

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

10 MARCH 2024

GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH. During the season of Lent we humbly acknowledge the ways in which we have failed to respond to our Christian vocation. We do this before a God who is infinitely rich in mercy and grace, who sent the Son into the world not to condemn it but to be its saviour. Acknowledging our failings and accepting healing and forgiveness from Christ prepares us to celebrate the feast of Easter with great joy.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 66: 10-11

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling
breast.**

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. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the
Father to intercede for us: 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.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who through your Word reconcile
the human race to yourself in a wonderful
way, grant, we pray, that with prompt
devotion and eager faith the Christian people
may hasten toward the solemn celebrations
to come. 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 2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of
Chronicles.

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed
in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the
people too, added infidelity to infidelity,

copying all the shameful practices of the
nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord
had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The
Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly
sent them messenger after messenger, since
he wished to spare his people and his house.
But they ridiculed the messengers of God,
they despised his words, they laughed at his
prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord
rose so high against his people that there was
no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of
God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set
fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything
of value in it. The survivors were deported by
Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to
serve him and his sons until the kingdom of
Persia came to power. This is how the word of
the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through
Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its
sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone
by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days
of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia,
to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken
through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit
of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation
and to have it publicly displayed throughout
his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of
Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has
given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he
has ordered me to build him a Temple in
Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among
you of all his people, may his God be with
him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 136. R. v. 6

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever
forgot you!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon / there we sat and
wept, / remembering Zion: / on the poplars
that grew there / we hung our harps. **R.**

2. For it was there that they asked us, /
our captors, for songs, / our oppressors, for
joy. / 'Sing to us,' they said, / 'one of Zion's
songs.' **R.**

3. O how could we sing / the song of
the Lord / on alien soil? / If I forget you,
Jerusalem, / let my right hand wither! **R.**

4. O let my tongue / cleave to my mouth /
if I remember you not, / if I prize not
Jerusalem / above all my joys! **R.**



SECOND READING

Eph 2: 4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians.

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us
to life.*

God loved us with so much love that he was
generous with his mercy: when we were dead
through our sins, he brought us to life with
Christ – it is through grace that you have been
saved – and raised us up with him and gave us
a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come,
through his goodness towards us in Christ
Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace.
Because it is by grace that you have been
saved, through faith; not by anything of your
own, but by a gift from God; not by anything
that you have done, so that nobody can claim
the credit. We are God's work of art, created
in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the
beginning he has meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ! / God loved the world so much, he
gave us his only Son, / that all who believe
in him might have eternal life. / Glory and
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL

Jn 3:14-21

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

*God sent his Son into the world that we might
be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon, Tues & Thurs) admin@stmarthas.org.au

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Friday) office@stmarthas.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum sc@stmarthas.org.au

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson & Helen Williamson safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neil



'God sent His Son into the world that we might be saved through Him' ... John 3

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 **Fax:** 9764 3040

Email: office@stmarthas.org.au

Website: www.stmarthas.org.au

Parish Office Hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am-5pm & Fridays 9am-3pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Carolyn Parsell

Assist Principal: Steven Belcastro

Acting REC: Cindy Ronzini

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

1st Saturday of every month:

8.30am Adoration followed by Mass



ACU Strathfield Campus celebrates Mass every Wednesday and Friday at 12:00pm. The Campus is located 25A Barker Road, Strathfield. Everyone is welcome.

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

BAPTISM:

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11.00am
(One months' notice is required).

Baptism Preparation by appointment only.
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

7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian Movement of Priests
Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.



PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT

ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:

8.10.30am – 11.30am (during the school term only)

*Please support our Catholic Press
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2
at the Church Entrance.*



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.

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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 (02) 9390 5810 or 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.

Commitment Statement

The Archdiocese of Sydney is wholly committed to ensuring the safety, well-being and dignity of all Children and Adults at Risk, and it acknowledges its important legal, moral and spiritual responsibility to create a safe and nurturing environment for Children and Adults.



**Office of the
Children's Guardian**

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.

Lenten Devotion: Stations of the Cross – Every Friday of Lent at 7pm

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES:

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Monday | 25th March | 9.10am | Mass |
| Monday | 25th March | 6.30pm | 2nd Rite of Reconciliation |
| Tuesday | 26th March | 7.30am | Mass |
| Wednesday | 27th March | 9.10am | Mass |
| Thursday | 28th March | (no morning Mass) 7.00pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper |
| Friday | 29th March | 10.00am 3.00pm | Stations of the Cross Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion |
| Saturday | 30th March | (no morning Mass) 6.00pm | Easter Vigil Mass |
| Sunday | 31st March | 8am, 10am & 6pm | Easter Sunday |
| Monday | 1st April | 9.10am | Easter Monday Mass |



During Holy Week, Project Compassion Boxes can be returned to the Sacristy or the Parish Office.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ENVELOPES FOR THE HOLY LAND COLLECTION AND EASTER OFFERINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER.



WEEKLY REFLECTION: FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT: We have all lived through a great deal of change. Even young people have seen plenty. ChatGPT is a recent development and so are electric cars. Older people can remember having a phone plugged into a socket that you couldn't carry around with you. Sometimes we have discussions about the good old days. They are often tinged with nostalgia for things we miss and gratitude for



improvements. We no longer need to buy film for our cameras or change typewriter ribbons. Climate change is deeply troubling. Many medical improvements are inspiring. Change can certainly be frightening. It can also be an occasion of great hope. Jesus seems to have understood this. Nicodemus comes across as a character who is looking for change in his life, but he is nervous about it, so he comes to see Jesus under cover of darkness. Earlier in the chapter, Jesus uses the image of being born again. Of starting all over again. It is a dramatic description of change. Jesus says that the light has come into the world and that people prefer the same old darkness. They are set in their ways. Every Lent, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia asks us to help bring light into the world and to make positive change. An example is presented to us this week in the story of Memory, a young woman from rural Malawi, the eldest child in a family living at the level of subsistence farming. Listen to some of Memory's words: 'Growing up in the village was not easy. My parents don't have a job, so they depend on farming. When the season goes wrong, we suffer a lot and become food insecure. Sometimes we need to bathe without soap. Sometimes we need to walk without shoes.' With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt practical skills in carpentry. A new life became possible. She can now realise her full potential and offer more to her family and her community. Today, the letter to the Ephesians reminds us that every person is 'God's work of art.' God is the artist who never signs off on a painting but is always trying to make it better. Perhaps we can see the world in the same way.

Boxes and Share Packs are still available in the Church foyer.



The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy's opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter. Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus. In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection. The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation. In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.



Family Connection: Parents whose children are afraid of the dark are struck by John's observation that darkness is preferred to light. Perhaps this is as it should be. God made us to live in the light of his love. But this original friendship with God was corrupted by sin. Our sin causes us to shy away from Christ, the light that has come into the world. During the season of Lent, we try to fight this tendency by remembering God's great mercy and the salvation that we have received through Jesus. We do not fear confessing our sins, knowing that God forgives us, and so, during Lent, we seek out opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After your family gathers, sit for a time in darkness, then light a candle. Invite people to talk about

what it felt like to be in the darkness and to compare that to their feelings when the candle was lit. What are we able to see by the limited glow of the candlelight that we couldn't see when we were sitting in darkness? Read today's Gospel, John 3:14-21. John's Gospel teaches us that Jesus was the light that came into the world. In this light we know ourselves to be sinners, but we are not condemned. Instead we have been saved because we have been forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Conclude in prayer together, thanking God for the great gift of forgiveness we have received through Jesus. Pray together the Act of Contrition.

O my God

I am sorry and repent with all my heart for all the wrong I have done and for the good I have failed to do,
because by sinning I have offended you, who are all good and worthy to be loved above all things.
I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid the occasions of sin.
Through the merits of the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ, Lord have mercy.



Enrolling @ St Martha's Primary School

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2025 are now being taken. Years 1-6 anytime of the year. Please contact the School Office on 9764 1184 for an Enrolment Pack or a personalised tour. All enrolments are welcome.



Easter is the largest liturgical celebration throughout the year and many volunteers are needed across all ministries. If you are on the regular roster and attending any of the Easter Liturgies, could you please consider volunteering. We are in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Lectors, Altar Servers. Please write your name on the sheets on the rear table of the church or contact Helen Williamson on 0408 970 120.



VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 'WASHING OF THE FEET' AT THE HOLY THURSDAY MASS. PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER.


HOLY THURSDAY – Mass of the Lord's Supper

| | 1 ST READING | | 2 ND READING | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Readers: | Lisa Dennis | | Marianna Soo | |
| Special Ministers | Claudia Elias | Georgia Elias | Volunteer Needed | |
| Altar Servers: | Kristen E. | Annalise E. | Volunteer Needed | |
| Washing of the Feet | 1. Gina Tati | 2. Marianna Soo | 3. Michelle Ta | 4. Kynetha Toreato |
| | 5. Volunteer Needed | 6. Volunteer Needed | 7. Volunteer Needed | 8. Volunteer Needed |
| | 9. Volunteer Needed | 10. Volunteer Needed | 11. Volunteer Needed | 12. Volunteer Needed |

GOOD FRIDAY – Stations of the Cross

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Altar Servers: | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|

GOOD FRIDAY - Passion

| | 1 ST READING | 2 ND READING | PASSION | SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Readers: | Claudia Elias | Donald Bonett | N: Anne Marrins O: Michael Quinlan | Aiden E. |
| Special Ministers: | Lisa Dennis | Beatrice Bonett | Volunteer Needed |  |
| Altar Servers: | Kristen E. | Annalise E. | Volunteer Needed | |

EASTER SATURDAY VIGIL

| | 1 ST OT READING | 2 ND OT READING | 3 RD OT READING | Epistle & Prayer of the Faithful |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Readers: | Claudia E. | Aiden E. | Leontia Jo | Don Bonett |
| Special Ministers: | Beatrice Bonett | Georgia E. | | |
| Altar Servers: | Annalise E. | Kristen E. | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed |

EASTER SUNDAY

| | 8AM | 10AM | 6PM |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Readers: | Volunteer Needed | Rita Piras | Volunteer Needed |
| Special Ministers: | Volunteer Needed | Michael Quinlan | Volunteer Needed |
| | Volunteer Needed | Anne Marrins | Volunteer Needed |
| | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed |
| Altar Servers: | Liam D. | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed |
| | Shannon D. | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed |

16th & 17th March

| Special Ministers | 5PM | 8AM | 10AM | 6PM |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Tandiono Family | Yvonne Martins | Jackie Romanous | Elias Family |
| | Lisa Dennis | Joseph Samarasinghe | Khairallah Family | Elias Family |
| Readers | 5PM | 8AM | 10AM | 6PM |
| | Natalie Bains | Daniel Martins | Anne Marrins | Melanie John |
| | Marianna Soo | Pierre Wong | Steve Doumit | Volunteer Needed |
| Altar Servers | 5PM | 8AM | 10AM | 6PM |
| | Lincoln M. | Lucas M. | Jay L. | John Paul B. |
| | Hayden M. | Jacob M. | Jarvis L. | Timothy P. |
| | Volunteer Needed | Archie S. | Khairallah Family | Volunteer Needed |
| | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed |
| Wardens | 5PM | 8AM | 10AM | 6PM |
| | Joy Li | Phil Robinson | Trudie Rogers | Vince Blefari |

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:

Adam Coulson, Jessie Baird, Luke Davies, Sally Rippingale, Morna Marturia, Sr. Patricia Bundock, Gianluigi Pau, Joy Hocking, Elias Aslan.

Repose of The Soul:



Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Francis Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Dorothy Harris, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Elizabeth Keating, John McManus, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore Puglisi, William & Dorothy Starr, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Roger O'Reilly, Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Betty Warbrick, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Mary Trefle', Anne Trefle', Elie Sahyoun, Alan & Peg Bailey, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Margaret Raeburn, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Pasquale Taglini, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Gregory Doyle & Jim Bradbury. Rosy Regina D'Costa, Hary Amalan, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Habib & Josephine Khoury, Judith Mueller, James Hennessy, Suki Singaray, Maureen Sarks, John Tandiono.

Anniversaries:

Sick Intentions:

Greg Glass, Karen Chung, Dr Frank Hume, Patricia Wilson, Dareth Flavell, Rudy Raeburn, Carminella Tiberio, Theo McLean, Joseph Akkary, Sylvia Watson, Sheree Mouawad, Virgilio Lim, George Jabbour, Dr Maher Ishak Morian, Graham Byrnes, Stephanie Harrington, Phil Harriss, Sophie O'Donnell, Ken South, Ajith Antony, Pat Fraser, Siena Fabrie, Giuseppe Faraone, Joanna Jo, Simon Alam, Rosanne Sukkar, Henry D'Souza, Danielle Fabien, Pat Gurney.

Special Intentions:

Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino, John, Pauline & Katherine Murphy.



St Martha's Catholic Church, Strathfield
70 Homebush Road, Strathfield NSW 2135
Telephone: (02) 9746 6131 Fax: (02) 9764 3040
Parish Priest: Father John Hayes
Sacramental Email: scs@stmarthas.org.au

Sacrament Preparation Schedule 2024

Welcome Parents, Carers and Candidates!
We come together as a Parish Community to support and prepare your child as they walk with Jesus!
To participate, **complete an Enrolment form** which are available in the foyer of our church or downloadable from our parish website @ <https://stmarthas.org.au/sacraments/>
All candidates are required to be baptised in the Catholic faith.
Arrangements can be made if your child has not been baptised.

CONFIRMATION 2024

For children in year 6 or older and have received First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation

Parent information Session: **6 pm Monday 6th May 2024**

1st lesson: 3:30pm Saturday 11th May

2nd lesson: 3:30pm Saturday 18th May

3rd lesson: 3:30pm Saturday 25th May

4th lesson: 3:30pm Saturday 1st June

Rehearsal: **6pm Friday 14th June 2024**

Sacrament date: 6 pm Friday 21st June 2024

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

For Children in Year 3 or Older and who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Parent information Session: **6pm Monday 5th August 2024**

1st lesson: 3:30pm Wed 7th or 3:30pm Sat 10th August

2nd lesson: 3:30pm Wed 14th or 3:30pm Sat 17th August

3rd lesson: 3:30pm Wed 21st or 3:30pm Sat 24th August

4th lesson + Rehearsal: 3:30pm Wed 28th August or 3:30pm Sat 31st August
Sacrament date: 12 pm Sunday 8th or 15th September 2024

FIRST RECONCILIATION 2024

For Children in Year 2 or Older

Parent information Session: **6pm Monday 21st October 2024**

1st lesson: 3:30pm Wed 23rd or 3:30pm Sat 26th October

2nd lesson: 3:30pm Wed 30th or 3:30pm Sat 2nd November

3rd lesson: 3:30pm Wed 6th or 3:30pm Sat 9th November

4th lesson + rehearsal: 3:30pm Wed 13th or 3:30pm Sat 16th Nov

Sacrament date: 6 pm Tuesday 19th or Wednesday 20th November 2024

For more information visit - <https://stmarthas.org.au/sacraments/>

Questions or queries please contact Sacramental Co-ordinator Linda Praum

Email: scs@stmarthas.org.au or Mobile 0425 866 892



Online Training Program: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion



This comprehensive multimedia training program will enable new and experienced ministers to gain the skills and confidence needed for this important liturgical ministry.

The 5-week online program provides rich and engaging content in a supportive environment. The program is led by an experienced liturgy instructor and features many opportunities for questions and interaction with others.

DEVELOP ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

The skills and knowledge that are essential for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are explored through videos, readings, quizzes, audio, images, and reflection-based activities. Zoom classes and a practical session ensure that participants become confident and effective ministers. The program promotes a broader understanding of liturgical ministry and the liturgy of the Church.

WORK WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Participants from parishes, schools and Church organisations are endorsed by their pastor prior to registering. Engagement with the local community is a feature of the program.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

To find out more and register online for the next available program visit:

www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training

CONTACT

For more information contact the ACU Centre for Liturgy:

Email: centreforliturgy@acu.edu.au

Phone: (02) 9701 4751

"The online component in particular was beautiful, informative and made the theology interesting and engaging."

David Cathedral Parish, Bathurst

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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. We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. 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 I AND II OF LENT

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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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 cf. Ps 121: 3-4

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. 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 in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

GOD'S LOVE, GIFT AND GRACE

On this *Laetare* Sunday (so called for the first word of the liturgy is "rejoice") we find in the Letter to the Ephesians: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (2:8). To contemplate this statement is to begin to understand the generous mercy and love of God for each of us.

This reading follows 2 Chronicles that recounts the fall of Jerusalem, despite the compassion of God for the people, but then King Cyrus of Persia liberating the exiles. So as the passage begins in Ephesians we see the continuity with God, who is rich in mercy. Three times "grace" is repeated: "by grace you have been saved," "the immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" and "for by grace you have been saved through faith." This reiteration accentuates the love of God and invites us to know that "we are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

John's Gospel reminds us "God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (3:16). With his clear illumination of light and darkness, John affirms that "those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

How will we respond to God's love, gift and grace?

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

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