

# ST M ARTHA'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

**'They were as sheep without a shepherd' ... Mark 6**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

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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**



## **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 [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto: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.**

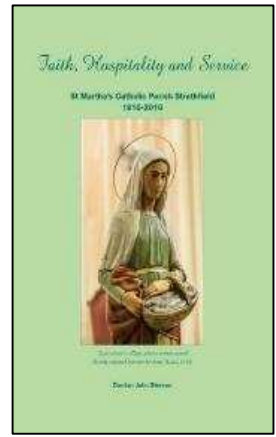
**ALTAR SERVERS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.**

**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.**



# Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of St Martha, our patron saint, will be at 9.10am on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July

The parish is offering copies of the Parish History Book, written by Dr Damian John Gleeson, at a reduced rate of \$10. The Book was published to commemorate the Parish Centenary in 2016. Discover the history of St Martha's Parish Strathfield in this skilfully written, carefully researched book that includes a large number of historic photographs, illustrations and documents. Find out the story of the Parish, the evolution of its identity as a unique Catholic community, its beliefs, relationships and challenges. Copies are available in the Church Foyer.



Payment can be placed in the secure box provided. **(PLEASE DO NOT USE THE TAP AND GO TERMINALS FOR THIS PAYMENT)**

*"The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want" (Ps 23:1)*

Do you sometimes feel lost?  
Are you searching for your path in life?  
Do you want your faith to grow?

### *Come and Listen*

to the voice of the Good Shepherd in a series of Catecheses for adults (teenagers upwards)

*"There is no need to be afraid little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the Kingdom" (Lk 12:32)*

Mondays & Thursdays at 7.00pm  
Commencing Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024  
At St. Martha's Parish Hall  
90 Churchill Ave, Strathfield

Child minding provided  
(Enquiries: Domenico 0419 536 536)

## Renewing our Baptismal Graces

Beginning on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall, adjacent to the Church, we will be hosting a series of Catecheses for adults (teenagers upwards).

These talks open a way of renewing the Grace of our Baptism. All are welcome.

***"There is no need to be afraid little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the Kingdom" (Lk 12:32).***



**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. **TAX RECEIPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER.****



**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** In this today's Gospel, we read the report of the return of the Twelve, who were sent by Jesus to preach repentance, heal the sick, and drive out demons. When the Twelve return to Jesus, he invites them to come away from the crowds and rest. But the crowds will not give them peace. As the Twelve have shared in Jesus' ministry, they now appear to share in his popularity. The crowds continue to approach them, and Mark reports that the disciples don't even have time to eat. In an effort to get away, Jesus and his disciples board a boat in hopes of finding a deserted place. But the crowds notice this and arrive ahead of them. The crowds are so persistent that Jesus and his disciples cannot find a place to be alone. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus is moved with pity and begins to teach the crowds. Our Gospel for today stops here, but Mark's report of the unyielding demands of the crowd continues in the verses that follow. If we were to continue reading from Mark's Gospel, we would hear Jesus instruct his disciples to feed the crowd in the familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. The work of Jesus and his disciples appears to be a round-the-clock job. In the next few weeks, we will hear the story of Jesus' feeding of the multitude, but our Lectionary will turn to the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John to report and reflect on this story. In today's Gospel, we hear the Twelve referred to as "apostles." The word apostle is a Greek word meaning "one who is sent." Jesus chose twelve men from among his disciples whom he sent to share in his ministry of preaching and healing. The first report of this is found in the third chapter of Mark's Gospel, where the Twelve are also called apostles and the names of this select group are listed. We who are Jesus' disciples today have also been sent to share the Gospel with others. Perhaps our commitment to following Jesus as his disciple leaves us feeling tired and overwhelmed. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm the importance of times of rest and renewal. Jesus wanted his disciples to come away and spend time alone with him. This is what we seek and find in our life of prayer and in our celebration of the Eucharist.





The Church is preparing to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, on Sunday, 28 July 2024, with the motto 'His mercy is from age to age' (Lk 1:50). The Church observes the World Day each year on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Jesus' grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne. Pope Francis instituted this Day in 2021 since, he believes, grandparents are often forgotten, yet they "are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the young." Pope Francis chose as this year's theme "Do not cast me off in my old age". As Christians, he said, the World Day dedicated to grandparents and the elderly calls us to put aside our throwaway culture and show "tenderness and affectionate attention" to the most fragile members of our communities. Copies of Pope Francis' Message for the 2024 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be available to take home.

## MASS OFFERINGS

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Kelsi Baker, Chahid Katrib, Karen Chung, William Tse, Cynthia Spratt.
<b>Repose of The Soul:</b>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Kevin Bouffler, 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, Francesco and Mary Sorbello, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Maria Nelly Galano, Pierino & Gilda D'Alessandro.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Lawrie Soares, Clare Kenny, John McNamara, John Harrington, William (Bill) Starr, Henry O'Hara, Sidney Yenson, Veronica Riordan, Antonious Katrib, Pietro Rosso, Maria & Giuseppe Andreacchio, Narcissa Saya, Antonio Truscello, Susanna Boroczky, Elie Sahyoun, Frank Hickey, Mary Bains, Lachlan Graves, Giuseppe Cipriani, Antonina Musico, Bruce Thurn, Harry Doumit, Dr Vivian Colman, James Webb & Wajih Saliba.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Don Bonett, Marie Winfield, Samir Hakim, Ajith Antony, 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. Kynetha Torcato & Mary McLoughlin.

**Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the Church Entrances.**

**THE NEW ROSTER IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE SIDE ENTRANCE OR WEBSITE**

### ROSTER 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> July

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Gian Surjadinata	Relyn Aguinaldo	Mary L'Estrange
	Rick Herro	Artha Surjadinata	Stella Male Brown	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marianna Soo	Greg Glass	Michael Quinlan	Melanie John
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Maria Yu	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Liam D.	Emilio A.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Collin A.	Shannon D.	Makini B.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Johari B.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Phil / Linda	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari



**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 131819**  
CatholicCare.org

connect@catholiccare.org

8am - 6pm Monday - Friday

# HAVE I BEEN SAVED?

By Ron Rolheiser

The famed and feisty psychologist, Fritz Perls, was once asked by a well-meaning Christian if he was saved. He responded by saying, I am still trying to figure out how to be spent! His retort echoes a line from Theresa of Avila who states that once we reach the highest mansion of maturity we are left with only one question: How can I be helpful? They're right, and their insight is a needed challenge. We too easily and too frequently get the wrong focus apposite both Christian discipleship and human maturity. The real question in our lives, at least during our adult years, shouldn't be: What must I do to go to heaven? Or, what must I do to avoid going to hell? Not that concerns about our own salvation are unimportant or that heaven and hell are unreal, the point is rather that our deepest motivation has to be to do things for others and not for ourselves. For the main part, our own salvation will take care of itself if we focus on the needs of others. Granted, both scripture and what's best in human wisdom do say that we may not be so overly-focused on helping others that we neglect our own needs, but both also make it clear, as does the Prayer of St. Francis, that taking care of ourselves is paradoxical and we that receive what we need for our own lives primarily by giving it away to others. And so our primary concern shouldn't be with the questions: Am I saved? Or even with the question: "Have I found Jesus as my personal saviour?" Again, this needs qualification: A personal and affective relationship to Jesus is not, for a Christian, any Christian, an unimportant or negotiable thing. Indeed in Gospels, particularly in the Gospel of John, a deep, affective, personal relationship to Jesus is the central component within Christian discipleship and is an end in itself. We don't, at the end of the day, develop a relationship to Jesus so that we have the energy and proper compass out of which to minister to others, though that is very much part of it. Rather we develop an intimate relationship with Jesus because that is an end in itself, the ultimate reason we become Christian. In affirming that, the traditions of Evangelical Christians and of Roman Catholic devotional practice are correct. Nothing trumps a personal, affective relationship to Jesus and outside of that connection we aren't in fact real disciples of Christ. However, Jesus, himself, mitigates any fundamentalism or one-sided devotional understanding of this by linking intimacy to him with the other half of the great commandment: Love God and love neighbour. Simply put, we show our love for God, our intimacy with Jesus, by laying down our lives for our neighbour. Christian discipleship is never only about Jesus and me, even as it is always still about Jesus and me. A priest friend of mine who teaches at a secular university was once asked by one of his students: "Father, have you met Jesus Christ?" His answer, no doubt, reflected some fatigue: "Yes," he replied, "I have met Jesus Christ, and it messed-up my whole life! There are days when I wish I hadn't met him!" What his answer, in its irreverence, correctly highlights is that meeting Jesus implies a lot more than a private, romantic, affective, and safe encounter with him and that meeting Jesus is more than having a private feeling in the soul that we are loved by and secure with God. A non-negotiable part of meeting Jesus means being sent out, and not just alone on some private spiritual quest or individualized ministry. It means being called into community, into a church, and then sent out with others, "in pairs", to, as Nikos Kazantzakis poetically puts it, "walk in Christ's bloody footsteps", that is, to walk inside of mess and failure, misunderstanding and crucifixion, confusion and tiredness, darkness and God's seeming silence, wondering sometimes if you will indeed find a stone upon which to lay your head. Intimacy with Jesus mostly doesn't look like intimacy in a Hollywood film or like intimacy as defined in the manuals of privatized spirituality. It looks more like the intimacy that Jesus experienced with his Father as he walked resolutely towards Jerusalem, against the advice of his intimate circle, swallowing hard, knowing what awaited him there. The Jesuit volunteer corps summarize their discipleship in these words: "Ruined for life!" That wonderfully grasps both the intimacy and what it means. Theresa of Avila suggests that we're mature in following Christ if our questions and concerns no longer have a self-focus: Am I saved? Have I met Jesus Christ? Do I love Jesus enough? These questions remain and remain valid; but they're not meant to be our main focus. Our real question needs to be: How can I be helpful? Fritz Perls simply puts it more graphically: How can I be spent? During our adult lives that trumps the question: Have I been saved?



## It's all about Locals supporting Locals

Help Vinnies break the cycle of homelessness by joining our Greater Sydney Vinnies Community Sleepout and braving the cold for one night.

### Event Details

**When:** 6pm, Friday 30 August 2024  
**Venue:** Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus (Rydalmere)  
**Event Coordinator:** Kate Conroy  
**E:** [kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au](mailto:kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au) **M:** 0403 241 986

**Where Does the Money Go?** All funds raised will go to local Vinnies programs and services to support people experiencing a range of challenging circumstances from homelessness and domestic violence to financial stress, mental illness and addiction.

### How you can get involved:

- **Register as an individual or team**
- **Dollar for Dollar Sponsor** - Sponsor provides a donation and over a 24 hour period, all public donations are matched until the sponsored amount has been exhausted.
- **Other event sponsorship** opportunities are available.

### Did you know?

Vinnies in Greater Western Sydney has provided the following assistance in the past financial year:

-  **35,394** people assisted
-  **\$4,563,500** financial and material assistance provided
-  **35%** seeking assistance for the first time
-  **43%** experiencing housing stress

To register, scan the QR code or visit:

[my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/greater-sydney-vinnies-community-sleepout-2024](http://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/greater-sydney-vinnies-community-sleepout-2024)

