



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

'After 8 days, Jesus came in and stood among them' ... 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 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.

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



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion. In today's Gospel,

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others. Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

Family Connection: Within normal family life, there are many opportunities for conflict. Jesus did not promise us the absence of conflict in our lives. Instead, he gave us the gifts of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation so that we could reduce conflict. The measure of Christian family life is not the absence of conflict, but the manner in which conflict is resolved. Filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we ask Jesus to help us to bring peace and forgiveness to situations of conflict in our families. As your family gathers, take this opportunity to examine how your family resolves conflict. Recall a recent argument or disagreement and discuss how the conflict was resolved. Consider whether the conflict was resolved peacefully, in the spirit of Jesus. If not, discuss alternatives that might be tried in the future. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-31. Recall that we have each received Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit helps us to be people who forgive others and seek peace. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
 where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 where there is sadness, joy.
 O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



Divine Mercy Prayer Group – Thursday morning after Mass.

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter and is a religious observance celebrated mostly among Catholics. This year, it takes place on April 7. It is a significant time for reflection on the Christian faith. As Pope John Paul II stated, "It is a time where we are blessed with divine mercy as it reaches us through the heart of Christ crucified." Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gifts that flowed from Christ's death, burial, and resurrection — his mercy and love that were so freely given to humanity after such a betrayal. Divine Mercy Sunday concludes the

Easter celebrations and welcomes the ultimate gift that Christ gave after his crucifixion.

HISTORY OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The story of Divine Mercy Sunday, also known as 'the Feast of the Divine Mercy,' is thousands of years old. However, the official recognition of the day was only authenticated by the Vatican in 2000. Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter to be called "Divine Mercy Sunday." Since that declaration, it has been marked in the General Roman Calendar as a religious observance celebrated by Catholics worldwide. The significance of the day can be attributed to St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who experienced visions from Christ himself. Born in 1905, she served her parish well and communed with Jesus on several occasions where he communicated with her that he wished to be "a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners." St. Faustina, also known as the 'Secretary of Divine Mercy,' died in 1938 in Krakow at age 33 after suffering from Tuberculosis. Divine Mercy Sunday is a space specifically designated for those who feel unworthy of God's love and Jesus's acceptance. In a vision, he told St. Faustina, "I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy." Divine Mercy Sunday, from its advent, has been a source of reconciliation with faith and God's mercy. It provides a specific day on which people from all walks of life can humble themselves before God, and ask for his mercy, love, and forgiveness, which he grants to all those who are willing to ask for it. It is also about forgiveness and mercy, how Jesus offered his to us, and how we should act in kind throughout our lives.

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.



Thank you to Edith Pun & Helen Williamson for providing photos.



13th & 14th April

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	Mark Soares	Helen Williamson
	Patricia Saad	Robert Smith	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Mary Louise I.	Bonett Family	Lawrence X.
	Jeff C.	Ryan W.	Bonett Family	Jayden Y.
	Matthew C.	Dylan W.	Suriano Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Mary Cooke	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:	Lough Doran, Brian Gallagher, Michael Harber, Samantha Murphy, Patricia Gurney, Mike Kennelly, Sally Rippingale, 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, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Mary Marrins, Mary & Thomas Cahill, Erlinda Tatasciore.
Anniversaries:	Damia Baini, Daisy Sheldon, Joseph Sellathamboo, Myrtle Fernandes, Patrick Marrins, Paul Duggan, Peter Turpin, Andrew Coote, Anna Lam, Antoine Nader, Edward Campion, Maud Soares, Hubert Saldanah, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Habib & Josephine Khoury, Judith Mueller, Suki Singarayar.
Sick Intentions:	Patricia Fraser, 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. Matteo & Caterina Genova.

Today throughout the world there resounds the message proclaimed 2,000 years ago from Jerusalem: "Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has been raised!" (Mk 16:6).

The Church relives the amazement of the women who went to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week. The tomb of Jesus had been sealed with a great stone. Today too, great stones, heavy stones, block the hopes of humanity: the stone of war, the stone of humanitarian crises, the stone of human rights violations, the stone of human trafficking, and other stones as well. Like the women disciples of Jesus, we ask one another: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (cf. Mk 16:3). This is the amazing discovery of that Easter morning: The stone, the immense stone, was rolled away. The astonishment of the women is our astonishment as well: The tomb of Jesus is open, and it is empty! From this, everything begins anew! A new path leads through that empty tomb: The path that none of us, but God alone, could open: the path of life in the midst of death, the path of peace in the midst of war, the path of reconciliation in the midst of hatred, the path of fraternity in the midst of hostility. As we celebrate Easter, may the spirit of peace and renewal permeate our world, bringing hope to the broken, comfort to the grieving, and unity to all humanity. Let us embrace the teachings of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, in working together to create a world where peace reigns and all people live in harmony. Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen! He alone has the power to roll away the stones that block the path to life. He, the living One, is himself that path. He is the Way: the way that leads to life, the way of peace, reconciliation, and fraternity. He opens that path, humanly impossible, because he alone takes away the sin of the world and forgives us our sins. For without God's forgiveness, that stone cannot be removed. Without the forgiveness of sins, there is no overcoming the barriers of prejudice, mutual recrimination, the presumption that we are always right and others wrong. Only the risen Christ, by granting us the forgiveness of our sins, opens the way for a renewed world. May the light of the Resurrection illuminate our minds and convert our hearts, and make us aware of the value of every human life, which must be welcomed, protected, and loved. A happy Easter to all! **Catholic News, Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi, Easter 2024.**

FREE - TUESDAY 16/04/24

Seminar on Wills ENDURING GUARDIANSHIP AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY

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



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 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
Saving Lives
Crisis Support, Suicide Prevention,
W: www.lifeline.org.au



1800RESPECT
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE
P: 1800 737 732
W: www.1800respect.org.au