

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 OCTOBER 2020

**SERVING GOD THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY.** The kingdom of God is already present in our world. It is here that we practise the kingdom values of justice, honesty, love and compassion. It is here that we show our faith in action, work for love and persevere in hope. When we contribute to the well-being of civil society we are promoting the kingdom of God.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 16:6, 8  
To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

## GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

## COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,

whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I am you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### RESP PSALM

Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

**R. Give the Lord glory and honour.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**



4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

### SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:15-16

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.*

# ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Priest: Fr Jacek (Jack) Cichy

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon-Thurs) [admin@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Fridays) [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Sacramental Coordinator: Patricia Saad (Fridays) [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson [safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au)

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council 2020 Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

Youth Ministry: Jessica Gereis [youth@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:youth@stmarthas.org.au)



**'Rejoice & be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven' ... Matthew 5**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

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Email: [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Website: [www.stmarthas.org.au](http://www.stmarthas.org.au)

Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: [info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Judy Gastin

Assistant Principal: Leanne Meehan

REC: Attilia Kazacos

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**



*Please  
continue  
to support the  
St Vincent De Paul Society  
through the Church  
Poor Boxes.*

## **Mission:**

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

## **MASS TIMES**

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month:**

8-9am Adoration, 9am Benediction, 9.10am Healing Mass and  
Anointing of the Sick,  
followed by reconciliation

## **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

## **BAPTISM:**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11.00am  
by appointment only.  
(One months' notice is required).

## **Next Preparation Session:**

1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 in the Parish Hall  
Contact the Parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** By appointment only.  
(6 months' notice is required).

**ROSARY:** Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday  
& Friday 8.30am and 7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian  
Movement of Priests Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

## **PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT**

**ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:**

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am

(School term only)

**Please support our Catholic Press  
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2  
& Catholic Leader \$2.50  
are available at the Church Entrances.**



## **SAFE GUARDING**

**A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board  
located at the side entrance contains various  
resources for children regarding Safeguarding.**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.**

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU  
ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN IN - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC  
MINISTERS; CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN)  
& SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN  
FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-  
OPERATION.**

**ALTAR SERVERS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT  
A PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE  
CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.**



**GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR  
ANY CELIAC PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO  
RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION PLEASE TELL  
THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE  
IN THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.**





**2021 Columban Art Calendars are now available  
at the back of the Church \$9 each**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**COULD THE HOLDER OF  
PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER 25**

**KINDLY CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.**

**2019/2020 TAX RECEIPTS AND NEW SETS OF WEEKLY PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES CAN BE  
COLLECTED FROM THE PARISH OFFICE.**



**NOVEMBER MASS INTENTIONS**

*During the month of November  
we remember those who have  
returned to the Father!*

WE INVITE ALL FAMILIES TO  
COME FORWARD AND WRITE  
THE NAMES OF DEPARTED

LOVED ONES IN THE BOOKS OF  
REMEMBRANCE DURING THE MONTH OF  
NOVEMBER. OFFERING ENVELOPES CAN  
BE PLACED IN THE OFFERING BOX IN THE  
CHURCH FOYER. (DUE TO THE LARGE  
VOLUME, NAMES CANNOT BE PRINTED IN  
THE WEEKLY BULLETIN).



**MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER IS 'ALL SOULS DAY'.**

**MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 7.30AM AND 7.30PM.**



**Background on the Gospel  
Reading – All Saints Day, Cycle A**

Every year the Church recalls the  
example, witness, and prayer of the  
holy women and men who have  
been identified by the Church as

Saints. These saints are more than just role models;  
they are family members with whom we continue to  
share relation, in a bond of prayer, called the  
Communion of Saints. Every year when we celebrate  
this day, the Gospel we proclaim recalls for us Jesus'  
teaching about happiness, the Beatitudes. We quickly  
note in this reading that none of those Jesus names as  
“blessed” or “happy” are expected . . . the poor in  
spirit, the meek, the persecuted. Jesus' blueprint for

happiness reflects little of what the world might call  
happiness. What does Jesus mean when he uses the  
word “blessed?” This word is sometimes translated as  
“happy” or “fortunate” or “favored.” In other words,  
Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are  
poor, who mourn, who are persecuted. This might  
have been welcome and surprising news to the crowds  
who heard Jesus that day. The Beatitudes can be  
understood as a framework for Christian living.  
Because of this, it is natural that we proclaim this  
Gospel on the Feast of All Saints. Saints are people  
who lived the spirit of the Beatitudes as Jesus lived.  
On this day, we too are challenged to model our lives  
on the spirit and promises of the Beatitudes.

**Let us keep the HSC students and their families in our prayers during  
this final exam period.**



*Almighty God you have these students in your keeping.  
You know their thoughts; you know their heart.*

*We ask you to give them a clear head  
and sharp mind as they sit for their exams.*

*May they be affirmed in their efforts and  
may they know that you are there with them.*

*We pray that they will stay calm  
under pressure and perform to the best of their ability.*

*May they be open to feeling your loving presence in their life, now and always.*

*We ask this in Christ Jesus' name with the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen*



**HSC Prayer Intentions:**

Matthew Abiasaaf, Tim Doumit, Samuel Debbo, Christie Megalli, Joseph Jabbour, Joanne Choi, Eddie Tannous, Carlos Hasham, William Ayoub, Jayden Nasr, George Akiki, Michael Gittani, Nicholas Ellul & Anthony Cheaib.



## **First Holy Communion**

We pray for the Candidates during this period of preparation to receive the sacrament of First Eucharist.

Lesson 4  
Retreat

Saturday 7 November 3.00pm mass followed by lesson  
November 14 from 2.00pm-4.30pm



### **First Holy Communion Masses**

Sunday 15 November 12pm, Saturday 21 November 11am and 22 November 12pm

*“O Jesus, who has loved us with such exceeding great love as to give us the ineffable gift of the Holy Eucharist, inflame us with a burning zeal to promote your glory by preparing worthily the little children who are to approach your Holy Table for the first time. Protect, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, these young souls from the assaults of evil, strengthen their faith, increase their love, and endow them with all the virtues that will make them worthy to receive you. Amen”*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Recently Deceased:**

Frances Doumit, Jill Jones, Sr Frances Gaynor OP, Enid Wynne, Audrey Clark, Carmello Ponzio, Terry Stewart, Joseph Touma, Jill Watson, Frances Spicer, Shirley White, Clare Kenny, Sr Christin McIntosh, Sr Patricia Lindner, Doctor Ron Burke, Francesco & Stefano Colagiuri, Maria Do Thi Men, John Marianos, Simon Raheb, Marie Verschwer, Amirda Marie Shanthi, Lorna Redolfi.

### **Repose of The Soul:**



Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Daniel Lucich, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore (Phillip) Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Stefano, Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, John, Doreen & Des McNamara Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Guiseppe & Romilda Reginato.

### **Anniversaries:**

Cornelius Ryna, Roger O'Reilly, Noel Jebanasam, Stephaine Kehoe, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Tom & Michelle Christy, Eric Sidoti, Steven Elias, Dorothea Starr, Bernard & Mark Kelly, Eric Leahy & Marie Leahy, Joy Quinlan & Kevin Quinlan, Giuseppe & Raffaele Pagano, Mary Campion, John Liu & Mary Liu, Netta O'Hara, Norman Gode, Jan Loney, Harold Crocker, Albert Khoury, Lough Campion, Antonious Katrib, Julia Georges, Joseph Moussa Tannous, Reg Jones.

### **Sick Intentions:**

Tony Grace, Baby Alice & the Ladd Family, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz & Peter Starr.

### **Special Intentions:**

Fr Titmus, Rr O'Rourke, Rineesh & Wander, The McIlawaine Family, The soul of Mario Barone, Tony Chow, Michael Kenny, Thomas Wehbe, For Deceased Friends & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.



*Remembering someone with a Mass Intention honours them in a unique way – surrounding them with the warmth of God's love. A Mass may be offered for the living or deceased, for a Birthday, Anniversary, for somebody who is ill, or for a special intention. Mass Intention envelopes are available at the Church Entrances. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this.*

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> November

	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Special Ministers	Tandiono Family	Gina Surjadinata	Therese Issa	Cue Family
	Tandiono Family	Andri Surjadinata	Maria Soares	Cue Family
			Helen Williamson	
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Readers	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Greg Glass	Merlyn D'Souza	Anne Chow
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Maria Yu	Michael Quinlan	Lena Melhem
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Altar Servers	Patrick T.	Mary Louise I.	Catelyn C.	Lawrence X.
	Matthew A.	Shannon D.	Elijah M.	Jayden Y.
	Christian S.		Emilia T.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Nathaniel S.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Wardens	Joy Li	Mary Cooke	Trudie Rogers	Jean Duma

**If you are unable to attend your rostered Mass kindly organise a replacement.**



## All Saints Day

Today we honour those holy men and women who have gone before us in faith and have done so in a glorious way. As we honour these great champions of faith, let's reflect upon who they are and what role they continue to play in the life of the Church. The following excerpt is from [Chapter 8 of My Catholic Faith!](#):

**The Church in Heaven:** Those who have gone before us and now share in the glories of Heaven, in the Beatific Vision, are not gone. Sure, we do not see them and we cannot necessarily hear them speak to us in the physical way they did while on Earth. But they are not gone at all. St. Thérèse of Lisieux said it best when she said, "I want to spend my Heaven doing good on Earth." The saints in Heaven are in full union with God and make up the Communion of Saints in Heaven, the Church Triumphant! What's important to note, however, is that even though they are enjoying their eternal reward, they are still very much concerned about us. The saints in Heaven are entrusted with the important task of intercession. Sure, God already knows all our needs and He could ask us to go directly to Him in our prayers. But the truth is that God wants to use the intercession, and therefore, the mediation of the saints in our lives. He uses them to bring our prayers to Him and, in return, to bring His grace to us. They become powerful intercessors for us and participators in God's divine action in the world. Why is this the

case? Again, why doesn't God just choose to deal with us directly rather than go through intermediaries? Because God wants all of us to share in His good work and to participate in His divine plan. It would be like a dad who buys a nice necklace for his wife. He shows it to his young children and they are excited about this gift. The mom comes in and the dad asks the children to bring the gift to her. Now the gift is from her husband but she will most likely thank her children first for their participation in giving this gift to her. The father wanted the children to be part of this giving and the mother wanted to make the children a part of her receiving and gratitude. So it is with God! God wants the saints to share in the distribution of His manifold gifts. And this act fills His heart with joy! The saints also give us a model of holiness. The charity they lived on Earth lives on. The witness of their love and sacrifice was not just a one-time act in history. Rather, charity is living and continues to have an effect for the good. Therefore, the charity and witness of the saints lives on and affects our lives. This charity in their lives creates a bond with us, a communion. It enables us to love them, admire them and want to follow their example. It is this, coupled with their continuing intercession, that establishes a powerful bond of love and union with us.

*Lord, as the saints in Heaven adore You for eternity, I beg for their intercession. Saints of God, please come to my aide. Pray for me and bring to me the grace I need to live a holy life in imitation of your own lives. All saints of God, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.*



88 Churchill Avenue, Strathfield NSW 2135

[www.stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au)

**St Martha's**  
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## THE 11TH ANNUAL iWitness CONFERENCE **AWAKE, O SLEEPER**

DECEMBER 10-13, 2020 | AGES 18-35

THE TOPS CONFERENCE CENTRE, STANWELL TOPS

iWitness is an annual, summer conference drawing together 100s of young (18-35 year old) Aussie Catholics for a summer weekend of prayer, formation and fun.

The iWitness Conference was established in the spirit of World Youth Day Sydney 2008. It has always sought to help Australia's young people engage with and be inspired by the Catholic faith - and this year is no exception.

iWitness promises to be an unforgettable weekend of formation, fun and faith, just as it always is. There will be daily Mass, 24 hour (perpetual) adoration, loads of games, amazing speakers, plenty of fresh air, and more!

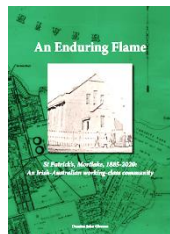
iWitness and the venue have a COVID-Safe plan. Full refunds will be issued if the event is cancelled.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:**

[HTTPS://WWW.IWITNESSCONFERENCE.COM/](https://www.iwitnessconference.com/)

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





## NEW CHURCH HISTORY BOOK – ST PATRICK’S MORTLAKE

St Martha’s Parish Historian, Damian Gleeson, has just published “An Enduring Flame”, a history of St Patrick’s Parish, Mortlake from 1885. 2020 marks 125 years since construction of St Patrick’s Church, which was built to serve the workers and families of the (now former) Gas Works. This scholarly 164-page-book carefully examines the parish’s history in a sensitive but transparent manner. The story includes the highs and lows, opportunities and challenges, joys and sorrows of a local Irish-Australian community. It is solidly footnoted to assist family and local historians. From 1894-1929 Mortlake was part of St Mary’s Burwood (Concord), then came under St Ambrose Concord West until 1934, before returning to Concord, and finally, gaining independence in 1943. Dozens of rare photos assist in bringing to life the people and clergy. The faith, energy and commitment of the early Irish settlers has flourished, and successive generations of people from many different cultures and nationalities have contributed to the wonderfully diverse and vibrant parish community we share today.

Order for the book, which will be officially launched by Monsignor John Usher in mid- November, may be made through the Mortlake Parish Office, 9743 1017 or email: [parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au).

Just \$25 plus postage. A wonderful Christmas present!

An Enduring Flame: St Patrick’s Mortlake 1885-2020

An Irish-Australian working-class community by Dr Damian John Gleeson



As we approach the end of 2020 we have seen some extraordinary moments in our parishes this year, from the unthinkable closing of our churches to deeply inspired moments of outreach in difficult circumstances. As we seek to draw our communities back to Mass we recall the Lord’s words “apart from me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5) and trust in His promise “Whatever you ask for in my name I will do, so that the Father may be gloried in the Son.” (John 14:13).

Let us step out in faith, joining together in prayer to ask the Lord to renew our communities. From the Feast of All Saints onwards (1 November 2020), we invite you to enjoin your parish to pray for the renewal of all our parishes in Sydney, using the prayer cards **enclosed** and the electronic form of the prayer sent to your parish office.

On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12 December 2020, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will launch our new Archdiocesan Mission Plan, *Go Make Disciples* which, with the assistance of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, seeks to inspire and support the renewal of our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ for the faithful and beyond.

In the weeks and months ahead we hope you will join us in prayer, calling on the Holy Spirit, to prepare the hearts of each of us and of all our parishes and Eucharistic communities to receive anew the fire of God’s love and the desire to be ever more faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ. United with you in prayer,

Daniel Ang  
Director  
Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

Elizabeth Arblaster  
Parish Renewal Team  
Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

**B**lessed are you, Father, who, in your infinite love sent us your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life, and have it in abundance.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our Eucharistic communities.

May they be places of encounter with the living Christ, centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy.

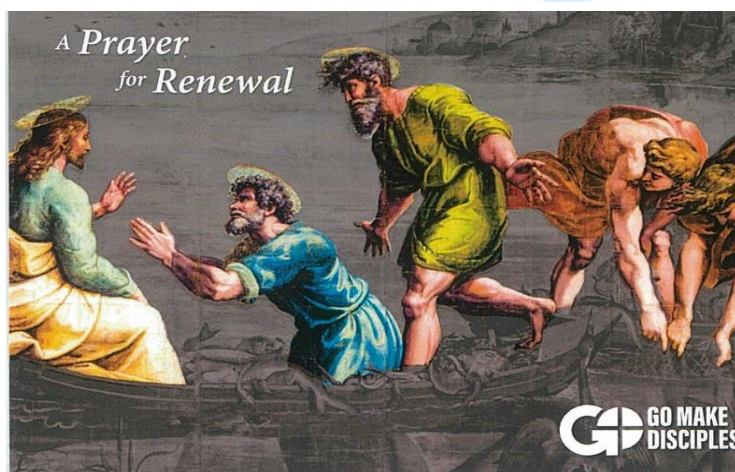
Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of Sydney.

Our Lady, Help of Christians. *Pray for us!*

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation. *Pray for us!*

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. *Pray for us!*

[www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au)



PRAYER CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER





# Sydney Catholic Schools

INSPIRING SPIRITS AND MINDS

**Announcement for  
Parents, Pastors, Staff and Students of  
St Martha's Catholic Primary School, Strathfield**

I am pleased to announce, along with Fr Jack Cichy, the appointment of Ms. Carolyn Parsell as the Principal of St Martha's Catholic Primary School Strathfield, beginning at the start of the 2021 school year.

Carolyn is an experienced Principal who is currently leading St Joachim's Catholic Primary School, Lidcombe where she has worked with her staff to ensure rich, flexible, supportive and nurturing learning environments. Carolyn has shown a deep understanding of the importance of collaboration with all members of the school community to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for all students. She is committed to finding possibilities to extend the spiritual, social and emotional growth and wellbeing of each student.

Carolyn is a gifted educator, a creative thinker and a committed, faith-filled leader. She is excited to be coming to St Martha's to lead a thriving Catholic community which is committed to growing students to achieve and make a difference.

This is an energising time for the students, staff and community of St Martha's and we congratulate Carolyn on this significant appointment.

Yours sincerely,

**Tony Farley**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SYDNEY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

38 Renwick Street Leichhardt NSW 2040 • Ph (02) 9569 6111  
PO Box 217 Leichhardt NSW 2040

[www.syd.catholic.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.syd.catholic.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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## THE Catholic Weekly

DIGITAL EDITION

**\$1**  
/WEEK

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## GOSPEL

Mt 5: 1-12

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage;  
Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted;  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for  
what is right:  
they shall be satisfied;  
Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them;  
Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God;  
Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God;  
Happy those who are persecuted in the  
cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, /  
Creator of heaven and earth, / and in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, /  
born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and  
was buried; / he descended into hell; /  
on the third day he rose again from the  
dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is  
seated at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty; / from there he will come to  
judge the living and the dead. / I believe  
in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic  
Church, / the communion of saints, / the  
forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of  
the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. May these offerings we bring in honour of all the Saints  
be pleasing to you, O Lord,  
and grant that, just as we believe the Saints  
to be already assured of immortality,  
so we may experience their concern for our  
salvation.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

### PREFACE III OF SAINTS

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna  
in the highest.

### THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

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

### COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by  
divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the  
glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

### LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of  
the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of  
the world, grant us peace.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who  
takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are  
those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should  
enter under my roof, but only say the  
word and my soul shall be healed.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 5: 8-10

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they  
shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for  
the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy  
and wonderful in all your Saints,

we implore your grace,  
so that, coming to perfect holiness in the  
fullness of your love,  
we may pass from this pilgrim table  
to the banquet of our heavenly homeland.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

### THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

### REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

#### THE BEATITUDES

The gospel of the Beatitudes is often  
read at funerals and weddings. In its own  
way, it sounds comforting and indeed it  
is. However, it is also very challenging—  
which suggests that 'Blessed' is a better  
rendering of the opening word in each  
case than 'Happy'.

Jesus is instructing his disciples concerning  
the kind of people they must be, not just  
for themselves but for the benefit of the  
mass of afflicted people down below the  
mountain, who he has just healed.

To this end, the beatitudes describe ways  
of living that mean putting oneself in a  
vulnerable situation quite contrary to  
the values of the world. To be 'poor in  
spirit,' rather than proud and dominant;  
to feel compassion ('mourn') because  
other people suffer; to have a passionate  
commitment ('thirst') for justice; to  
exercise 'mercy' rather than taking  
advantage of those in an inferior position;  
to actively promote reconciliation (as  
'peacemakers'); and so forth: all these  
things make one vulnerable here and  
now, entailing much loss.

But in light of the hope for the kingdom  
of God, whose values the Beatitudes  
enshrine, disciples who adopt this way  
of life are already 'blessed'. Their future  
happiness is in the hands of an ever-  
faithful God.

Moreover, living in this way means that  
they can be 'salt' and 'light' for the world,  
especially for the afflicted. It is those who  
are prepared to live in the vulnerable way  
commended by Jesus who make the world  
a hospitable home for all humanity. This  
is the legacy of the 'saints' who have gone  
before us.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

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