



# 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](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Friday) [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson & Helen Williamson [safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au](mailto: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

**'This is my Body. This is my Blood' ... Mark 14**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 Fax: 9764 3040

Email: [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Website: [www.stmarthas.org.au](http://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](mailto: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

1<sup>st</sup> 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:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Liem has a Birthday approaching on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June.**

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

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

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



## **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY'S WINTER APPEAL IS RUNNING THIS WEEKEND**

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 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**



**S.A.L.T TRAINING:** It is important to note that completing either the Induction or Refresher training is a

compulsory requirement under the Sydney Archdiocese Safeguarding and compliance standards. The parish office is undertaking a blitz to ensure that everyone is up to date by registering those who are overdue directly with the Safeguarding Office. Please look out for your course links in your email inbox (please check your spam/junk too). A certificate is issued upon completion of the course and we kindly ask that you forward this to the parish office so that your file can be updated. We are happy to assist anyone that needs help in completing this training. Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment. The course will take no longer than 20-30 minutes. Our Parish is due to be audited in the coming months where our compliance practices will be the focus. As a new roster will commence in mid July, you **must be compliant** if you wish to be included on the next ministry roster.



**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** Today, the second Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate a second solemnity, which marks our return to Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar. Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. At one time, this day was called Corpus Christi, the Latin words for "the Body of Christ." In the most recent revision of our liturgical rites, the name for this day is expanded to be a more complete reflection of our Eucharistic theology. In our reading for today, we read the account of the Last Supper found in the Gospel of Mark. It begins with the instructions that Jesus gave to his disciples to prepare their Passover celebration. It then goes on to give an account of the Last Supper. On this Sunday, however, our Lectionary reading omits the verses between these two passages; in those omitted verses we hear Jesus predict his betrayal by one of his disciples. The Gospel of Mark describes Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples as a celebration of the Jewish feast of Passover. The Jewish celebration of Passover is a memorial to and a ritual participation in the defining moment of Israel's history. It celebrates God's deliverance of his people from slavery in Egypt. The Passover meal includes many ritually important elements, such as unleavened bread, lamb, and bitter herbs. Each food item recalls an aspect of the Exodus event. The instructions for the preparation of this meal are carefully prescribed in the Law of Moses. It is a central obligation of the Jewish faith tradition to celebrate this meal and to give thanks to God for his deliverance and protection. In the description of the Passover meal found in today's Gospel, however, Mark omits many elements of the Jewish Passover meal. Instead he describes only those elements he believes to be most essential to the Christian Eucharist: Jesus took bread, blessed the bread, broke the bread, and shared it with his disciples. Similar words and actions follow as Jesus shares the chalice with his disciples. This bread now shared is Jesus' own body. Those who drink from the chalice are invited to share in a new covenant which will be sealed by Jesus' own blood. Mark's Eucharistic theology looks forward to the Kingdom of God that Jesus inaugurates. The Gospel for today reminds us that the Eucharist is a memorial of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We believe that Jesus is truly present to us in the elements of bread and wine. Each time we celebrate this sacrament, we prepare for the Kingdom of God. This celebration, as the Second Vatican Council taught us, is the source and summit of the Christian life.

**Family Connection (Loyola Press):** In the beginning of today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples to make preparations for the Passover meal. Like most meals, the Passover meal required planning and preparation. Our celebration of the Sunday Eucharist also requires planning and preparation. Certainly the ministers at the Eucharist prepare for their roles: the person presiding prays and prepares the homily; the prayers of petition are written; the music ministers prayerfully select music and practice it before Mass; Eucharistic ministers, lectors and altar servers prepare carefully for their roles. As the worshipping assembly, we can also prepare for the Mass through our prayer during the week, by reading the Scripture before Mass, and by making ourselves present to the Eucharistic celebration. As you gather as a family, talk about some of the things that are required to prepare for your family meals. Plan together a special Sunday meal by choosing the menu, preparing the shopping list, and assigning duties for cooking, setting the table, preparing decorations, leading the prayers, and cleaning. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 14:12-16, 22-26. Notice how Jesus instructed his disciples to prepare for their Passover meal. All meals require some kind of planning and preparation; so, too, our Sunday Eucharist requires planning. What might we do as a family to better prepare for our celebration of the Eucharist? Choose one or more ideas to begin to implement together as a family. Pray together that God will help your family make your celebration of the Eucharist the highlight of your week. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

**WE URGENTLY NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO FILL A ROTATING ROSTER.** Children's Liturgy during the 10am Mass. 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.

### MASS OFFERINGS

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Recently Deceased:</b>                                                         | Sr Audette Mansour rsm, Deidre O'Reilly, Kevin Joseph Bouffler, Giuse Maria To Ba Trung, Patrick Nilan, Paul Burton, Harry Doumit.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Repose of The Soul:</b>                                                        | 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, 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, Roberto & Les Young, Giuseppe Dideo, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Jim Bradbury. |
|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Anniversaries:</b>                                                             | Paul Duggan, James Erskine, Judith Goodacre, Tony Khoury, Zmerod Chidiac, Josephine Khoury, James Webb & Wajih Saliba, Michelle Christy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Sick Intentions:</b>                                                           | Marie Winfield, Samir Hakim, 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Special Intentions:</b>                                                        | Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Nabil Issa, parents and siblings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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

### ROSTER 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> June

| 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 | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |
| Altar Servers     | 5PM              | 8AM               | 10AM           | 6PM                     |
|                   | Celeste S.       | Mary Louise I.    | Bonett Family  | Lawrence X.             |
|                   | Jeff C.          | Ryan W.           | Suriano Family | Jayden Y.               |
|                   | Matthew C.       | Dylan W.          |                |                         |
| Wardens           | 5PM              | 8AM               | 10AM           | 6PM                     |
|                   | Edith Pun        | Mary Cooke        | Trudie Rogers  | Anthony Thurn           |

**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.



### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Would you like to become a regular contributor to St Martha's Church?

If so, please fill in this slip and return it to the Parish Office via any collection plate or send an email with your details to the parish office at [admin@stmarths.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarths.org.au).

Name..... Telephone No.: .....

Address:.....

Email : .....

WOULD LIKE ENVELOPES

WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE USING CREDIT CARD OR DIRECT DEBIT



## *A reflection on Corpus Christi*

What does Corpus Christi mean to me? It does not only bring the liturgy to mind; for me, it is a day on which heaven and earth work together. In my mind's eye it is the time when spring is turning into summer; the sun is high in the sky, and crops are ripening in field and meadow. The Church's feasts make present the mystery of Christ, but Jesus Christ was immersed in the faith of the people of Israel and so, arising from this background in Israel's life, the Christian feasts are also involved with the rhythm of the year, the rhythm of seedtime and harvest. How could it be otherwise in a liturgy which has at its centre the sign of bread, fruit of earth and heaven? Here this fruit of the earth, bread, is privileged to be the bearer of him in whom heaven and earth, God and man have become one. The way the Church's feasts fit in with the seasons of the year is therefore not an accident. Consequently, we must go on to discover the inner rhythm of the Church's year and see the place Corpus Christi has within it. First of all, clearly, it grows out of the mystery of Easter and Pentecost: it presupposes the Resurrection and the sending of the Spirit. But it is also in close proximity to the Feast of the Trinity, which reveals the inner logic in the connection between Easter and Pentecost. It is only because God himself is the eternal dialogue of love that he can speak and be spoken to. Only because he himself is relationship can we relate to him; only because he is love can he love and be loved in return. Only because he is threefold can he be the grain of wheat which dies and the bread of eternal life. Ultimately, then, Corpus Christi is an expression of faith in God, in love, in the fact that God is love. All that is said and done on Corpus Christi is in fact a single variation on the theme of love, what it is and what it does. In one of his Corpus Christi hymns Thomas Aquinas puts it beautifully: *nec sumptus consumitur* - love does not consume: it gives and, in giving, receives. And in giving it is not used up but renews itself. Since Corpus Christi is a confession of faith in love, it is totally appropriate that the day should focus on the mystery of transubstantiation. Love is transubstantiation, transformation. Corpus Christi tells us: Yes, there is such a thing as love, and therefore there is transformation, therefore there is hope. And hope gives us the strength to live and face the world. Perhaps it was good to have experienced doubts about the meaning of celebrating Corpus Christi, for it has led us to the rediscovery of a feast which, today, we need more than ever. (Pope Benedict XVI)

### LOOKING FOR REST AMID THE PRESSURES OF LIFE

The poet, Rumi, once wrote:

*"What I want is to leap out of this personality, and then sit apart from that leaping, I've lived too long where I can be reached."*

In a day of instant and constant communication, cell phones and emails, I suspect that we all fit that description. Certainly I do. I've lived too long where I can be reached. It seems that we're almost always over-stretched with too much to do. We come to the end of each day tired, yet conscious of what we've left undone. There's always someone else we should have phoned, emailed, or attended to in some way. Our lives often seem like over packed suitcases, crammed to the brim, and still unable to hold all we need to carry along. What's wrong here? Whenever we feel that way, it's a sure sign that we've lost the proper sense of time. Life is meant to be busy, but we're also meant, at regular times, to have sabbatical, Sabbath time, to rest and enjoy. When we look at scripture we see that God established a certain rhythm to time. Biblically, this is the pattern: We're meant to work for six days, then have a one-day sabbatical; work for seven years and have a one year sabbatical; work for seven times seven years (forty-nine years) and have a Jubilee year; and finally work for a lifetime and have an eternity of sabbatical. The idea is that our pressured, hurried, working days should be regularly punctured by times of rest, celebration, enjoyment, non-work, non-pressure, and that ultimately all work will cease and we will have nothing to do except to luxuriate in life itself. And what's supposed to happen on a Sabbath? What constitutes Sabbath time? First, a Sabbath is meant to be unordinary time, a time when our normal work and the everyday pressures of life are stopped. Partly this is meant to free us up for deeper things, but mainly it is meant to remind us that we do not live to work, but rather work in order to live and love. Next a Sabbath is meant to be a time for enjoyment, for high celebration. And this isn't abstract: On a Sabbath we're meant to eat our best meal of the week, wear our best clothing, rest, enjoy the earth and each other, and (if you're really an Orthodox believer) to make love. On a Sabbath we're meant to drink in life in all its fullness, including its sensuality. Our language still carries some remnants of this when, for example, we speak of wearing our Sunday best and having our Sunday dinner. Finally, Sabbath is meant to be a time for reconciliation, for forgiving debts, for giving up grudges, for making peace with our enemies. The cessation of work, the rest, the celebration, the drinking in of enjoyment, and the making love are all partly ends in themselves. The Sabbath was made for us. However, they're also in function of something else, namely, reconciliation, forgiveness. We only truly celebrate the Sabbath, have a genuine holiday, if we forgive someone and it's because we don't do this that, so often, our vacations don't relax us for long. We're tired, go on vacation, get a good rest, get away from the pressures of our work, enjoy some unpressured time, perhaps even get some sun and a tan, but then come home and very soon, within hours or days, are just as tired as we were before we went on vacation. Why? Because we didn't forgive anybody and our hurts and bitterness are the deep roots of our tiredness. There's a statute of limitations to all debts, including our personal hurts. A couple of years ago, Wayne Muller wrote a little book entitled, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives*. I leave you with some of his wisdom: – Sabbath need not be a year or even a day. It can also be an afternoon, an hour, a walk, a dinner. Sabbath is a time when we drink, if only for a few moments, from the fountain of rest and delight. It is a time to listen to what is most deeply beautiful, nourishing, and true. –Sabbath is different kind of fertility; it honours the wisdom of dormancy. If certain plant species do not lie dormant for winter, they will not bear fruit in spring. A period of rest, within which our roots quietly take in nourishment, is the key to health. Like plants, we too must have periods in which we lie fallow and silently nourish our roots. –We are almost always running, trying to catch the things that will make us happy when, in fact, those very things are trying to catch us! –God said: "Remember to rest." This is not a lifestyle suggestion, but a commandment, as important as not stealing, not murdering, or not lying. We need Sabbath. We've all lived too long where we can be reached.



Beyond Blue  
P: 1300 22 4636  
W: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)



CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney  
P: 13 18 19  
W: [www.catholiccare.org](http://www.catholiccare.org)



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