



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 & Marion Li

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neil

'The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all' ... Mark 4

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 at 9.10am.



Divine Mercy Prayers recited every Thursday after 9.10am mass. We welcome and encourage you to come along.



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:

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. Next date TBA.

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.

Father John will be away from the Parish from 10th – 20th June.

**** END OF FINANCIAL YEAR PROCESS ****

As the 30th June falls on a Sunday, the last banking for the 2023/2024 financial year will be at 9.00am on Monday 24th June.

Any donations received after this date will go into the next financial year.



Working with Children Week: 17 June - 23 June

This year, NSW will celebrate its 4th Working with Children Week in recognition of over 1.9 million people who contribute to the lives of the state's children. The theme for this is "Families and communities are informed and involved". The Safeguarding Office would like to thank everyone for all that they do every day to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children within the Archdiocese of Sydney. Working with Children Week is a chance to celebrate those all those who put children first. The Safeguarding Office is committed to providing safe environments for our children by maintaining an open and inclusive culture. The Office of the Children's Guardian have also released a colouring sheet located at the Safeguarding area at the side entrance. We take this opportunity to especially thank our Parish Safeguarding Support Officers, **Dianne Dawson and Helen Williamson** who volunteer a tremendous amount of time to assist our parish community with training and compliance.



A Message of Thanks:

Dear Father John Hayes, and all at St Martha's Parish Community in Strathfield, Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$926 to the Black Dog Institute! Thanks to your support, we can turn ground-breaking research into action that changes lives and helps us build a more resilient and mentally healthy community. We are so grateful for people like you who believe in our mission and are willing to support this critical work.



The annual Holy Father's Appeal will be held across the weekend 29th & 30th June. This appeal, also known as Peter's Pence, is a gesture of solidarity with the universal Church to support the works of the Holy Father Pope Francis.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days—Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—the Church returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday's Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable's meaning, and he does this in private at a later time. Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom. The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many. These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "thy kingdom come." We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith.

Family Connection (Loyola Press): Church documents call the Christian family the "domestic church." This is both a compliment and a call to commitment. Because the family is a community formed in love and dedicated to the physical and spiritual growth of its members, it is a miniature version of the Kingdom of God on earth. This Sunday's Gospel Reading, Mark 4:26–34, consists of two parables that Jesus used to help us discern the mystery of the Kingdom of God. The beginning of the kingdom is compared to a tiny seed that over time matures and ripens. Many of the things we do within the family seem insignificant. They are part of our daily activity and attract little attention. Yet they show our love and concern for one another. According to the Gospel, it's these small things that yield big results, acting as significant contributions to the growth of God's kingdom on earth. The growth of the seed illustrates the nature and the results of a strong faith. Read aloud together the Gospel of Mark 4:26–34. Consider how your family's concerns reflect the Church's concerns for those members who are poor, forgotten, hungry, ill, shunned, or lonely. Together think of a specific action that you can do to assist a person in your extended family, neighborhood, or parish. Now pray together the Lord's Prayer, pausing briefly to consider the import of the words "thy kingdom come." Each evening this week as you gather for supper, share with one another the simple acts of love you witnessed within the family that day.

WE URGENTLY NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO FILL A ROTATING ROSTER. Children's Liturgy during the 10am Mass (school term only). We are asking anyone that wishes to volunteer to please contact the Parish Office and provide your Working with Children compliance documents. We also encourage any senior school students who are enrolled in the Duke of Ed Award to utilise this opportunity to complete community time. Students under 18 are exempt from WWC compliance.

A Requiem Mass for Deidre O'Reilly will be held at St Martha's Church on Tuesday 18th June, commencing at 10.00am.

A Requiem Mass for Kevin Bouffler will be held at St Martha's Church on Friday 28th June, commencing at 10.30am.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace.



Please keep the Confirmation candidates in your prayers during their final preparations. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Friday 21st June by Bishop Richard Umbers.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT by Ron Rolheiser

The American poet, Robert Frost, once wrote that there is a congenital something in us that hates a wall. Well, there is also something, just as non-eradicable, that loves a list, especially in us who are cradle Catholics. Our classical catechisms had lists for everything – sacraments, commandments, deadly sins, cardinal virtues, minor virtues and even types of angels. There are two such lists for the Holy Spirit, one listing the fruits and the other listing the gifts. These gifts are not simply a catechetical invention arbitrarily created for pedagogical purposes; both have a solid biblical foundation. Thus, the fruits of the Spirit are based on a list of virtues that Paul (Galatians 5:22-23) describes as coming from the Spirit. Our Catechism lists 12 of these: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. The gifts ascribed to the Spirit are based upon two biblical lists; the first given by the prophet Isaiah (11:2) and the second revealed by Paul in 1 Corinthians (12:4-11). Our catechisms, both old and new, summarize these gifts in a list of seven: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. Since, in preparation for the millennium, this year has been designated as the year of the Holy Spirit, my next six columns will be devoted to speaking about the Holy Spirit, specifically about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. However, in order to understand what these gifts are and what precisely they bring to us, it is necessary to first situate them within their ultimate source, their generation within the life of the Trinity. How is the Holy Spirit generated within the Trinity and how do the gifts of the Spirit flow out of that? It might seem daunting to try to describe, but we are not without help from divine revelation and human analogues in doing so. The Holy Spirit has classically been defined in theology as “the love between the Father and the Son.” This is not simply an abstract formula but a phrase that tries to express, however inadequately, what results anywhere, here or in heaven, whenever there is a genuine reciprocal flow of love. Thus, simply within the normal flow of human love, we can see the following dynamic: Someone, out of love and gratitude, gives a gift to another. That gift helps fire love and gratitude in that other who then, in gratitude, reciprocates. This reciprocation fires a deeper love and gratitude within the initial giver who can now give in an even deeper way to the other. This in turn fires a still deeper love and gratitude in that other who can then respond even more deeply in love and gratitude to the giver. As this dynamic works, an energy, a fire, a certain palpable force, a spirit, begins to build which affects and infects for the good everything it comes into contact with, drawing it into its own joyous energy. That is, by way of analogy, how the Trinity works and how the Holy Spirit is generated.

Thus the Godhead can be described:

God, the Father, the source of everything, is always creating life and is giving it in love to the Son.

The Son is lovingly receiving that life and is, in gratitude, giving it back to the Father.

This enables the Father to give that life back in an even deeper way.

The Son then is able to respond even more deeply to the Father.

As this reciprocal flow of love and gratitude deepens and intensifies, an energy, a fire, a palpable force, a person, the Holy Spirit, is born and that force infects everything around it, drawing it into a palpable charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, fidelity and chastity. That very ambience, in turn, affects perception. (“Love is the eye,” as Hugo of St. Victor puts it.) The gifts of the Spirit flow from its fruits: When one’s heart and mind are coloured by love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, fidelity and chastity (as opposed to anger, bitterness, fear and lust) one will also understand things and react to them from a different wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The Holy Spirit is now working.



Jews and Christians Walking Together: Where are we in 2024?

An address by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP. In memory of the late Rabbi Dr Raymond Apple AO RFD (1955-2024) The Archbishop’s address will be preceded by an introduction from Rabbi Dr Elton, current Chief Minister of the Great Synagogue on Rabbi Apple’s important interfaith work. **TIME AND DATE:** 6pm, Thursday 27 June, 2024. **VENUE:** The Great Synagogue, Sydney. Entry Via 187A Elizabeth Street. **Registration is essential. Please email: Emmanuel.Nathan@acu.edu.au**

This weekend we celebrate the Anniversary of the Consecration of the Maria SS di Porto Salvo Statue and to pray for the those involved in the fishing industry. We warmly welcome members of Sydney’s fishing fleet devoted to Our Lady.

New sets of 2024/25 Planned Giving Envelopes are now available for collection in the Church Foyer. Please note that some parishioners have been renumbered. We encourage all Parishioners to join the giving system by either Weekly Envelope or Monthly Credit Card as this is the main income of the parish, by means of which we run everyday expenses, funds projects and plan for the future. If you would like to join forms are available in the Church Foyer which can be returned via any collection plate or directly to the parish office.

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:	Cynthia Spratt, Sr Audette Mansour rsm, Deidre O’Reilly, Kevin Joseph Bouffler, Giuse Maria To Ba Trung, Patrick Nilan, Paul Burton.
Rest of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Daniel Lucich, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Filomena Pagano, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Francis Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Dorothy Harris, James Brady, Elizabeth Keating, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Elias & Julia Georges, Joseph Tannous, 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, Guisepppe & Romilda Reginato.
Anniversaries:	Harry Doumit, Dr Vivian Colman, Bob Coote, Mary P Liu, Peter & Margaret Hetherton, Helen & Pat McGannon, Daniel Lucich, May Chapman, Elise May Corelli, Paul Duggan, James Erskine, Judith Goodacre, Tony Khoury, Zmerod Chidiac, Josephine Khoury, James Webb & Wajih Saliba, Michelle Christy.
Sick Intentions:	Marie Winfield, Samir Hakim, Ajith Antony, Karen Chung, Dareth Flavell, Rudy Raeburn, Don Bonett, 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. Mary McLoughlin, Fr Anthony Chidiac & Family, Nabil Issa, parents and siblings.

Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the Church Entrances.

**** Please notify the parish office of any changes to the next roster ****

ROSTER 22nd & 23rd June

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Gina Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Mary L'Estrange
	Beatrice Bonett	Andri Surjadinata	Maria Sores	Andrew Bova
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Donald Bonett	Maria Yu	Helen Williamson	Owen Loney
	Helen Blefari	Robert Smith	Merlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Mary Louise I.	Beatrice L.	Oliver B.
	Peter T.	Ryan W.	Emilia T.	Marina B.
	Volunteer Needed	Dylan W.	Marcus V.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Elijah V.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Phil / Anthony



Domremy College
invites you to attend the
Domremy Light Festival

Wednesday 19 June 2024, 6pm - 8pm

Free entry - All welcome

- Selection of food trucks available for the purchase of meals
- Photographic Light Painting by Peter Solness, award-winning photographer and artist
- lights, lanterns, candles, lasers
- art and design installations
- photography and photographic light painting
- telescopes, light inventions
- silent disco, glow bar and so much more ...

Entry via 121 First Ave, Five Dock NSW 2046



The Graces of Pilgrimage

A NIGHT OF PRAYER AND TESTIMONY

Lourdes and Medjugorje are renowned places of healing and grace. Come and hear first-hand testimonies of these places that have dramatically changed lives.

Fr Andrew Grace

Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, Koorringal speaks about how pilgrimages helped shape his vocation. Fr Grace over the years has also led many pilgrims to Medjugorje, and experienced the graces and blessings of going on a sacred journey.



Juliana Elarde

After 8 years in a wheelchair, Juliana Elarde experienced a healing through an encounter with Jesus in the grotto of Lourdes where Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette. Hear her incredible testimony of physical and spiritual healing.



SUNDAY JUNE 23, 2024 · 7PM - 9PM

St Dominic's Catholic Church, Cnr Hornsey Rd & The Crescent, Flemington

The night will begin with a Rosary, followed by a talk from Fr Grace on the Graces of Pilgrimage and a testimony from Juliana Elarde. Supper will be provided.

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CREJM



harvestjourneys.com

Hosted by **harvest** journeys

Is your family impacted by domestic violence?

Connect with counsellors and group programs to help families affected by domestic violence.

Call CCareline to find out more

CCareline 13 18 19

CatholicCare.org

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday



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