



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

'No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends' ... 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:

Monday 6th May from 8.20am – 9.50am at 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. Entry via the school office.

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 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.

Please support our Catholic Press

Copies of the Catholic Weekly are in the Church Foyer \$2.

We warmly welcome Father Paul Passant an Australian priest missionary in the Turks and Caicos Islands who is staying with us whilst on a break in Sydney.



The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal** is being held this weekend. The CWF funds six agencies: Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Catholic Care, 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.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others. When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel. One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by

knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love. In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is agape. The second is philia. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, philia. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God. Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude. Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love. This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

Family Connection: In family life, we have many opportunities to show love in action. Each time we postpone a task to tend to the needs of another, we show ourselves to be on the path to following the example of love shown to us by Jesus. Sometimes the sacrifices we are called upon to make for others are small. But these small choices to love and to serve others prepare us for the larger choices and sacrifices that we may be called upon to make. If we are people who have practiced showing our love for others with generosity, we will also be people who are willing to lay down our lives for those we love. As you gather as a family, talk about the meaning of the word generosity. Ask each family member to describe an action that shows generosity. To be generous is to give freely to others without counting the cost. Recall that generosity is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Introduce today's Gospel reading by saying that Jesus taught us to be generous in showing our love for one another. Read together today's Gospel, John 15:9-17. What examples did Jesus give to us that show this kind of love? (washing his disciples' feet; accepting death on the cross) Jesus helps us to show this kind of love to others. In today's Gospel, Jesus promised that God will give us whatever we ask for. One of the things we can ask for from God is a generous spirit so that we can love others as Jesus did. Conclude in prayer together by praying Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity.

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.

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



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 are now available in the Church foyer. An offering into the Donation Box would be appreciated.

We are dedicating the month of May to Mental Health.



Science. Compassion. Action.

1 in 5 of us will experience symptoms of mental illness in any given year. In Australia that's around 5 million people. And roughly 60% of these people won't seek help. As the only medical research institute in Australia to investigate mental health across the lifespan, our aim is to create a mentally healthier world for everyone. We do this through 'translational' research. Integrating our research studies, education programs, digital tools and apps, clinical services, and public resources to discover new solutions, foster connections and create real-world change. Our partnerships with people with lived experience, federal, state and local governments, communities, schools, corporate Australia and others in the mental health sector enables us to drive evidence-informed change in mental health where it's needed most.

Our Evolution

Since our foundation in 1985 as the 'Mood Disorders Unit' at Prince Henry Hospital, Sydney, we have been at the forefront of mental health research. Rapidly evolving to drive the creation of new knowledge and ensure that clinical best practice continues to be improved and refined in line with the latest evidence. Today, our focus has expanded to address new challenges and opportunities in mental health – suicide prevention, digital innovation, lived experience, youth and workplace mental health. Our work in mood disorders continues through our investigation of new and better ways to treat and prevent conditions like anxiety and depression through digital tools and novel treatments. Already, we are seeing impact nationally and internationally with major initiatives such as LifeSpan, CRESPI, myCompass and Bite Back.

Our Strategy

Black Dog Institute has a clearly articulated vision for a mentally healthier world. This vision guides our 2022-2026 strategy to deliver research with real world impact to treat, manage and prevent common mental health conditions and suicide in workplaces, schools, health settings and the wider community.

THE DONATION BOX IS LOCATED IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Eight Days of Prayer Booklets are available in the Church Foyer.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed in the week between Ascension and Pentecost from the 12th 19th May. The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2024 was chosen by a working group from Burkina Faso.

"You shall love the Lord your God ...and your neighbour as yourself..." (Luke 10:27)

The Way of Ecumenism - Jesus prayed that his followers would all be one (cf. Jn 17:21), and so Christians cannot lose hope or stop praying and working for unity. They are united by their love of God in Christ and by the experience of knowing God's love for them. They recognise this faith experience in one another when they pray, worship and serve God together. However, in inter-church relations, including in Burkina Faso, this remains a challenge. Lack of mutual knowledge between churches and suspicion of one another can weaken commitment to the way of ecumenism. Some can be anxious that ecumenism may lead to a loss of denominational identity and prevent church 'growth'. Such rivalry between churches is counter to the prayer of Jesus. Like the priest and the Levite in the gospel passage, Christians often miss the opportunity to connect with brothers and sisters because of fear. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we ask the Lord to come to our assistance, to tend our wounds and so enable us to walk the way of ecumenism with confidence and hope.

Christian Unity in the Service of Wider Peace and Reconciliation - LOVE needs to be placed at the centre of the quest for peace and reconciliation. This search has often been undermined by the loss of values and of a shared sense of humanity and by a diminished concern for the common good, probity, integrity and patriotism. The search for reconciliation has also been weakened by spiritual impoverishment and by the pursuit of easy gains. Faced with these realities, the imperative to witness to the love of God is all the more pressing.

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:	Dr Frank Hume, Greg Doyle, Patricia Fraser, Gregory West, Lough Doran, Brian Gallagher, Michael Harber.
Repose of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Daniel Lucich, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, 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, Ranko Illic, Julian & Mable Doyle, James Bradbury, Genesia Rabacchi, Roberto & Les Young, Giuseppe Dideo.
Anniversaries:	Frances Gleeson, Michael Suriano Snr, Ken Fraser, Joseph Mannah, Maria Schiaro, Faado Herro, George & Victoria Mounayer, Fr Adrian Horgan, Henry D'Souza, Neil Quinlan, Monica Connolly, Benito Lavapie, Blanche Saldanha, Rex Fernandes, Grace & Jasmine Yra, Theresa Saverimuthu, Mary Colletta Saverimuthu.
Sick Intentions:	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. Padre Nilo, Kynetha Torcato,

ROSTER 11th & 12th May

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Georgette Sahyoun	Anne Marrins	Ravi Family
	Marian McCluskey	Peter Yamin	Maria Soares	Ravi Family
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Paulina Roncevic	Anne Marrins	Ravi Family
	Patricia Saad	Robert Smith	Rachel Suriano	Ravi Family
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	May Louise I.	Bonett Family	Lawrence X.
	Jeff C.	Ryan W.	Bonett Family	Jayden Y.
	Matthew C.	Dylan W.	Suriano Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Suriano Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Mary Cooke	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari

Prayer to End Domestic and Family Violence

Loving God,

We thank you for inviting us to work to end domestic and family violence in our community.

We ask for your wisdom and guidance.

We pray for constancy in seeking a society where all people are safe in their home, families and close relationships, and where all relationships respect the equality and dignity of each person.

We pray for all those affected by violence, that they may find safety and healing.

We pray that all women and children will find a place and life free from violence, and children will be cared for in nurturing, protective and supportive ways.

We pray for young men that they may find models of respectful relationships, and reject the violent and demeaning images of manhood current in our society.

We ask for the courage to confront the causes of family violence, including the prevalence of violence in society, abuse of power and the unequal position of women in the community.

We pray for right and just relations between all people, so that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms.

We long for the time you have promised, when violence is banished, women and men are open to love and be loved, children are protected, and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All babies, toddlers and preschoolers with their parents / grandparents / carers are invited to the **St Martha's Playgroup**

Monday 6 May 2024

From 8:50 am to 9:50 am
in the Music Room

at St Martha's Catholic Primary School, Strathfield.

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

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email the St Martha's Catholic Primary School's Family Educator (Mrs Elena Razzoli) at elena.razzoli@syd.catholic.edu.au

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. Feel free to invite your friends too!



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