

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / B

10 JANUARY 2021

'MY FAVOUR RESTS ON YOU.' Through baptism we are members of Christ's body. God says to us: 'You are my beloved son (daughter); my favour rests on you.' Often we don't hear these words as clearly as Jesus did at his baptism. In this Mass, and in the events of this day, let us listen for God's assurance that we are loved. Let us listen, that we may have life and joy in God.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Mt 3:16-17

**After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, / and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, / and the voice of the Father thundered: / This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**

## GREETING

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

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**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 came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You come in word and in sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy: Christ have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You will come again in glory with salvation for your people: 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 who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. 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.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*Come to the waters; listen to my words and you shall have life.*

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and



bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust, I shall not fear. / For the Lord is my strength, my song, / he became my saviour. / With joy you will draw water / from the wells of salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! / Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done glorious deeds, / make them known to all the earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for joy / for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

### SECOND READING

1 Jn 5:1-9

**A reading from the first letter of St John**

*The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do

what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God

has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes

that Jesus is the Son of God:

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses,



# ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Administrator: Fr Jacek (Jack) Cichy

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

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Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

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



**'You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased' ... Mark 1**

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Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

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Principal: Carolyn Parsell

Assist Principal: Steven Belcastro

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:**

7<sup>th</sup> February 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

Resumes February 2021

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



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.

## **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.



Office of the  
Children's Guardian

### **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.

### **'Sharing the Word'**

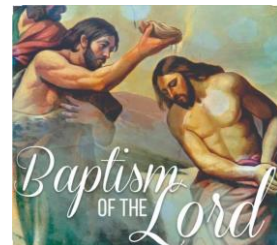
**Mondays at 7pm in St Martha's Church.  
Everyone is Welcome.**



## Message from Father Jacek

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Martha's,

All major celebrations for this season have come to an end: Christmas, New Year, The Epiphany... - perhaps very different to what we are used to. But even with all the restrictions, I believe we could catch a glimpse of something important – the renewed beauty of God in our lives. So we are back to the Green Season of Ordinary Time, to our routine and ordinariness of life. I hope that this year Covid-19 will be conquered and a lot of normality will return to our everydayness.



This 2021 year will bring several changes in our faith community. Mrs Carolyn Parsell begins her role as the new School Principal and Mr Steven Belcastro as Assistant Principal. As you already have been advised – Father John Hayes has been appointed as Parish Priest and will commence parish duties from the beginning of February. Hence my last day here at St. Martha's will be the last Sunday of this month – 31<sup>st</sup> January.

I keep you all in my prayers, Father Jacek Cichy

### *Background on the Gospel Reading – Loyola Press*

The baptism of Jesus is attested to in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The account that appears in Matthew is the only one to include the dialogue between Jesus and John, however. Another difference in Matthew's presentation of this event is the announcement made by the voice from heaven, which says, "This is my beloved son . . ." In Mark and Luke, this voice addresses itself to Jesus: "You are my beloved son . . ."

The baptisms that John performs prefigure Christian Baptism. John baptizes for repentance from sin. In accepting this baptism, Jesus unites himself with all sinners even though he is sinless. In Matthew's Gospel, John the Baptist distinguishes his practice of baptism from the Baptism that the Messiah brings: "I am baptizing you with water . . . He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11). The baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of Christ, another epiphany. Christ's baptism inaugurates his mission. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. In a way, today's feast is the high point of the Christmas season. Before Jesus' birth, angels announced to Mary and to Joseph who Jesus would be. At his birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the Messiah. At his baptism, Jesus accepts that he is God's son and inaugurates that mission.



### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, Caterina Randazzo, Betty Rooney, Ann-Maree Leydon, Roxann Astruc, Patrick Griffith, James Brady, Patricia Wilson, Norma Shore, Sr Pauline Smith rsm, Marie Verschuer, Enid Wynne.
<b>Repose of The Soul:</b>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Mary Bentley, 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, Tom O'Rourke, Norman & Christine Coorey, Peter Choi.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Violet Bouffler, Gerald Gleeson, John McManus, Des McNamara, Alice Herro, John Behringer, Monica Ryan, Beryl Erskine, Michael Donegan, Elisa, Patrick & Mereani Chang, Declan & Redmond Dower, Thomas Kenny, Dorothea Francis Starr, William (Bill) Starr, Harry Thorpe, John Harrington, John St George, Zahia Azzi.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Neale Apps, Pat Fraser, Tony Grace, Baby Alice Ladd, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz & Peter Starr.
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Margaret, Meredith & Hannah Apps, Siva Sothy, The Pagano & Colagiuri Families, May & Frank Grieves, Eileen Givney, Anne Goodrick. For Deceased Friends & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.

### 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> January

	5.00PM VIGIL	8.00AM	10.00AM	6.00PM
SPECIAL MINISTERS	Peter McCluskey	Yvonne Martins	Therese Issa	Andrew Bova
	Marian McCluskey	Peter Yamin	Maria Soares	Mary L'Estrange
			Helen Williamson	
	5.00PM VIGIL	8.00AM	10.00AM	6.00PM
READERS	Natalie Bains	Daniel Martins	Merlyn D'Souza	Theresa Kuk
	Patricia Saad	Sandor Toth	Michael Quinlan	Anne Chow
	5.00PM VIGIL	8.00AM	10.00AM	6.00PM
ALTAR SERVERS	Lincoln M.	Julian M.	Catelyn C.	Marina B.
	Hayden M.	Lucas M.	Elijah M	Oliver B.
	Therese S.	Jacob M.	Emilia T.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Sophia S.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	5.00PM VIGIL	8.00AM	10.00AM	6.00PM
WARDENS	Joy Li	Phil Robinson	Trudie Rogers	Jean Duma

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

**Planned Giving via Credit Card – we advise that the January donation will be processed in early February**

**During January the Parish Office will be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays only.**



the Spirit, the water and the blood,  
and all three of them agree.  
We accept the testimony of human witnesses,  
but God's testimony is much greater,  
and this is God's testimony,  
given as evidence for his Son.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf. Jn 1:29  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:  
This is the Lamb of God who takes away  
the sins of the world. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Mk 1:7-11

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

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

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

*You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*  
In the course of his preaching John the Baptist  
said, 'Someone is following me, someone who  
is more powerful than I am, and I am not  
fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his  
sandals. I have baptised you with water, but  
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from  
Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the  
Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up  
out of the water than he saw the heavens torn  
apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending  
on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You  
are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on  
you.'

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. Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have  
brought to honour the revealing of your  
beloved Son, so that the oblation of your  
faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice  
of him who willed in his compassion to wash  
away the sins of the world. Who lives and  
reigns for ever and ever.

**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 OF BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*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: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

## 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

 Jn 1:32, 34

**Behold the One of whom John said:  
I have seen and testified that this is the Son  
of God.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Nourished with these sacred gifts, / we  
humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, / that,  
faithfully listening to your Only Begotten  
Son, / we may be your children in name and  
in truth. / 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.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### SHARING GOD'S GIFT

One of the great recurring themes of the  
scriptures is that of God's irrepressible  
and untiring desire to bring us into the  
fullness of life. The reading from Isaiah is  
filled with images of the life God wants to  
share with us: water, grain, wine and milk  
without cost, a life-giving and nourishing  
word that never returns without achieving  
its purpose. This life is offered freely – all  
we need do is seek the Lord to share in  
this banquet.

For Christians, baptism is a sign of the  
new life that we have been graciously  
given through the death and resurrection  
of Jesus. One of the problems facing  
John's community was that of how to deal  
with false teachings which were dividing  
and weakening the community and the  
baptismal promises they had made. John  
seeks to remind them of the life they  
share through their baptism and the call  
to bear witness to it by their love for God  
and for their sisters and brothers.

In the birth of Jesus God's life-giving and  
nourishing word becomes one with us.  
His baptism marks a moment of grace  
for him and us. The heavens are opened  
and God's empowering Spirit comes upon  
him as he begins his ministry. God bears  
testimony to the life that he is pleased  
to offer us in the Beloved Son. At Jesus'  
baptism the voice from heaven proclaims  
how a time of new life and growth is  
beginning. For those with eyes to see the  
rich harvest is already beginning, and the  
banquet prepared.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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