



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

'All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit'... John 15

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 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.



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.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples. Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began. Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name. We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbor. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.

Family Connection: The goal of our life of prayer is to increase our awareness that Jesus lives with us always. Prayer is more than a dialogue with God; prayer is a lifting of our minds and hearts to God so that God might dwell and act within us and through us. The pinnacle of our life of prayer is our communion with Jesus in the Eucharist. Through this sacrament, we receive Jesus himself, and he remains with us. Our life of prayer and our union with Jesus will lead us to fruitful service to others. Place a plant in your gathering space. Invite everyone to look at the plant, noting the connection between the plant and its leaves. Talk about the integral connection between all the parts of a healthy plant. Introduce today's Gospel by saying that Jesus talked about his relationship to his disciples using this metaphor. Read today's Gospel, John 15:1-8. Talk about the ways in which we are invited to relate to Jesus as his disciples today—prayer, Scripture, the Eucharist, and so on. When we do these things, Jesus promises to remain with us and to lead us to serve others well. Pray together that we will continue to be attentive and open to Jesus as he works in our lives today. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

Act of Hope

O my God, relying on your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Act of Love

O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured. Amen.



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.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: it is essential that we follow guidelines set out by the Archdiocese. If you are an Acolyte; Reader; Eucharistic minister or in the music ministry you are required to sign in – (red folders are kept in the sacristy). The altar servers sign in folder is located in the side corridor. Thank you for your co-operation.

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.

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.



Please visit the Church Notice-Boards for upcoming events.

May is the Month of the Rosary

A prayer full of blessings as we contemplate the mysteries of our salvation. Let us make use of this beautiful prayer as we continue to grow together in faith and love. We can receive many benefits from praying the Rosary. We can have peace of mind, an increase in love for Jesus, unity with our Church, follow Mary's request, understand better the will of God in our lives, and a greater focus on God instead of ourselves. Before you pray the Rosary, take a moment to quiet yourself. Pray before you begin, asking God to be with you and lead you. As you pray, reflect on the mysteries with your intention in mind. Write down any messages, insights, or thoughts that came to you as you prayed that you want to remember.

We extend our sincerest thanks to the Quan Family, formerly from the Solomon Islands and Founders of the Rosary Mission Group, for generously donating a variety of colourful hand-made and beautifully beaded Rosaries to St Martha's. The Rosary can be a source of hope and comfort, especially during challenging times. Praying the Holy Rosary is a great opportunity for each of us to strengthen our relationship with Our Lady. The Blessed Rosaries will be available in the Church foyer from 1st May and are free, however an offering into the Donation Box would be appreciated.



We are dedicating the month of May to Mental Health.

A new campaign to 'Fully Fund Mental Health in NSW' has been launched by leading mental health organisations, calling on the Minns Labor Government to urgently reform and invest in the state's mental health system. The campaign is led by the Black

Dog Institute, Australia's leading mental health research institute, in partnership with the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses NSW, BEING – Mental Health Consumers, Mental Health Carers NSW, the Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and Wayahead. Despite being the most populous state, NSW has invested the least per capita on mental health services, over the past three years, compared to all states and territories in Australia. Rates of psychological distress in NSW have almost doubled over the last decade yet, at the same time, mental health funding has flat-lined. New statistics show mental health now represents 15% of total burden of disease in NSW³, but only receives 5% of overall healthcare funding⁴, meaning the mental health system in NSW is operating on a third of the budget required to meet the needs in the community. This underinvestment has devastating effects on both people trying to seek help and the mental health workforce trying to provide support.

The campaign is asking the NSW government for:

1. Funding to meet community demand for mental health services, including year-on-year increases, accounting for population growth, inflation and increase in demand.
2. A dedicated revenue stream to provide ongoing funding for mental health services, which may include a Mental Health Levy, similar to that implemented in Victoria and Queensland.
3. Priority funding for community-based mental health programs for at-risk groups, including rural, regional and remote communities, economically disadvantaged communities and young people.

The Fully Fund Mental Health campaign is asking the NSW community to show their support for urgent action on mental health, by taking 2 minutes to write to their local MP.

THE DONATION BOX IS LOCATED IN THE CHURCH FOYER

MASS OFFERINGS

<u>Recently Deceased:</u>	Greg Doyle, 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, 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, Guisepe & Romilda Reginato, Ranko Illic, Julian & Mable Doyle, James Bradbury, Genesia Rabacchi, Roberto & Les Young, Georgette El Khoury, Paul & Isabel Nohra.
<u>Anniversaries:</u>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Henry D'Souza, Neil Quinlan, Monica Connolly, Olivia Dahdah, Deborah Dahdah, Frederick McDowell, Benito Lavapie, Blanche Saldanha, Rex Fernandes, Grace & Jasmine Yra, Harry Caratzas, Theresa Saverimuthu, Mary Colletta Saverimuthu.
<u>Sick Intentions:</u>	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, 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. Kynetha Torcato, Matteo & Caterina Genova & members of the Touma Family.

ROSTER 4th & 5th May

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

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!



LOU'S CLOSET
DESIGNER AND NEARLY NEW WOMENS CLOTHING SALE
2ND-4TH MAY 2024
THE TRAMSHEDS
1 DALGAL WAY, FOREST LODGE

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: 8pm 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 20th 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