



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

'He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him' ... Mark 1

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

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 2nd Saturday of each month.

BAPTISM:

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11.00am

(One month's 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 safeguardinginqueries@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.



WEEKLY REFLECTION: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT: Mark's Gospel is bold and challenging. It doesn't beat around the bush. Throughout this year, there will be many Sundays when we really need to tune in because Mark's Gospel doesn't wait for the reader to be ready. It is right in your face, to use a modern expression. Sometimes Mark reminds us of the wise old person who doesn't use many words, but every one of those words counts. There can't be many books of so few pages that have

had such a mighty impact on the world. Today, a few lines tell us that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and 'was tempted by Satan.' He was 'with the wild beasts', meaning he was vulnerable as he was immersed in the natural world. This was surely an experience of struggle and growth. Then suddenly Jesus discovers that John the Baptist has been arrested. In a few lines, Mark creates the impression of a challenging time. How did Jesus respond? He seems to have been enlivened, to have decided to create change. He is full of energy and purpose. 'The time has come,' he says. In his vulnerability, he has discovered that 'the kingdom of God is close at hand.' This year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia will ask us to consider several stories of vulnerability and hope in action. Over the coming weeks, we will meet a number of extraordinary women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. They remind us that in many situations around the world, women are the heart of the community and the drivers of change. In each case, a partnership involving Caritas Australia and local agencies has led to new opportunities not just for an individual but for families and communities. The kingdom of God is, indeed, closer than we think. Together with Ronita, Leaia and Memory, our decisions help to bring it to reality around the globe. Perhaps we might spend time with the words of today's Psalm: 'God guides me in the right path; God teaches the Lord's way to the poor.'



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

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.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event. Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert. In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfillment of God's promises is here. The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent. In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

Family Connection: The announcement that Jesus makes as he begins his preaching in today's Gospel is recalled on Ash Wednesday at the signing with ashes: "Repent and believe in the gospel." This is our challenge for Lent; indeed, it is the challenge of our entire life. During Lent, we are invited to strengthen and to renew the promises that we made at our Baptism, to reject Satan and sin so as to live as children of God. Through the grace of God that we received at Baptism, we follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and know that with Jesus' help, we will be victorious over sin. As you gather as a family, talk about the importance of Baptism. At our Baptism, our sins were forgiven, and we promised to live as children of God. As part of the Rite of Baptism, we rejected sin and Satan. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:12-15. During Lent, we renew the promises of our Baptism, turning again from sin and promising to follow God. Light a candle, perhaps a candle used at one of your family member's Baptisms, and 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. Amen.

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

Sydney Catholic Schools Week

St Martha's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
STRATHFIELD

OPEN DAY

Thursday 7 March
9.30am-11.00am

Register Now

stmstrathfield.syd.catholic.edu.au

PROUDLY PART OF THE COMMUNITY OF Sydney Catholic Schools

Lenten Journey

Prayer is an essential part of the Lenten journey, as it allows individuals to deepen their relationship with God and seek guidance and strength. During Lent, it is important to set aside dedicated time for prayer. This can be done through traditional prayer practices such as reciting the Lord's Prayer or praying the Rosary. However, it is also an opportunity to try new prayer routines and methods. Consider incorporating silent meditation, journaling, or praying with Scripture into your daily prayer time. These practices can help you to quiet your mind, reflect on God's Word, and listen for His guidance. In addition to personal prayer, Lent is a time to pray for others. There are many people who are in need of prayers, such as the sick, the lonely, and those facing difficult circumstances. Take time each day to lift up these individuals in prayer, asking God to provide comfort, healing, and strength. As we embark on this Lenten journey, let us open our hearts to God's presence and guidance through prayer. Let us seek God's presence and grow in our faith as we journey through this sacred season.

Ways to Pray

During Lent, it is important to explore different prayer routines and methods to deepen your connection with God. This season offers a unique opportunity to try new approaches to prayer that can enhance your spiritual journey. Here are a few ideas to consider: Expand your prayer repertoire by learning a new traditional Catholic prayer. Whether it's the Act of Contrition, the Memorare, or the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, incorporating these prayers into your daily routine can bring a sense of reverence and tradition to your Lenten prayers. Instead of simply reading Scripture, try engaging with it in a more interactive way. Choose a passage that resonates with you and spend time meditating on its meaning. Reflect on how it applies to your life and ask God to reveal His message to you through His Word. In addition to Sunday Mass, consider attending weekday Mass during Lent. This can provide a quiet and reflective atmosphere for prayer and worship. Take advantage of the opportunity to receive the Eucharist more frequently and allow it to nourish your soul. Writing can be a powerful form of prayer and reflection. Start a journal where you can pour out your thoughts, feelings, and prayers to God. Alternatively, create gratitude lists to cultivate a spirit of thankfulness during Lent. Write down the blessings and graces you have received, and offer prayers of gratitude for them. By exploring these different ways to pray during Lent, you can deepen your spiritual connection with God and experience a more meaningful Lenten journey. Incorporate these practices into your daily routine and allow them to guide you closer to God's presence.

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Consider going to reconciliation as a family or with a youth group or youth ministry. This sacrament is a powerful way to receive God's forgiveness and experience His grace. Afterward, take the opportunity to celebrate this beautiful gift. Plan a special outing, such as going out for pizza together, to commemorate the reconciliation and the renewal of your spiritual journey. By making this a shared experience, you not only strengthen your bond as a family or community but also reinforce the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation in your lives.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross is a beautiful Lenten tradition that allows us to journey with Jesus to Calvary. This devotion invites us to reflect on his suffering for us and his encounters along the way. As we walk the path with Jesus, we are reminded of his immense love and sacrifice. Attending the Stations of the Cross provides a powerful opportunity for prayer and contemplation during Lent. It helps us to deepen our understanding of Jesus' passion and strengthens our connection to him. Joining this solemn and meaningful practice can be a profound way to engage in the Lenten season and grow closer to our Saviour.

Pray by Putting Yourself in a Gospel Scene

St. Ignatius of Loyola believed that God gave us our imaginations and could use this gift to speak to us. One method of praying in the tradition called Ignatian Contemplation is to put yourself in a gospel scene and see it come alive. Imagine yourself walking alongside Jesus as he performs miracles or teaches his disciples. Visualize the details of the scene, the expressions on people's faces, and the emotions in the air. By immersing yourself in the gospel scene, you can deepen your understanding of Jesus' teachings and develop a personal connection with him. This form of prayer allows you to engage with the scriptures in a unique and meaningful way.

Praying with a Gratitude List

Making a gratitude list every day and praying with it is a powerful way to deepen your prayer life during Lent. By intentionally noticing and acknowledging the things you are grateful for, you become more aware of God's constant presence in your life. This practice can transform your attitude and outlook, helping you to cultivate a spirit of gratitude and contentment. Taking just a few minutes each day to reflect on and pray with your gratitude list can bring about a profound shift in your perspective and draw you closer to God. Embrace this simple yet impactful practice during Lent.

Say a Rosary

The rosary is one of the most misunderstood Catholic devotions. While some non-Catholics see it as worshiping Mary, it is in fact focused on Christ. The mysteries of the rosary are based on important events in the life of Christ. By praying the rosary, Catholics meditate on these mysteries and deepen their relationship with Jesus. Each bead represents a prayer, allowing for a rhythmic and contemplative experience. The repetition of the prayers helps to quiet the mind and open the heart to God's presence. During Lent, saying a rosary can be a powerful way to reflect on Christ's sacrifice and journey towards Easter.

Learn A New Prayer

To deepen your Lenten prayer experience, consider learning a new prayer. Exploring different types of prayer can keep your spiritual life fresh and invigorating. One option is to try sitting and listening, allowing yourself to be still and open to God's presence. Another approach is to engage in Lectio Divina, a less structured form of prayer that involves reading and meditating on Scripture. Additionally, traditional prayers can bring comfort and inspiration during this season. By incorporating new prayers into your routine, you can enhance your connection with God and enrich your Lenten journey.

Go to a Weekday Mass

Attending a weekday Mass during Lent is a powerful way to deepen your connection with God. Despite the busyness of our Monday through Friday routines, making time for Mass can bring immense spiritual benefits. It allows us to pause, reflect, and receive the Eucharist, nourishing our souls and strengthening our faith. If weekdays are truly challenging, consider attending a Saturday morning Mass instead. This small sacrifice can have a profound impact on your Lenten journey, helping you to grow closer to the Lord and experience His grace in a more profound way.

Read a Story from the Gospels

Get together with your family to read a gospel story this Lent. This is also a great activity for Sunday school or youth ministry. You can select one from the daily mass readings. But sometimes the daily gospel can be difficult to understand, especially for younger children. To make it more accessible, consider using a children's Bible or a simplified version of the gospel story. This will help engage everyone and make the message of the gospel more relatable. It's a beautiful way to deepen your understanding of Jesus' teachings and reflect on how they apply to your own life during this Lenten season.

Pray the Night Prayer from Liturgy of the Hours

Praying the Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours is a beautiful and peaceful way to conclude your day during Lent. While some may consider it "old fashioned," many people, including teens and children, can appreciate its significance. This prayer allows you to reflect on your day, seek forgiveness, and find solace in God's presence before resting. It provides a sense of tranquillity and helps you to let go of any worries or burdens from the day. Incorporating the Night Prayer into your Lenten routine can deepen your spiritual connection and bring a sense of peace to your heart.

Start a Prayer Journal

A prayer journal can be a valuable tool during Lent to help us deepen our prayer lives. By keeping a journal, we can stay focused and intentional in our prayers. This practice is particularly beneficial for teens who are seeking to establish a prayer routine. In your prayer journal, you can write down your thoughts, reflections, and intentions. It allows you to track your spiritual journey and see how your prayers are answered over time. By incorporating a prayer journal into your Lenten practices, you can cultivate a deeper connection with God and experience the transformative power of prayer.

How does the 1st Sunday of Lent Year B encourage personal reflection?

The readings invite us to reflect on our relationship with God, our faithfulness to His promises, our response to temptation, and our commitment to live according to the Gospel, encouraging a personal inventory of our spiritual life.

What is the message of hope in the 1st Sunday of Lent Year B readings?

The message of hope lies in God's promise of salvation, the victory of Christ over temptation and sin, and the call to repentance and belief in the Good News, assuring us of God's mercy and the possibility of renewal.

How can the themes of the 1st Sunday of Lent Year B be incorporated into daily life during Lent?

Incorporating these themes can involve engaging in acts of repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, reflecting on God's promises, striving to overcome personal temptations and challenges, and renewing our commitment to live out our baptismal vows.

24th & 25th February

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Gina Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Mary L'Estrange
	Beatrice Bonett	Andri Surjadinata	Maria Soares	Andrew Bova
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Donald Bonett	Maria Yu	Helen Williamson	Owen Loney
	Helen Blefari	Volunteer Needed	Merlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Mary Louise I.	Beatrice L.	Oliver B.
	Peter T.	Ryan W.	Emilia T.	Marina B.
	Volunteer Needed	Dylan W.	Marcus V.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Elijah M.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:	Elias Aslan, Frances Apps, Clare Ernst, John Quan, Anne Russo, Lidia Di Vito, Arlene De Leon, Brian Measey.
Repose of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Francis Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Dorothy Harris, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Elizabeth Keating, John McManus, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore Puglisi, William & Dorothy Starr, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Roger O'Reilly, Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Betty Warbrick, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Mary Trefle', Anne Trefle', Elie Sahyoun, Alan & Peg Bailey, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Margaret Raeburn, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Pasquale Taglini.
Anniversaries:	Maureen Sarks, John Tandiono, Jim Hyland, Parwathy Raju, Luigi Calabrese, Peter Hetherton, Liz Keating, Sandor Toth, Maureen & Edmund Duggan, Harry Russo, Frances Bot, Efsio Piras, Dorothy Harris.
Sick Intentions:	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.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino, John, Pauline & Katherine Murphy.



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

