



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

'This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him' ... Mark 9

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 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

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.**



WEEKLY REFLECTION: SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT: When Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain, they experienced something quite extraordinary. The transfiguration gave them a glimpse of what it meant for Jesus to be the son of God. It is hardly surprising that Peter said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here.' The Gospel also tells us that Jesus' friends were frightened, and this is also easy to understand.



They were overwhelmed. Nevertheless, it's not long before Jesus reminds them that he is destined to die. His friends must come down from the mountain and walk with Jesus through all the ordinary and arduous days and weeks that lie ahead. We can all say 'it is wonderful for us to be here' no matter where that happens to be. Life is full of wonder. That doesn't mean it is always easy. We live in the arms of a very deep mystery. God's love enfolds us. Throughout Lent, we are called to support Project Compassion, an initiative of Caritas Australia. This year, Project Compassion celebrates 60 years of partnership with some of the most marginal communities in the world. With your help, we have walked alongside literally millions of people in dozens of countries. This week we encounter the story of Ronita who lives in Quezon City, part of metro Manila in the Philippines. Becoming a mother at a young age meant that her schooling was cut short. Her husband, Lean, leaves for work at 3am and returns at 9pm, earning less than \$US10 per day in a demanding job in waste disposal. On such a small income, Ronita and Lean, along with two young children, are able to rent a room of about 10 square metres. With your help through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia has been able to support the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to run the Alternative Learning System program. This program has meant that Ronita has been able to continue her education. The FCJ sisters provide a safe space for many young people such as Ronita to finish school and find better jobs. Ronita has had the opportunity to change her life. Caritas Australia believes that the world can be transfigured to become more like the kingdom of God of which Jesus spoke. We can encounter people whom others choose to ignore. When we do so, we discover that here too are children of God. We are asked to listen to them.

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



On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year, in Lectionary Cycle B, we hear Mark's report of this event. The context for Mark's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship. In each case, Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel includes the detail that this conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem. Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel. On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism. In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death.

Family Connection: Every family has special moments that they remember and share again and again. In sharing these stories, the meaning and importance of these events develop and deepen over time. This is how it was with the disciples' remembrance of Jesus' Transfiguration. The full significance of what they had seen and experienced could only be understood after Jesus' death and Resurrection. As they told other believers about this event and recorded the story for us in the Bible, our understanding of what it means to call Jesus God's own Son has also deepened. As you gather as a family, think about some special family memories that your family tells over and over again. Talk about why these memories are important to you. Recall that in the Bible we find many important memories about Jesus that have been recorded for us so that we can believe that Jesus is God's Son. Read today's Gospel, Mark 9:2-10. What do we learn about Jesus from this Gospel? (He fulfills the promises God made to Israel through the Law and the prophets. God glorified Jesus in his Resurrection. Jesus is God's Son.) Conclude in prayer together that as we continue to read the Bible, we will deepen our understanding of and our love for Jesus. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Easter is the largest liturgical celebration throughout the year and many volunteers are needed across all ministries. If you are on the regular roster and attending any of the Easter Liturgies, could you please consider volunteering. We are in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Lectors, Altar Servers. Please write your name on the sheets on the rear table of the church or contact **Helen Williamson on 0408 970 120**.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 'WASHING OF THE FEET' AT THE HOLY THURSDAY MASS. PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER.

"Prayer, humility, and charity toward all are essential in the Christian life: they are the way to holiness. Let us learn from Christ how to pray, to forgive, to sow peace, and to be near those in need."

- Pope Francis

GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

Thank you for your support in raising \$689 for Caritas Crisis Support for GAZA via the donation box that was located in the Church Foyer. Below is an update from Sean Callahan, President of CRS, a Caritas Australia partner in the Holy Land, recently visited Gaza, Jerusalem, and the West Bank. CRS has 45 team members living and working inside Gaza, and almost all of them have been displaced once or multiple times during the conflict. They are now living in other people's homes, crowded shelters, or in tents or under tarps. One told him "We cried for the first two weeks and then we went back to work. Doing things offers a sense of purpose." Sean observed the output of this tireless work, touring a new warehouse in Gaza that used to be a supermarket. This warehouse has enabled CRS to distribute food, tarps and tents, bedding, hygiene supplies, and cash assistance to more than 100,000 people. To support governance a rigorous registration process for those receiving assistance has also been established. "The Gaza team have built relationships that allow us to go places where others find it difficult" reflected Sean. "People are saying that assistance can't take place in Gaza, that it's too chaotic, but the provision of lifesaving aid is taking place thanks to dedicated, brave Gazans." Sean Callahan also visited shelters and met people surviving on the supplies offered by the Caritas network and made possible by the generosity and compassion of donors. One man, previously a day labourer, is unable to stand due to a wound to his thigh from shelling. When asked how he survives he told Sean, "From your food." While visiting these temporary shelters Sean observed local markets having been set up, such as makeshift stores and barbershops, prompting him to reflect on resilience and togetherness. "The resilience of the people of Gaza inspired me deeply and makes me think about how we can set an example for bringing people together - people of different faiths, countries, and languages. In doing so we must look within our own countries to observe whether we are doing what is admirable." "I left Gaza feeling that our Gazan team are truly heroes. Each one has a unique and tragic story and despite the stress, pressure, anxiety, and loss, they are out there helping others who are in need" Sean concluded.

2nd & 3rd March

| | 5PM | 8AM | 10AM | 6PM |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Special Ministers | Grace Herro | Gian Surjadinata | Relyn Aguinaldo | Elias Family |
| | Rick Herro | Artha Surjadinata | Stella Male Brown | Elias Family |
| | 5PM | 8AM | 10AM | 6PM |
| Readers | Lisa Dennis | Maria Yu | Emmanuel Nathan | Elias Family |
| | Marianna Soo | Pierre Wong | Michael Quinlan | Elias Family |
| | 5PM | 8AM | 10AM | 6PM |
| Altar Servers | Aiden L. | Liam D. | Emilio A. | Elias Family |
| | Beatrix A. | Shannon D. | Aidan M. | Elias Family |
| | Collin A. | Volunteer Needed | Makini B. | Elias Family |
| | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Johari B. | Volunteer Needed |
| | 5PM | 8AM | 10AM | 6PM |
| Wardens | Phil Linda | Georgette Sahyoun | Trudie Rogers | Vince Blefari |

MASS OFFERINGS

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| <u>Recently Deceased:</u> | Sr. Patricia Bundock, Gianluigi Pau, Joy Hocking, Elias Aslan, Frances Apps, Clare Ernst, John Quan, Anne Russo, Lidia Di Vito, Arlene De Leon, Brian Measey. |
| <u>Repose of The Soul:</u> | 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, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Gregory Doyle & Jim Bradbury. |
| <u>Anniversaries:</u> | James Henness, Suki Singarayar, Maureen Sarks, John Tandiono, Jim Hyland, Parwathy Raju, Luigi Calabrese, Peter Hetherton, Liz Keating, Sandor Toth, Maureen & Edmund Duggan, Harry Russo, Nevenko Govorcic. |
| <u>Sick Intentions:</u> | 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. |
| <u>Special Intentions:</u> | 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.

Parishioners involved in ministries at St Martha's are encouraged to attend a course of their choice to obtain a deeper understanding of the theological, liturgical and practical elements of their chosen ministry. To Enrol please contact the Liturgy Office at liturgyassistant@sydneycatholic.org or phone 9307 8360

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|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Acolytes | 28 th February, 6 th and 13 th March 2024 6:30pm - 9:30pm Wednesday | St Therese, Denistone |
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | 29 th February, 7 th and 14 th March 2024 6:00pm - 9:00pm Thursday | St Thomas More, Brighton-Le-Sands |
| Sacristans | 2 nd and 9 th March 2024 10am - 1pm Saturday | St Joseph, Riverwood |
| Acolytes | 6 th , 13 th and 20 th April 2024 Session 1: 9:30am - 12:30pm Sessions 2 & 3: 9:00am - 12:00pm Saturday | St Thomas More, Brighton-Le-Sands |
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | 11 th , 18 th and 24 th April 2024 6pm - 9pm Thursday | St Charles Borromeo, Ryde |
| Readers | 2 nd and 9 th May 6pm - 9pm Thursday | St Martha, Leichhardt |
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | 21 st and 28 th May, 4 th June 2024 6pm - 9pm Tuesday | St Martha, Leichhardt |

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,

Ara Mackay 0408 689 358

You are all invited to St Martha's

Playgroup

Monday 19 February and
Monday 4 March 2024

From 9 am to 10 am

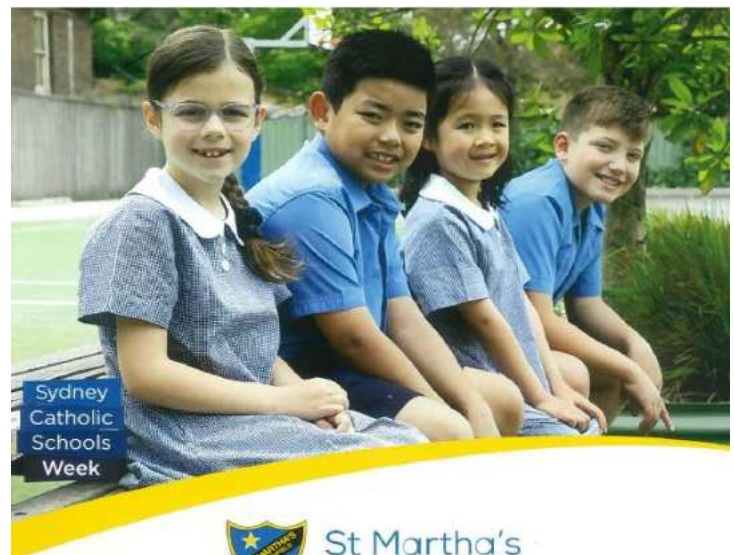
in the St Martha's School Hall, Strathfield.

Please enter from the school office (88 Churchill
Ave, Strathfield, NSW, 2135) to sign in.

RSVP is greatly appreciated by email to:
elena.razzoli@syd.catholic.edu.au

Storytime 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.

Feel free to invite your friends too.



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



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