



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

'From his breast shall flow fountains of living waters' ... John 7

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 at 9.10am.



Divine Mercy Prayers recited every Thursday after 9.10am mass. We welcome and encourage you to come along.



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:

St Martha's Primary School Playgroup is a great opportunity for children aged 0 to 5 years to enjoy some books and craft activities and get to know each other. Next date TBA.

Contact: 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 safeguardingenquiries@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.



It is with much sadness that we announce the death of Kevin Joseph Bouffler who died peacefully on Tuesday 14th May. Kevin was a long time parishioner and supporter of St Martha's Parish and we ask you to keep him in your prayers, along with his wife Margaret and sons Michael, Mark, Tony & John and their families during this very sad time.

Funeral details are yet to be advised.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace.

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

The Parish Office will be Closed on Friday 24th & 31st May.



S.A.L.T TRAINING: It is important to note that completing either the Induction or Refresher training is a compulsory requirement under the Sydney Archdiocese Safeguarding and compliance standards. The parish office is undertaking a blitz to ensure that everyone is up to date by registering those who are overdue directly with the Safeguarding Office. Please look out for your course links in your email inbox (please check your spam/junk too). A certificate is issued upon completion of the course and we kindly ask that you forward this to the parish office so that your file can be updated. We are happy to assist anyone that needs help in completing this training. Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment. The course will take no longer than 20-30 minutes. Our Parish is due to be audited in the coming months where our compliance practices will be the focus. As a new roster will commence in mid July, you **must be compliant** if you wish to be included on the next ministry roster.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): The season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is to us that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world. In the context of the feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit upon the apostles mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath." This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiveness of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

Family Connection (Loyola Press): Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the domestic church, we learn how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation. As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting everyone to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting on how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's psalm or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another the Sign of Peace.

We are dedicating the month of May to Mental Health.

During May, we are raising community awareness of the impact of mental health and raising much needed funds for support services. To find out more about support services visit <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/resources-support/fact-sheets/>

Available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

- Lifeline Australia | 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline | 1800 55 1800
- MensLine Australia | 1300 78 99 78
- Suicide Call Back Service | 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue | 1300 22 4636
- Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling | 1800 011 046
- Qlife – anonymous and free LGBTI peer support | 1800 184 527 – (3PM-Midnight every day)
- Brother to brother 24-hour crisis line | 1800 435 799



THE DONATION BOX IS LOCATED IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Rosary in the homes – During the month of May as we turn to Mother Mary for special graces, Rosary in the homes with the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be available. If you would to participate please call Antoinette Karam who is organising the meetings on 0421 057 896.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY'S WINTER APPEAL - 1ST & 2ND JUNE.



Our conference members thank you sincerely for your past donations. Times are tough for everyone, and there are many calls on your generosity. Our members and those we serve are grateful for anything you can spare. As always, you can give by cash or credit card by putting the appeal envelopes in either collection. Wardens with buckets will also be at the church doors at the end of Mass on that weekend. You can also scan the QR code that will be available or give online at <https://www.vinnies.org.au/>. Thank you again for your generosity! Anthony Thurn, St. Martha's Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society



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PENTECOST REFLECTION AS CLOSE AS OUR BREATH BY RICHARD ROHR

On this Feast of Pentecost, Father Richard reminds us that the Holy Spirit is as near to us as our own breath:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:21-22). God has been trying through all of history to give away God. Jesus shows us that the gift is free and totally available, as available as our breath. It seems that God has a hard time giving away God, however, because most of us aren't interested. We're interested in other things: money and power and success and good looks and politics. It takes a long time to get around to the one thing we were created for. If you've ever ridden on the subways in London, before the doors open and you get out of the train, they say, "Mind the gap." When the doors open, it's written in big words in front of every door: "Mind the gap." It means, of course, that there are a few inches between the doors

and the sidewalk, and they don't want anyone to fall in that gap. In teaching on the Holy Spirit, what we need to do is "mind the gap"—because the Holy Spirit fills the gaps of everything. First, we need to be aware that there usually is a gap. There's a space because we don't recognize that God is as available to us as our breath. We always allow God, by our own silliness and stupidity, to be distant, to be elsewhere. We always find a gap between ourselves and our neighbour, between ourselves and almost everything. We therefore feel quite lonely and isolated in this world. Without some awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence, frankly, we're not connected to anything or anybody. We just live an isolated life. The Holy Spirit within us is the desire inside all of us that wants to keep connecting, relating, and communing. It isn't above us. It isn't beyond us—it is within us. It's as available as our breath, and that's why the Risen Christ gives the Holy Spirit by breathing upon the disciples. He's saying, in effect, "Here it is! Here it is! Can you breathe in what I have breathed out?" As we grow on the journey, we'll begin to experience that breath, that Spirit, as if it is the very air. It's everywhere, all the time, and we can't live one minute without it. Isn't it amazing that air, the thing that's most essential, most invisible to most people is the one thing that's everywhere all the time and free? The Holy Spirit likewise has been given to us freely.

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:	Kevin Joseph Bouffler, Paul Burton SVDP, Harry Doumit, Bishop Peter Ingham, Dr Frank Hume, Greg Doyle.
Repose of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Daniel Lucich, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Filomena Pagano, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Francis Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Dorothy Harris, James Brady, Elizabeth Keating, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Aldo & Fiorella Amarino, Salvatore' Puglisi, 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, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Guiseppe & Romilda Reginato, Roberto & Les Young, Giuseppe Dideo, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Jim Bradbury.
Anniversaries:	Paul Duggan, James Erskine, Judith Goodacre, Tony Khoury, Josephine Khoury, James Webb & Wajih Saliba, Michelle Christy, Frances Gleeson, Ken Fraser, Joseph Mannah, Maria Schiaro, Faado Herro, George & Victoria Mounayer, Henry D'Souza, Neil Quinlan, Monica Connolly, Benito Lavapie, Blanche Saldanha, Rex Fernandes.
Sick Intentions:	Marie Winfield, Samir Hakim, Ajith Antony, Karen Chung, Dareth Flavell, Rudy Raeburn, Robert Rumore, 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, 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.

Mass Intention Envelopes are available in the Church Foyer.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Would you like to become a regular contributor to St Martha's Church?

If so, please fill in this slip and return it to the Parish Office via any collection plate or send an email with your details to the parish office at admin@stmarths.org.au.

Name..... Telephone No.:

Address:.....

Email :

WOULD LIKE ENVELOPES

WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE USING CREDIT CARD OR DIRECT DEBIT

ROSTER 25th & 26th May

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	Robert Smith	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	Phil / Anthony

THE Catholic Weekly

Sharing News from Our Parish - The team in Catholic Communications with the Archdiocese of Sydney is keen on hearing any interesting news from the parish, including landmark parish milestones and parishioners' awards and other achievements for potential inclusion in *The Catholic Weekly* and the broader media as well. If you have a good story to share, please contact cweditor@catholicweekly.com.au

Barista-made coffee at your next event!



BariStars
Ability with every cup

CatholicCare SYDNEY

Impress your guests at your next event with barista-made coffee and food provided by our **BariStars mobile cafe** - custom built to provide innovative learning opportunities for **people living with disability.**



Scan the QR code for more information

catholiccare.org

SCAM ALERT

AI DEEPPFAKE SCAMS

Scammers are using deepfake AI technology to generate videos, voices and images resembling people you may know, celebrities, and politicians to manipulate people into investing in fake investments, steal personal information or money.

PAY ATTENTION
to inconsistencies, unnatural expressions, word emphasis, distortion around hands, mismatched lip-syncing, or unusual blinking.

CREATE A FAMILY PASSWORD OR PHRASE,
so if you're suspicious when speaking on the phone or face timing, ask the caller for the password.

REPORT A SCAM to <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>
If you believe you have become the victim of a fraud or scam contact your local Police or report at <https://www.cyber.gov.au/report-and-recover>

ASK A PERSONAL QUESTION
that only they would know.

DON'T BE PRESSURED
into making quick decisions.

RESEARCH THE LEGITIMACY
of any investment firms.




Is your family impacted by domestic violence?

Connect with counsellors and group programs to help families affected by domestic violence.

Call CCareline to find out more

CCareline 13 18 19

CatholicCare.org

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday



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



Lifeline Saving Lives
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.
Lifeline
P: 13 11 14
W: www.lifeline.org.au



1800RESPECT
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE
1800RESPECT
P: 1800 737 732
W: www.1800respect.org.au