

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:

Mondays 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 ParishPriest 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 ofall Children and Adults at Risk, and it acknowledges its important legal, moral and spiritualresponsibility 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 <u>SIGN IN</u> - 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 <u>NOT</u> 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	25 th March	9.10am	Mass
Monday	25 th March	6.30pm	2 nd Rite of Reconciliation
Tuesday	26 th March	7.30am	Mass
Wednesday	27 th March	9.10am	Mass
Thursday	28 th March	(no morning Mass)	
		7.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday	29 th March	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
		3.00pm	Solemn Commemoration
			of the Lord's Passion
Saturday	30 th 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.







Saving Lives
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.
Lifeline
P: 13 1114
W: www.lifeline.org.au



1800RESPECT P: 1800 737 732 W: www.1800respect.org.au 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

|--|

GOOD FRIDAY - Passion

	1 ST READING	2 ND READING	PASSION	SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS
Readers:	Claudia Elias	Donald Bonett	N: Anne Marrins	Aiden E.
			O: Michael Quinlan	
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

E/151EIT SOITE/TI			
	8AM	10AM	6PM
Readers:	Volunteer Needed	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Michael Quinlan	Volunteer Needed
Special Ministers:	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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Yvonne Martins	Jackie Romanous	Elias Family
	Lisa Dennis	Joseph Samarasinghe	Khairallah Family	Elias Family
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Readers	Natalie Baini	Daniel Martins	Anne Marrins	Melanie John
	Marianna Soo	Pierre Wong	Steve Doumit	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Altar Servers	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
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Wardens	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:

Anniversaries:

Sick Intentions:

Special Intentions:

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 Henness, Suki Singarayar, Maureen Sarks, John Tandiono.

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.

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) 9745 6131 Fax: (02) 9764 3040 Parish Priest: Father John Hayes ental Email: scostmarthas.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, <u>complete an Enrolment form</u> which are available in the foyer of our church or adable from our parish website @ https://stmarthas.org.au/sac 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 we received the Sacrament of Recond

Parent information Session: 6pm Monday 5th August 2024

1st Jesson: 3:30pm Wed 7th or 3:30pm Sat 10th August lesson: 3:30pm Wed 14th or 3:30pm Sat 17th August lesson: 3:30pm Wed 21th or 3:30pm Sat 24th August

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



FIRST RECONCILIATION 2024

For Children in Year 2 or Olde arent 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 2rd November 3rd lesson: 3:30pm Wed 5th or 3:30pm Sat 2rd 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 Li Email: sc@stmarthas.org.au or Mobile 0425 866 892



Become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy of Hory Communion





This comprehensive multimedia training program will enable ne and experienced ministers to gain the skills and confidence need 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 blurgy instructor and featur many opportunities for questions and interaction with others.

DEVELOP ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE The skills and knowledge that are

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

WORK WITH YOUR LOCAL

Participants from parishes, schools and Church organisations are endorsed by their pastor prior to registering. Engagement with the local commu-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.an/centreforliturgy/ pastoral-training

Centre for Liturgy: Email: centreforliturgy@acu.edu.au

particular was beautiful, informative and made the theology interesting and engaging. David Cathedral Parish, Bathurst