



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 teaching of scripture is that He must rise from the dead' ... John 20

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

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.

**Please support our Catholic Press
Copies of the Catholic Weekly are in the Church Foyer \$2.**

“MAY JESUS RISE IN OUR HEARTS, MAY WE BEAR EASTER LIGHT TO ALL”

MASS ON EASTER MONDAY WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 9.10AM

**HAPPY EASTER
AS WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER THE LORD’S RESURRECTION, WE WISH
YOU ALL A SAFE, JOYFUL AND PEACE FILLED EASTER!**

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who have helped prepare and serve in our Holy Week Liturgies, including Acolytes, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Members of the Music Ministry and Wardens. THANK YOU also to those who do so much behind the scenes, in many different ways in preparation of the Easter Ceremonies especially Julie Ryan & Helen Williamson.

We are very grateful to everyone that brought along Palms and Olive branches for the Palm Sunday Masses. There was an abundance which ensured that no one missed out and we were able to decorate the Church. A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Pat Jeffrey who generously supplied the Palm Crosses and branches.



Project Compassion Boxes can be returned to the Sacristy or the Parish Office.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ENVELOPES FOR THE HOLY LAND AND EASTER OFFERINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection. Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead. Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body). The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

Family Connection: In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God. Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

Easter Sunday

Pope Francis in his 2024 Lenten message began with 'when our God reveals himself his message is always one of freedom'. On the first Sunday in Lent, we were reminded that Jesus, 'was led into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom'. The Easter journey is like the place of the desert where our freedom can mature. Jesus' death and resurrection have freed us. Our journey is not an abstract one. It must be 'concrete' predicated on our capacity to open our eyes to reality. The reality of who we are and what is happening around us. In this way we are led to an openness and self-emptying in which we cast out the inordinate attachments that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. On the cross Jesus speaks with one of the men who is beside Him on the cross. That dialogue leads to Jesus' assurance that 'this day you will be with me'. Can we hear Jesus say he will be with us in our daily journey? When Jesus appears to the disciples in John's gospel we read, 'The doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them 'Peace be with you' and showed them his hands and side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord.' The disciples move from 'fear' to 'joy'. Not from fear to bravery but joy. A joy that sets them free. And so, it is with us the risen Jesus is our joy, he is our freedom he is among us. Pope Francis in his Easter message said, 'Christ is risen; he is truly risen!' In this traditional proclamation of the Churches of the East, the word 'truly' reminds us that our hope is not an illusion but a truth! Our journey is now marked by hope and an invitation to an interior freedom. May the Joy of the risen Jesus be with you and your loved ones. Easter Blessings from the JISA Community Ian Cribb SJ, Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia.

SEEING THE RESURRECTION by Ron Rolheiser

God never overpowers, never twists arms, never pushes your face into something so as to take away your freedom. God respects our freedom and is never a coercive force. And nowhere is this more true than in what is revealed in the resurrection of Jesus. The Gospels assure us that, like his birth, the resurrection was physical, real, not just some alteration inside the consciousness of believers. After the resurrection, we are assured, Jesus' tomb was empty, people could touch him, he ate food with them, he was not a ghost. But his rising from the dead was not a brute slap in the face to his critics, a non-negotiable fact that left sceptics with nothing to say. The resurrection didn't make a big splash. It was not some spectacular event that exploded into the world as the highlight on the evening news. It had the same dynamics as the incarnation itself: After he rose from the dead, Jesus was seen by some, but not by others; understood by some, but not by others. Some got his meaning and it changed their lives, others were indifferent to him, and still others understood what had happened, hardened their hearts against it, and tried to destroy its truth. Notice how this parallels, almost perfectly, what happened at the birth of Jesus: The baby was real, not a ghost, but he was seen by some, but not by others and the event was understood by some but not by others. Some got its meaning and it changed their lives, others were indifferent and their lives went on as before, while still others (like Herod) sensed its meaning but hardened their hearts against it and tried to destroy the child. Why the difference? What makes some see the resurrection while others do not? What lets some understand the mystery and embrace it, while others are left in indifference or hatred? Hugo of St. Victor used to say: Love is the eye! When we look at anything through the eyes of love, we see correctly, understand, and properly appropriate its mystery. The reverse is also true. When we look at anything through eyes that are jaded, cynical, jealous, or bitter, we will not see correctly, will not understand, and will not properly appropriate its mystery. We see this in how the Gospel of John describes the events of Easter Sunday. Jesus has risen, but, first of all, only the person who is driven by love, Mary Magdala, goes out in search of him. The others remain as they are, locked inside their own worlds. But love seeks out its beloved and Mary Magdala goes out, spices in hand, wanting at least to embalm his dead body. She finds his grave empty and runs back to Peter and the beloved disciple and tells them the tomb is empty. The two race off together, towards the tomb, but the disciple whom Jesus loved out-runs Peter and gets to the tomb first, but he doesn't enter, he waits for Peter (authority) to go in first. Peter enters the empty tomb, sees the linens that had covered the body of Jesus, but does not understand. Then the beloved disciple, love, enters. He sees and he does understand. Love grasps the mystery. Love is the eye. It is what lets us see and understand the resurrection. That is why, after the resurrection, some saw Jesus but others did not. Some understood the resurrection while others did not. Those with the eyes of love saw and understood. Those without the eyes of love either didn't see anything or were perplexed or upset by what they did see. There are lots of ways to be blind. I remember an Easter Sunday some years ago when I was a young graduate student in San Francisco. Easter Sunday was late that year and it was a spectacularly beautiful spring day. But on that particular day I was mostly blind to what was around me. I was young, homesick, alone on Easter Sunday, and nursing a huge heartache. That colored everything I was seeing and feeling. It was Easter Sunday, in spring, in high sunshine, but, for what I was seeing, it might as well have been midnight, on Good Friday, in the dead of winter. Lonely and nursing a heartache, I took a walk to calm my restlessness. At the entrance of a park, I saw a blind beggar holding a sign that read: It's spring and I'm blind! The irony wasn't lost on me. I was blind that day, more blind than that beggar, seeing neither spring nor the resurrection. What I was seeing were only those things that reflected what was going on inside my own heart. Christ is risen, though we might not see him! We don't always notice spring. The miraculous doesn't force itself on us. It's there, there to be seen, but whether we see or not, and what precisely we do see, depends mainly upon what's going on inside our own hearts.

Reflection (Australian Catholics)

Maybe I light a candle as I prepare to pray. Whether I feel joyful or not, the light can help me focus on today's amazing feast. I breathe gently, allowing the flickering light to awaken my faith and hope. I speak to Jesus of my love and of my joy in his triumph over death. When I am ready, I read the Gospel a few times. I ponder Mary of Magdala. The obstacle she feared has been removed. But how does she respond? Is she even more fearful now, or is she totally confused, still in the dark? How would I respond in this situation? I then consider Peter and John. They, too, seem shaken and uncomprehending. I note John's deference to Peter. Would I do the same, or rush headlong in? Like them, I examine at the cloths; I look at the stone. How do I react? What can block me? I speak to the Lord about how I feel. Like the apostles, do I need to read the scriptures more carefully? I may need to consider this. I turn to the Risen Lord and speak to him of my love and gratitude for all that he has suffered and won for me. I come to my place of prayer and take the time to become aware of being in God's presence. How do I feel on this day of Resurrection? I may wish to consider my Lenten journey, or perhaps ponder briefly on what Holy Week has shown me or taught me this year. I turn to the risen Jesus and speak to him of my love and gratitude. St Paul speaks of baking bread and compares us to a new batch of bread. I consider the unleavened bread Jesus used at the Last Supper. Jesus, the Bread of Life, wants us to be completely united with him. He sacrificed himself for this. As I ponder, I also give thanks. What is Paul asking me to do? What is the old yeast in me that maybe Lent has revealed? I ask the Lord that I may be open so that he can show me. I listen. Perhaps I can imagine Jesus making the bread, sifting the flour so that all is sincere, kneading the dough so that I am moulded by truth. In what way then can I come to celebrate this feast with greater love and joy? With new life? I turn to the Lord, praying for all those I love that they may have a fuller sharing in this new life. I reflect on our sad and suffering world and ask the Lord to breathe his new life of love and peace to all nations. I end my prayer with a "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

Prayer

Loving God, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.

Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal.

Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

source: New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book

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 Alannah Hickry who has been coordinating the program every week.

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:	Lough Doran, Brian Gallagher, Michael Harber, Samantha Murphy, Patricia Gurney, Mike Kennelly, Sally Rippingdale, Morna Marturia, Sr. Patricia Bundock.
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, Elizabeth Keating, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Roger O'Reilly, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Mary Trefle', Anne Trefle', Elie Sahyoun, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Margaret Raeburn, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Mary Marrins, Mary & Thomas Cahill.
Anniversaries:	Joseph Sellathamboo, Myrtle Fernandes, Patrick Marrins, Paul Duggan, Peter Turpin, Andrew Coote, Anna Lam, Christopher John Stewart, Antoine Nader, Edward Campion, Maud Soares, Hubert Saldanah, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Habib & Josephine Khoury, Judith Mueller, Suki Singarayar.
Sick Intentions:	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.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Greg Glass, Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino & Robert Rumore.

6th & 7th April

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	Pierre Wong	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
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Makini B.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Johari B.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Phil / Linda	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

Writing or updating a will can be a complicated task, for many legal and emotional reasons. So, looking after your loved ones during this process is often fraught with difficulty. This is why the Sydney Archdiocese is delighted to announce a FREE seminar designed to make the world of Wills easier to comprehend and navigate.

When: Tuesday 16 April 2024, between 11.30am-1.30pm

Where: Regent St Pavilion (part of DOOLEYS), 67 Regent St Regents Park

Note: Light refreshments will be available on the day, as well as a COMPLIMENTARY WILL OFFER for attendees. *Terms and Conditions apply. Please join us as we help you gain a better understanding of important topics such as Estate planning, Enduring Guardianship and Powers of Attorney. Leading industry specialists with many years of experience will present on the day, offer their expertise FREE OF CHARGE, and answer ALL your questions. Representatives from the Sydney Archdiocese will also explain how your parish community can directly benefit from the offering of legacy gifts in Wills. For further information, contact Tony Maricic on 1800 753 959, or tony.maricic@sydneycatholic.org.

Please scan to register or visit <https://bit.ly/DooleysWills> or Call Tony on 1800 753 959

FREE - TUESDAY 16/04/24

Seminar on Wills
 ENDURING GUARDIANSHIP
 AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY



<p>Beyond Blue P: 1300 22 4636 W: www.beyondblue.org.au</p>	<p>CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney P: 13 18 19 W: www.catholiccare.org</p>	<p>Call 1800 55 1800</p>	<p>Lifeline P: 13 11 14 W: www.lifeline.org.au</p>	<p>1800RESPECT NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE P: 1800 737 732 W: www.1800respect.org.au</p>
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