



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

'The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep' ... John 10

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

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

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.



**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.

Due to the sad events that have happened across Sydney this past week, as part of safety guidelines for any unforeseen incident we now have some extra signs being displayed within the Church.



Let us all remember in our prayers:

The souls of those who have died and their grieving families and friends.
Those who were wounded that they will recover from their injuries.
The bravery and actions of Police Officer Amy Scott.
The Westfield centre staff and all those who witnessed such horrific and traumatic scenes.

Ashlee Good, Dawn Singleton, Faraz Tahir, Jade Young, Pikria Darchia and Yixuan Cheng.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

We express ongoing gratitude to all the emergency responders, the many bystanders that displayed heroic actions and the medical staff treating the injured.

Loving God, please protect the brave men and women in our community who serve as police, firefighters and paramedics. Please guide these men and women and help equip them mentally, physically and spiritually to confront the scenes and scenarios set before them. We pray for their strength and for Your guidance. Amen.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death. In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds. The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity. As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father. In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

Family Connection: The Good Shepherd makes sacrifices for the sheep not because it is required, but because it is a choice. That sounds a lot like parenting and the dynamics of a healthy family life. Parents choose to make sacrifices for their children out of love, not obligation. Christian parents model and invite their children to choose to make sacrifices for other family members and for other people, acting out of love rather than obligation. When you gather as a family, invite each family member to consider the attitude that permeates their participation in family life. Read a common examen, such as any of the following: Do we do family chores cheerfully and without having to be asked multiple times? Do we gladly share with others? Do we willingly contribute to the family good when asked? Read aloud today's Gospel, John 10:11-18. Discuss together how the example of the Good Shepherd might inspire your family life. Invite each family member to make a renewed commitment to one action/attitude to focus on in the upcoming week that show that we will choose to follow the example of the Good Shepherd. Pray together that we will be able to honor our commitment. Pray together Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity.

Prayer for Generosity - St. Ignatius of Loyola

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,
Teach me true generosity. Teach me to serve you as you deserve.
To give without counting the cost, To fight heedless of wounds, To labor without seeking rest,
To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward.
Save the knowledge that I have done your will. 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 thank Alannah Hickry who has been coordinating the program every week.



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.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY 25TH APRIL

Anzac Day – 25th April 2022

Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am

ANZAC Day is a day when Australians and New Zealanders remember and honour those who fought and died for freedom. We gather not to glorify war but to remember those who have served our country during times of crisis and to reflect upon their selfless sacrifice. Conscious that there are many men and women around the world still working for peace, we hold fast to the powerful hope that peace can exist today. Anzac Day has come to be considered one of the most sacred days in the year for many Australians, honouring the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that others could live in peace and freedom. We remember grieving families, cities in rubble, and fields turned to mud and ashes. We remember broken bodies, spirits, minds, and lives: the terrible cost of war. We remember children, women, and men killed or maimed in military operations. We remember all Australians who served, and who serve today. We continue to work wholeheartedly for justice and peace in our world so that war will be no more. Anzac Day has helped forge our national identity, and its traditions reflect our national psyche – who we are as a people, the values we hold, and what we stand for. The day has also revealed a seemingly innate human characteristic – the desire to show gratitude to others for their personal sacrifice for the common good.

Prayer

God of love and liberty,

*we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy,
which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war.*

*We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain,
but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come.*

*That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve
may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth.*

*This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

27th & 28th April

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

MASS OFFERINGS

<u>Recently Deceased:</u>	Patricia Fraser, Gregory West, Lough Doran, Brian Gallagher, Michael Harber.
<u>Repose of The Soul:</u>	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, Genesis Rabacchi, Roberto & Les Young, Georgette El Khoury, Paul & Isabel Nohra, Mary Marrins, Mary & Thomas Cahill, Erlinda Tatasciore.
<u>Anniversaries:</u>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Olivia Dahdah, Deborah Dahdah, Frederick McDowell, Benito Lavapie, Blanche Saldanha, Rex Fernandes, Grace & Jasmine Yra, Harry Caratzas, Theresa Saverimuthu, Mary Colletta Saverimuthu, Damia Baini, Daisy Sheldon, Joseph Sellathamboo, Myrtle Fernandes, Patrick Marrins, Paul Duggan, Peter Turpin, Anna Lam, Antoine Nader, Edward Campion.
<u>Sick Intentions:</u>	Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel, Father Isaac Royel, 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.
<u>Special Intentions:</u>	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Matteo & Caterina Genova & members of the Touma Family.



The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal** will be held on the weekend 4th & 5th May. The CWF funds six agencies: Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, CatholicCare, Chaplaincies, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), Ephpheta Centre and The Seminary of the Good Shepherd. The generosity of those who contribute financially to the CWF, means that these agencies are able to assist thousands of people each year.



HOLY LAND APPEAL: On behalf of the Franciscan Friars, Custodians of the Holy Land, sincere thanks to our parish community for your generosity in supporting the Pope's world-wide appeal, so that the Franciscans can continue their century-old aims, such as supplying shelter for poor families, providing Christian formation and education as well as maintaining the upkeep of the historical churches and sacred shrines, associated with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The amount of **\$5,998.05** was raised this year. Please continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land and in other places in the Middle East.

Lou's Closet 2024

For the past 13 years, the Lou's Closet sale has been our biggest annual fundraiser. The sale of good-quality, new and second-hand clothing has, to date, raised over \$750K to support vulnerable women at Lou's Place. We hope that 2024 will be an even bigger year for us as we move the event to The Tramsheds in Forest Lodge.

For two and a half days, we are offering a beautiful selection of new and pre-loved women's clothing and accessories at bargain prices. The Designer Closet will be offering stunning NEW pieces from high-end designer labels including Carla Zampatti, Bianca Spender and Moss and Spy. The clothing rails on the general floor will be full of incredible bargains with jackets, dresses, skirts and shirts starting at just \$20. On Saturday, entry is free and everything on the general floor will be reduced to \$10.

Bring your friends along for a fabulous shopping experience while supporting Lou's Place!

RAISING FUNDS FOR LOU'S PLACE

LOU'S CLOSET

DESIGNER AND NEARLY NEW WOMENS CLOTHING SALE

2ND-4TH MAY 2024
THE TRAMSHEDS
1 DALGAL WAY, FOREST LODGE

LOUSCLOSET_SYDNEY

Sale Dates:
Thursday 2nd May 9am - 7pm
Friday 3rd May 9am - 7pm
Saturday 4th May 9am - 12.30pm

Entry fee on Thurs & Friday: \$10
Sat: FREE



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**



Lifeline
P: 13 11 14
W: www.lifeline.org.au



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