



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

'It is the end of Satan' ... Mark 3

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.

Best wishes to Fr Liam who celebrated his Birthday last Thursday.

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.



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY'S
WINTER APPEAL
IS STILL 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



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): In the section of the Gospel just before these verses, Jesus calls his Twelve Apostles. Now he performs his first exorcism. It is told within the context of conflict with his family. A crowd so large has gathered that Jesus and his disciples are not even able to eat their bread. His family comes to take him away because they think he is beside himself. And the scribes think he is possessed by the devil. Jesus points out to them the absurdity of their thinking that he uses the devil to cast out demons. In fact, it is Jesus who ties up the strong man, Beelzebub, and overcomes him. He concludes with a brief saying about the forgiveness of sins. All sin can be forgiven except for blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. It's not known exactly what he means by this. It could be that the only sin that can't be forgiven is the one that cuts you off from the source of forgiveness, the Holy Spirit. Mark then brings Jesus' family back into the picture. They are not presented in a critical light but are just trying to see him. This gives Jesus the opportunity to point out that family for him is not based on blood.

Family Connection (Loyola Press): Families are places of beginnings. Within our family, we first learn what it means to be part of a community. We share a closeness and experience mutual understanding and support. We learn how to love one another, how to ask for and receive forgiveness, and how to apply all these lessons to the world outside our homes. As you gather as a family, talk about what makes your family special. Share some of the lessons you have learned together about love, forgiveness, and understanding. Then read today's Gospel, Mark 3:20–35. Jesus wants us to understand that by doing God's will, we are part of a bigger family. Choosing to follow Jesus, being his disciple, means we must treat one another with kindness and mercy. We must become a family. Conclude by asking God to bless your family and to help you do God's will by seeing all his people with the same kind of love and compassion. Pray together the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary.

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.*

What is the key message of the readings for the 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B?

The key message is that despite sin and hardships, there is hope through faith and obedience to God. We are part of God's family when we do His will.

Reflection Questions for the 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

- How do you see the consequences of sin in your life?
- In what ways can you demonstrate obedience to God's commands in your daily life?
- How do you stay committed to God's will despite opposition?
- What gives you hope during difficult times?
- How can you support others in your spiritual family who are facing challenges?
- What practical steps can you take to keep your faith strong during hardships?
- How can you strengthen your spiritual kinship with others?
- In what ways can you show that you are part of God's family?
- How can you find comfort in God's promise of redemption?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love and mercy. Help us stay strong in our faith and follow Your will. May we always remember that we are part of Your family. Guide us and give us strength in our daily lives. Amen.

<https://young-catholics.com/32625/10th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-b/>

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:	Sr Audette Mansour rsm, Deidre O'Reilly, Kevin Joseph Bouffler, Giuse Maria To Ba Trung, Patrick Nilan, Paul Burton, Harry Doumit.
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, 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, Elias & Julia Georges, Joseph Tannous.
Anniversaries:	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, 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.

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

ROSTER 15th & 16th June

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Yvonne Martins	Jackie Romanous	Elias Family
	Lisa Dennis	Joseph Samarasinghe	Khairallah Family	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Baini	Daniel Martins	Anne Marrins	Melanie John
	Marianna Soo	Greg Glass	Steve Doumit	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lincoln M.	Lucas M.	Jay L.	John Paul B.
	Hayden M.	Jacob M.	Jarvis L.	Timothy P.
	Volunteer Needed	Archie S.	Khairallah Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Phil Robinson	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari



Sharing News from Our Parish - The team in Catholic Communications with the Archdiocese of Sydney is keen on hearing any interesting news from the parish, including landmark parish milestones and parishioners' awards and other achievements for potential inclusion in *The Catholic Weekly* and the broader media as well. If you have a good story to share, please contact cweditor@catholicweekly.com.au

PERMISSION TO BE SAD

By Ron Rolheiser

Let the preacher say, you have permission to be sad! In a book, *When the Bartender Dims the Lights*, Ron Evans writes:

“There’s a line I came upon in the musings of a preacher: On a Sunday morning many of the people sitting before you are the walking wounded, and you need to give them permission to be sad. In a world obsessed with happiness, where being great is all that matters, let the preacher say, you have permission to be sad. And in a world where old age becomes the golden years, where every problem can be fixed and every ailment cured, let the preacher say, you have permission to be sad.

In a world preoccupied with prolonging life, where death is a forbidden word, let the preacher say, you have permission to die. And let the preacher say, you have permission to live in memories of a lonesome kind.” Today neither our culture nor our churches give us sufficient permission to be sad. Occasionally, yes, when a loved one dies or some particular tragedy befalls us, we are allowed be sad, to be down, tearful, not upbeat. But there are so many other occasions and circumstances in our lives where our souls are legitimately sad, and our culture, churches, and egos do not give us the permission we need to feel what we are in fact experiencing – sadness.

When that is the case, and it often is, we can either deny how we feel and go through the motions of being upbeat, or we can give way to our sadness, but only at price of feeling there is something wrong with us, that we should not be feeling this way. Both are bad. Sadness is an unavoidable part of life and not, in itself, a negative thing. In sadness, there is a cry to which we are often deaf. In sadness, our soul gets its chance to speak and its voice is telling us that a certain frustration, loss, death, inadequacy, moral failure, or particular circumstance or season of our lives is real, bitter, and unalterable. Acceptance is our only choice and sadness is its price. When that voice is not listened to, our health and sanity feel a strain. For example, in a particularly challenging (raw) book, *Suicide and the Soul*, the late James Hillman states that sometimes what happens in a suicide is that the soul is so frustrated and wounded that it kills the body. For reasons too complex and many to know, that soul could not make itself heard and was never given permission to feel what it was in fact experiencing. At an extreme, this can kill the body. We see this in a less-extreme (though also deadly) way in the phenomenon of anorexia among young women. There is an irresistible pressure from the culture (often coupled with actual bullying on social media) to have a perfect body. Unfortunately, nature doesn’t issue many of those. Thus, these young women need permission to accept the limitations of their own bodies and to be okay with the sadness that comes with that. Unfortunately, this isn’t happening, at least not nearly enough, and so instead of accepting the sadness of not having the body they want, these young women are forced (no matter the cost) to try to measure up. We see its sad effects.


Psychotherapists, who do dream work with clients, tell us that when we have bad dreams, the reason is often that our soul is angry with us. Since it cannot make itself heard during the day, it makes itself heard at night when we are helpless to drown it out. There are many legitimate reasons for being sad. Some of us are born with “old souls”, poets, over-sensitive to the pathos in life. Some of us suffer from bad physical health, others from fragile mental health. Some of us have never been sufficiently loved and honoured for who we are; others have had our hearts broken by infidelity and betrayal. Some of us have had our lives irrevocably ripped apart by abuse, rape, and violence; others are simply hopeless, frustrated romantics with perpetually crushed dreams, agonizing in nostalgia. Moreover, all of us will have our own share of losing loved ones, of breakdowns of all sorts, and bad seasons that test the heart. There are a myriad of legitimate reasons to be sad. This needs to be honoured in our Eucharists and in other church gatherings. Church is not just a place for upbeat celebration. It is also supposed to be a safe place where we can break down. Liturgy too must give us permission to be sad. We need to be true to our souls by being true to its feelings.

D.H. Lawrence once famously wrote:

The feeling I don’t have I don’t have.
 The feelings I don’t have, I won’t say I have.
 The feeling you say you have, you don’t have.
 The feelings you would like us both to have, we neither of us have.




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 W: www.beyondblue.org.au



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