



# 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

**'The leprosy left him and he was cured ... Mark 1**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

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

**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

### **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

### **SYDNEY MALAYALEE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

Rosary, Mass & Adoration from 6.30pm to 8.00pm on  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

### **BAPTISM:**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
& Catholic Leader \$2.50 are available  
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  
[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.



**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.**

Wishing you happiness in the year of the Dragon.  
May the new year bring you prosperity and good health.

People give their houses a thorough cleaning before the Spring Festival, which symbolizes sweeping away the bad luck of the preceding year and making their homes ready to receive good luck. Red is the main colour for the festival, as red is believed to be an auspicious colour for the Lunar New Year, denoting prosperity and energy — which ward off evil spirits and negativity. Honouring the dead is a Chinese New Year's tradition that's kept to the word. Many Chinese people visit ancestors' graves on the day before the Chinese New Year's day, offer sacrifices to ancestors before the reunion dinner (to show that they are letting their ancestors "eat" first), and add an extra glass and place it at the dinner table on New Year's eve.

## **LENT 2024**

**THE SEASON OF LENT COMMENCES ON  
WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE.**

**Mass Times & the Distribution of Ashes  
7.00am, 9.10am & 6.30pm**

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



It is curious that this year Ash Wednesday happens to fall on the same day as St Valentine's Day. This doesn't happen very often. St Valentine's Day is a great occasion for florists and restaurants. Some people get carried away and arrange to propose marriage in hot air balloons and beside beautiful waterfalls. This is all great fun, and it is delightful to see people dizzy with love. We all know that real love is about more than the good times. It is a commitment to grow together and encounter each other more and more deeply, even when the going is tough. There are legends about St Valentine but it's not clear who he may have been. The chances are, however, that he was a martyr in the early period of the Christian story. He knew that love meant sacrifice. Love lays down its own life to give life to others. Ash Wednesday is the perfect day to think about love. We don't see flowers in church today and we are asked to eat modestly. Today, we begin our journey towards our observance and celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The cross of Jesus is the ultimate symbol of how profoundly God loves the world. Lent is a time when we are also asked to consider how authentically we make God's love visible to others. The reading today from St Paul reminds us that 'we are ambassadors for Christ.' This means taking risks and reaching beyond our comfort zones to share a message with a world that is often indifferent and doesn't want to hear it. Each year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia offers us a significant opportunity to become ambassadors for Christ. The prophet Joel says, 'Why should it be said among nations, "where is their God?"' In other words, we must try to live the message of Jesus, which is one of justice, compassion, inclusion and extravagant love. Today's Psalm is a reminder that God speaks through us: Give me again the joy of your help, with a spirit of fervour sustain me, O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

### **PROJECT COMPASSION PRAYER 2024**

God of all hope,

we pray for our world with all its beauty and need.

We thank you for the love in our lives that is a mirror of your unending love.

May all creation know your compassion this Lent and may we take courage to share it,  
especially with those who don't have what they need.

In our time, we hear the same words you spoke to Moses:

'I will be with you,' when you ask us to do courageous things.

Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, move us to act in the company of your Spirit,  
showing compassion and acting for justice to renew the face of the Earth,  
now and for all future generations.

We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.



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

### **2024 LENTEN PROGRAM (Wollongong Diocese Resource)**

The program will commence on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February in the Church from 10.30am to 11.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend (booklets are \$10). We thank Sister Marilyn Farley and Anne Marrins for facilitating the program this year.



### **Go Make Disciples – Lenten Companion 2024.**

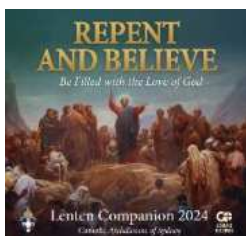
**A limited number of free copies are available in the Church foyer to take home.**

**Copies of Archbishop Anthony's Lenten Penance are also available.**



**Fr John will be away from the Parish from 5<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February.**

**He will be on a pilgrimage and hopes to bring back spiritual treasures to share.**





**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)** In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun. In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the

examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community. In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses. Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honor. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honors the Law of Moses. Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

**Family Connection:** Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals and as a family. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion. Gather with your family and talk about some of the choices you have made as a family. (where to go on vacation, what activities to do together, how to spend our evenings, and so on) How does your family go about making these decisions? What do your choices communicate to others about your family's values? In today's Gospel, Jesus was faced with a choice. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:40-45. In choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus chose to show God's compassion and mercy. All our choices reflect our faith, and others are watching. Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help your family show compassion to others in your family decisions. Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 32, or pray the Prayer for Vocations.

**God, in Baptism you called me by name and made me a member of your people, the Church.**

**Help all your people to know their vocation in life, and to respond by living a life of holiness.**

**For your greater glory and for the service of your people,**

**raise up dedicated and generous leaders who will serve as sisters, priests, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers.**

**Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen me that I may serve your people**

**following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name I offer this prayer. Amen.**

**The New January to July Roster is now available from the side entrance of the Church and on the parish website.**

## 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Georgette Sahyoun	Anne Marrins	Elias Family
	Marian McCluskey	Peter Yamin	Maria Soares	Elias 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>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Suriano Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Mary Cook	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn



Beyond Blue  
P: 1300 22 4636

W: www.beyondblue.org.au



CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney  
P: 13 18 19

W: www.catholiccare.org



**Call 1800 55 1800**



Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

Lifeline

P: 13 11 14

W: www.lifeline.org.au



NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

1800RESPECT

P: 1800 737 732

W: www.1800respect.org.au

# MASS OFFERINGS

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Frances Apps, Clare Ernst, John Quan, Anne Russo, Lidia Di Vito, Arlene De Leon, Brian Measey.
<b>Repose of The Soul:</b>	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, Rex Fernandes, Cecilia Bailey, Louis & Laura D'Souza, Kevin O'Connor, Norma & Lionel Anet.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Luigi Calabrese, Peter Hetheron, Liz Keating, Sandor Toth, Maureen & Edmund Duggan, Harry Russo, Frances Bot, Efsio Piras, Dorothy Harris, Eliana Barnes, Antonio Iannella.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Greg Glass, 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.
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino, John, Pauline & Katherine Murphy.



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



## Enrich your Marriage with The Marriage Kit by SmartLoving

An enrichment course for married couples wanting a lasting, passionate relationship as God intended. Accessed from the privacy of your home on your own timetable, this online course will energise your relationship, revitalise your passion and equip you with practical tools for every day. To find out more visit: [smartloving.org/marriage-kit](http://smartloving.org/marriage-kit) **Marriage Week Sale** - Ends 29 February. For 50% off use coupon code: **MarriageWeek24**

### World Day of Prayer 2024

## Palestine

**Friday 1 March**

**Service 10.30 am**  
Followed by morning tea

**Concord Uniting Church** Corner Concord Road and Wunda Rd  
Concord West 2138

Martha Noel: 0432 546 165, Yvonne Coorey, 0401 005 118 or,  
Ada Mackay 0408 689 358

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF  
*Saint Cecilia.*  
Founded in 1860 - Nashville

## WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY

with THE DOMINICAN SISTERS  
OF SAINT CECILIA

**CHRIST, OUR FIRM FOUNDATION**  
Rediscovering the wisdom of the Church's spiritual tradition  
*Matthew 7:24-27*

**16 MARCH 2024**  
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL HALL  
SATURDAY 10AM-4PM

Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a Lenten Retreat Day. This day will focus on renewing the foundations of the spiritual life as we strive to live the Paschal Mystery throughout the year. The retreat day will include all day Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions, talks by the Sisters, personal testimony, a Holy Hour, and discussion groups. Women who have attended previous retreat days with the Sisters are encouraged to bring a friend to this event.

**REGISTRATION**  
SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER.  
A \$10 FEE ASSISTS WITH COVERING RETREAT EXPENSES.  
DOORS OPEN 9AM. TEA & LUNCH INCLUDED.  
[www.bit.ly/3RRAKfa](http://www.bit.ly/3RRAKfa)

SUPPORTED BY  
**CATHOLIC  
WOMEN'S NETWORK**

