so-called “I-and-I” principle of unbridled individualism and the resulting consumerism. But the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity challenges us to adopt an “I-and-God-and-neighbour” principle: “I am a Christian insofar as I live in a relationship of love with God and with other people.” Like God the Father, we are called upon to be productive and creative persons by contributing to the building up of the fabric of life and love in our family, our Church, our community and our nation. Like God the Son, we are called upon to reconcile, to be peacemakers, to put back together that which has been broken, to restore what has been shattered. Like God the Holy Spirit, it is our task to uncover and teach truth and to dispel ignorance. (Trinitarian spirituality: “The doctrine of the Trinity affirms that it belongs to God's very Nature to be committed to humanity and its history, that God's Covenant with us is irrevocable, that God's Face is immutably turned toward us in love, that God's Presence to us is utterly reliable and constant.... Trinitarian spirituality is one of solidarity between and among persons. It is a way of living the Gospel attentive to the requirements of justice, understood as rightly ordered relationships between and among persons.” Dictionary of Spirituality)

St. Francis Xavier's favourite prayer was: “Most Holy Trinity, who live in me, I praise You, I worship You, I adore You and I love You.”
Let the Son lead us to the Father through the Spirit, to live with the Triune God forever and ever. Amen.”