

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) / B

7 APRIL 2024

THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE. Our belief in the teachings and resurrection of Jesus prompts us to be a part of the Christian community. In turn, our experience of Christian community strengthens our faith. It was only when Thomas was with the other disciples that he met the risen Christ and came to believe in him. It is a simple truth that faith builds community and community builds faith.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** 1 Pet 2: 2

**Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.**

## 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. God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,

increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. 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** Acts 4: 32-35

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**

*The whole group was united, heart and soul.*

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 117: 2-4, 15-18, 22-24. R. v. 1

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (or Alleluia)**

1. Let the sons of Israel say: / 'His love has no end.' / Let the sons of Aaron say: / 'His love has no end.' / Let those who fear the Lord say: / 'His love has no end.' **R.**

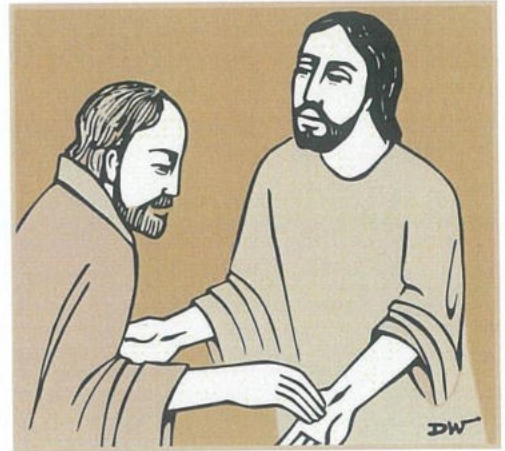
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; / his right hand raised me up. / I shall not die, I shall live / and recount his deeds. / I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, / but not doomed to die. **R.**

3. The stone which the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone. / This is the work of the Lord, / a marvel in our eyes. / This day was made by the Lord; / we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Jn 5: 1-6

**A reading from the first letter of St John**  
*Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.*

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.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Jn 20: 29

**Alleluia, alleluia! / You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; / happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! / Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Jn 20: 19-31

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.**

*After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,



# 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](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

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

Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson & Helen Williamson [safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au](mailto: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



*'After 8 days, Jesus came in and stood among them' ... John 20*

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 Hours:

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



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

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



### 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11.00am

Please introduce yourself to Father after Mass to request a Baptism Information pack. 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.

### ST MARTHA'S PRAYER GROUP:

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am (during the school term only)

### PLAYGROUP:

Playgroup is a great opportunity for children aged 0 to 5 y.o. to enjoy some books and craft activities and get to know each other.

Next date to be advised. Contact:

[elena.razzoli@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:elena.razzoli@syd.catholic.edu.au)



**Please support our Catholic Press  
Copies of the Catholic Weekly are in the Church Foyer \$2.**



## 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 [safeguardinginquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardinginquiries@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.



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.**



**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)** Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion. In today's Gospel,

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others. Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.



**Family Connection:** Within normal family life, there are many opportunities for conflict. Jesus did not promise us the absence of conflict in our lives. Instead, he gave us the gifts of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation so that we could reduce conflict. The measure of Christian family life is not the absence of conflict, but the manner in which conflict is resolved. Filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we ask Jesus to help us to bring peace and forgiveness to situations of conflict in our families. As your family gathers, take this opportunity to examine how your family resolves conflict. Recall a recent argument or disagreement and discuss how the conflict was resolved. Consider whether the conflict was resolved peacefully, in the spirit of Jesus. If not, discuss alternatives that

might be tried in the future. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-31. Recall that we have each received Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit helps us to be people who forgive others and seek peace. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



### **Divine Mercy Prayer Group – Thursday morning after Mass.**

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter and is a religious observance celebrated mostly among Catholics. This year, it takes place on April 7. It is a significant time for reflection on the Christian faith. As Pope John Paul II stated, "It is a time where we are blessed with divine mercy as it reaches us through the heart of Christ crucified." Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gifts that flowed from Christ's death, burial, and resurrection — his mercy and love that were so freely given to humanity after such a betrayal. Divine Mercy Sunday concludes the

Easter celebrations and welcomes the ultimate gift that Christ gave after his crucifixion.

### **HISTORY OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

The story of Divine Mercy Sunday, also known as 'the Feast of the Divine Mercy,' is thousands of years old. However, the official recognition of the day was only authenticated by the Vatican in 2000. Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter to be called "Divine Mercy Sunday." Since that declaration, it has been marked in the General Roman Calendar as a religious observance celebrated by Catholics worldwide. The significance of the day can be attributed to St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who experienced visions from Christ himself. Born in 1905, she served her parish well and communed with Jesus on several occasions where he communicated with her that he wished to be "a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners." St. Faustina, also known as the 'Secretary of Divine Mercy,' died in 1938 in Krakow at age 33 after suffering from Tuberculosis. Divine Mercy Sunday is a space specifically designated for those who feel unworthy of God's love and Jesus's acceptance. In a vision, he told St. Faustina, "I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy." Divine Mercy Sunday, from its advent, has been a source of reconciliation with faith and God's mercy. It provides a specific day on which people from all walks of life can humble themselves before God, and ask for his mercy, love, and forgiveness, which he grants to all those who are willing to ask for it. It is also about forgiveness and mercy, how Jesus offered his to us, and how we should act in kind throughout our lives.

## **MORE VOLUNTEER LEADERS FOR THE SUNDAY CHILDREN'S LITURGY ARE URGENTLY NEEDED**

The Children's Liturgy during the 10am Sunday runs in the Parish Hall during the school term only. We are calling on more adults to join a regular roster as leaders so please contact the Parish Office and provide your Working with Children compliance documents. We take this opportunity to sincerely thank Alannah Hickry who has been coordinating the program every week.

### **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.**



Thank you to Edith Pun & Helen Williamson for providing photos.



### 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Georgette Sahyoun	Anne Marrins	Ravi Family
	Marian McCluskey	Peter Yamin	Maria Soares	Ravi Family
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Paulina Roncevic	Mark Soares	Helen Williamson
	Patricia Saad	Robert Smith	Rachel Suriano	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Mary Louise I.	Bonett Family	Lawrence X.
	Jeff C.	Ryan W.	Bonett Family	Jayden Y.
	Matthew C.	Dylan W.	Suriano Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Mary Cooke	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari

### MASS OFFERINGS

**Recently Deceased:**

Lough Doran, Brian Gallagher, Michael Harber, Samantha Murphy, Patricia Gurney, Mike Kennelly, Sally Rippingale, Morna Marturia, Sr. Patricia Bundock.

**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, Elizabeth Keating, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Roger O'Reilly, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Mary Trefle', Anne Trefle', Elie Sahyoun, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Margaret Raeburn, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Mary Marrins, Mary & Thomas Cahill, Erlinda Tatasciore.

**Anniversaries:**

Damia Bains, Daisy Sheldon, Joseph Sellathamboo, Myrtle Fernandes, Patrick Marrins, Paul Duggan, Peter Turpin, Andrew Coote, Anna Lam, Antoine Nader, Edward Campion, Maud Soares, Hubert Saldanah, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Habib & Josephine Khoury, Judith Mueller, Suki Singarayar.

**Sick Intentions:**

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

**Special Intentions:**

Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Matteo & Caterina Genova.





Pope Francis gives his urbi et orbi Easter blessing from the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica on March 31, 2024. | Credit: Pablo Esparza/CNA

*Today throughout the world there resounds the message proclaimed 2,000 years ago from Jerusalem: "Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has been raised!" (Mk 16:6).*

The Church relives the amazement of the women who went to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week. The tomb of Jesus had been sealed with a great stone. Today too, great stones, heavy stones, block the hopes of humanity: the stone of war, the stone of humanitarian crises, the stone of human rights violations, the stone of human trafficking, and other stones as well. Like the women disciples of Jesus, we ask one another: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (cf. Mk 16:3). This is the amazing discovery of that Easter morning: The stone, the immense stone, was rolled away. The astonishment of the women is our astonishment as well: The tomb of Jesus is open, and it is empty! From this, everything begins anew! A new path leads through that empty tomb: The path that none of us, but God alone, could open: the path of life in the midst of

death, the path of peace in the midst of war, the path of reconciliation in the midst of hatred, the path of fraternity in the midst of hostility. As we celebrate Easter, may the spirit of peace and renewal permeate our world, bringing hope to the broken, comfort to the grieving, and unity to all humanity. Let us embrace the teachings of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, in working together to create a world where peace reigns and all people live in harmony. Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen! He alone has the power to roll away the stones that block the path to life. He, the living One, is himself that path. He is the Way: the way that leads to life, the way of peace, reconciliation, and fraternity. He opens that path, humanly impossible, because he alone takes away the sin of the world and forgives us our sins. For without God's forgiveness, that stone cannot be removed. Without the forgiveness of sins, there is no overcoming the barriers of prejudice, mutual recrimination, the presumption that we are always right and others wrong. Only the risen Christ, by granting us the forgiveness of our sins, opens the way for a renewed world. May the light of the Resurrection illuminate our minds and convert our hearts, and make us aware of the value of every human life, which must be welcomed, protected, and loved. A happy Easter to all! **Catholic News, Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi, Easter 2024.**

FREE - TUESDAY 16/04/24

## Seminar on Wills ENDURING GUARDIANSHIP AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Writing or updating a will can be a complicated task, for many legal and emotional reasons. So, looking after your loved ones during this process is often fraught with difficulty. This is why the Sydney Archdiocese is delighted to announce a FREE seminar designed to make the world of Wills easier to comprehend and navigate.

**When:**

**Tuesday 16 April 2024, between 11.30am-1.30pm**

**Where:**

**Regent St Pavilion (part of DOOLEYS),  
67 Regent St Regents Park**

Note: Light refreshments will be available on the day, as well as a COMPLIMENTARY WILL OFFER for attendees.

\*Terms and Conditions apply. Please join us as we help you gain a better understanding of important topics such as Estate planning, Enduring Guardianship and Powers of Attorney. Leading industry specialists with many years of experience will present on the day, offer their expertise FREE OF CHARGE, and answer ALL your questions. Representatives from the Sydney Archdiocese will also explain how your parish community can directly benefit from the offering of legacy gifts in Wills. For further information, contact Tony Maricic on 1800 753 959, or [tony.maricic@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:tony.maricic@sydneycatholic.org).

Please scan to register or visit <https://bit.ly/DooleysWills> or Call Tony on 1800 753 959



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: [scms@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:scms@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 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

2<sup>nd</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

3<sup>rd</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

4<sup>th</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

Rehearsal: **6pm Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Sacrament date: 6 pm Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Wed 7<sup>th</sup> or 3:30pm Sat 10<sup>th</sup> August**

2<sup>nd</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Wed 14<sup>th</sup> or 3:30pm Sat 17<sup>th</sup> August**

3<sup>rd</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Wed 21<sup>st</sup> or 3:30pm Sat 24<sup>th</sup> August**

4<sup>th</sup> lesson + Rehearsal: **3:30pm Wed 28<sup>th</sup> August or 3:30pm Sat 31<sup>st</sup> August**

**Sacrament date: 12 pm Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024**



#### FIRST RECONCILIATION 2024

For Children in Year 2 or Older

Parent information Session: **6pm Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> or 3:30pm Sat 20<sup>th</sup> October**

2<sup>nd</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Wed 30<sup>th</sup> or 3:30pm Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

3<sup>rd</sup> lesson: **3:30pm Wed 6<sup>th</sup> or 3:30pm Sat 6<sup>th</sup> November**

4<sup>th</sup> lesson + rehearsal: **3:30pm Wed 13<sup>th</sup> or 3:30pm Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov**

**Sacrament date: 6 pm Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024**



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

Questions or queries please contact Sacramental Co-ordinator Linda Praum

Email: [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au) or Mobile 0425 866 892



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W: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)



1800RESPECT  
P: 1800 737 732

W: [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)

they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him;

'You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**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, we pray, the oblations of  
your people (and of those you have brought

to new birth), that, renewed by confession of  
your name and by Baptism, they may attain  
unending happiness. 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 OF EASTER

*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 *cf. Jn 20: 27*

**Bring your hand and feel the place of the  
nails, / and do not be unbelieving but  
believing, alleluia.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P.** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our  
reception of this paschal Sacrament may  
have a continuing effect in our minds and  
hearts. 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, alleluia, alleluia!

**R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

### BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

#### RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

As we bask in the light of resurrection,  
today we see two witnesses to the  
resurrection, and the transformation of  
lives.

The first reading is from the Acts of the  
Apostles, the second volume attributed  
to Luke, and it presents to us a changed  
way of living. Firstly, the whole group  
of believers are described as 'of one  
heart and soul' (v. 32). The apostles  
appear as testifying with great power  
to the resurrection and 'great grace was  
upon them all' (v. 33). The remarkable  
addition here is that they shared  
everything in common, sold property and  
distributed funds so no-one was in need  
(v. 34-35). This radical transformation of  
their way of life is not a defining feature  
of our communities today, even though  
adopted by many religious congregations  
throughout the Church's history. While  
not diminishing the great charitable  
works operating today, this way of life  
remains a challenge to us in a world where  
rich become richer and poor increase in  
number and poverty.

In juxtaposition to the Acts account, the  
Gospel outlines the appearance of Jesus  
among the apostles and the repetition of  
'Peace be with you' (vv.19, 21). In this  
gathering behind closed doors, Jesus tells  
the apostles that he is sending them out.  
He breathes the Holy Spirit upon them,  
commissioning them. Eight days later in  
the same room Jesus arrives saying once  
again 'Peace be with you' (v. 26) and here  
is the experience of the doubting Thomas,  
forever recorded for anyone who might  
doubt that the resurrection happened and  
is real.

How will our lives be transformed by the  
resurrection?

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