



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

'It is written that the Christ would suffer and on the 3rd day rise from the dead' ... Luke 24

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 WANGULI 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

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



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

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.

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

We congratulate Vince and Helen Blefari who are celebrating 40 years of marriage this weekend. Happy Anniversary - thank you for setting such a beautiful example and may your marriage always be filled with peace, love, and laughter. On your anniversary, we pray that God will shower many blessings upon your marriage & family.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel. Consistently in the reports of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." This is a most appropriate greeting. The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness. In today's Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses. Even as they hear Jesus' greeting of peace, the disciples are startled and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience his resurrected body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement. As further proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that he has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke's Gospel. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper. Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

Family Connection: Family life is strengthened through storytelling and shared meal times. In a similar way, Christian life is sustained by God's word in Scripture and by Christ's presence in the Eucharist. We are especially sustained in our faith through our weekly celebration of Mass. Today's Gospel reading reminds us that the Scripture and the Eucharist are given to us so that our acts of bearing witness to Christ might be strengthened. As you gather as a family, ask each person to share their favorite story about your family. Talk about the importance of these memories about your family life and the importance of the meals you have shared together as a family. Recall that these stories and meals strengthen the love you share. In a similar way, our Christian life is strengthened by sharing God's Word and the Eucharist at Mass. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 24:35-48. Discuss the mission that Jesus gave to his disciples after their shared meal. The Eucharist also sends us to be Christ's witnesses in the world today. Conclude by praying together that we will be strengthened by God's word and by Jesus' presence in the Eucharist to be witnesses to Christ. Pray together Tantum Ergo or today's psalm, Psalm 4.

Tantum Ergo - Saint Thomas Aquinas

With heads bowed let us now worship a sacrament so great;
And let the old teaching give way to the new;
Let faith reinforce our belief where the senses cannot.
To the Father and the Son let there be praise and jubilation,
Salvation, honor, virtue, and also blessing;
To the Holy Spirit let there be equal praise. Amen.

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 Alannah Hickry who has been coordinating the program every week.

20th & 21st April

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Yvonne Martins	Jackie Romanous	Elias Family
	Tandiono Family	Joseph Samarasinghe	Khairallah Family	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Baini	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.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Phil Robinson	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn



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.

THEN GOD CREATED LIGHT AGAIN

by Ron Rolheiser

It doesn't matter whether you picture the origin of time the way science does, as beginning with the Big Bang, or whether you take the biblical account of the origins of the world literally. Either way there was a time before there was light. The universe was dark before God created light. However, eventually the world grew dark again. When?

We are told in the Gospels that as Jesus was dying on the cross, between the sixth and ninth hour, it grew dark and Jesus cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!" What really happened here?

Are the Gospels saying that it actually grew dark in the early afternoon, an eclipse of the sun, or are they referring to another kind of darkness, of a spiritual kind? Was there an eclipse of the sun as Jesus was dying? Perhaps. We don't know, but that is of secondary importance anyway.

What the Gospels are referring to is a kind of darkness that envelops us whenever what's precious to us is humiliated, exposed as powerless, ridiculed, terminally defeated, and crucified by our world. There's a darkness that besets us whenever the forces of love seem overpowered by the forces of hatred. The light extinguished then is the light of hope, but there is deeper darkness and this is the kind of darkness that the Gospels say formed a cloud over the world as Jesus hung dying. What's being insinuated here is that at Jesus' crucifixion, creation went back to its original chaos, as it was before there was light. But what's also being insinuated is that God created light a second time, this time by raising Jesus from the dead, and that this new light is the most staggering light of all. Moreover, unlike the original light, which was only physical, this light is a light both for the eyes and for the soul. For the eyes, the light of the resurrection is also a radically new physical phenomenon. At the resurrection of Jesus, the atoms of the planet were shaken up from their normal physical workings. A dead body rose from the grave to a life from which it would never again die. That had never happened before. Moreover, the resurrection of Jesus was also a radically new light for the soul, the light of hope. What is this latter light?

There's a famous song written by Robbie Robertson made popular in the early 1970s by Joan Baez, *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down*. Narrated in the first person by a man called Virgil Caine, the song is a sad lament about the distress experienced by a poor white Southern family during the American Civil War. All that could go wrong for them, seemingly had gone wrong, including the death of their young son, killed in the war. Their situation is dark, lacking any hope. At a point in the song, the narrator offers this lament about his brother's death:

**He was just eighteen, proud and brave
But a Yankee laid him in his grave
I swear by the blood below my feet
You can't raise the Cain back up when it's in defeat**

Can life be raised back up when it's in defeat? Can a dead body come out of its grave? Can a violated body again become whole? Can lost innocence ever be restored? Can a broken heart ever be mended? Can a crushed hope ever again lift up a soul? Doesn't darkness extinguish all light? What hope was there for Jesus' followers as they witnessed his humiliation and death on Good Friday? When goodness itself gets crucified, what's the basis for any hope?

IN TWO WORDS ... THE RESURRECTION.

When darkness enveloped the earth a second time, God made light a second time, and that light, unlike the physical light created at the dawn of time, can never be extinguished. That's the difference between the resuscitation of Lazarus and the resurrection of Jesus, between physical light and the light of the resurrection. Lazarus was restored to his self-same body from which he had to die again. Jesus was given a radically new body which would never die again.

The renowned biblical scholar Raymond E. Brown tells us that the darkness that beset the world as Jesus hung dying, would last until we believe in the resurrection. Until we believe that God has a live-giving response for all death and until we believe God will roll back the stone from any grave, no matter how deeply goodness is buried under hatred and violence, the darkness of Good Friday will continue to darken our planet.

Mohandas K. Gandhi once observed that we can see the truth of God always creating new light, simply by looking at history: "When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been murderers and tyrants, and for a time they can seem invincible. But in the end they always fall. Think of it, always."

"Be God's Light to those still in darkness"

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:

Gregory West, Lough Doran, Brian Gallagher, Michael Harber.

Rest of The Soul:



Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Daniel Lucich, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Francis Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Dorothy Harris, James Brady, Elizabeth Keating, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Roger O'Reilly, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Elie Sahyoun, Christopher John Stewart, Stephen Maxwell Stewart, Mary & Anne Trefle', Margaret Raeburn, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Roberto & Les Young, Georgette El Khoury, Paul & Isabel Nohra, Mary Marrins, Mary & Thomas Cahill, Erlinda Tatasciore.

Anniversaries:

Harry Caratzas, Mary Colletta Saverimuthu, Damia Baini, Daisy Sheldon, Joseph Sellathamboo, Myrtle Fernandes, Patrick Marrins, Paul Duggan, Peter Turpin, Anna Lam, Antoine Nader, Edward Campion.

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 & members of the Touma Family.

TELL NSW MPS TO

REJECT THE GREENWICH "EQUALITY" BILL

Despite being promoted as being about 'equality', the Greenwich bill will:

- X Remove protections** for religious schools and other faith-based institutions in our anti-discrimination laws
- X Strip away public decency laws for prostitution** and allow prostitutes to solicit for business outside churches and schools
- X Let men access women's-only spaces** by allowing them to change their sex on official documents;
- X Legalise commercial surrogacy** and place vulnerable women at risk, in Australia and overseas
- X Remove the need for parental consent for children's medical treatment** allowing kids and doctors to override the wishes of parents



Have your say by completing a short, parliamentary survey into the bill.

Scan this QR code and indicate that you **OPPOSE** every part of the bill.

The bill is so extreme that we need to send a message to MPs to reject the whole bill.

The survey will take less than 5 minutes to complete and closes in 14 April, so please respond today.



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: sc@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: sc@stmarthas.org.au or Mobile 0425 866 892



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