



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

'I am the living bread come down from Heaven' ... John 6

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 **Fax:** 9746 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



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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Feast of the Assumption of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses will be celebrated on Thursday 15th August at

7.30am, 9.10am, 11.40am (with the school community) and 6.00pm.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven has long been held as an important Catholic belief. The belief was not defined as dogma, however, until 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The dogma teaches that Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven. The Gospel for this holy day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. Mary's Magnificat, in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel. The Gospel for this day reminds us that Mary's Assumption into heaven is best understood with regard for the full spectrum of Catholic beliefs about the person of Christ and the person of Mary. Only Mary, who was born without stain of original sin—the Immaculate Conception—could give birth to Christ, who is fully God and fully human. This is called the Immaculate Conception. Because of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation, she does not suffer from the effects of sin, which are death and decay. Mary is the first to receive the fullness of the redemption that her son has won for all of humanity. The Church, therefore, recognizes Mary as the sign of the salvation promised to all. The Gospel highlights Mary's faith. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all. Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan of salvation (Loyola Press)

Family Connection: Elizabeth and Mary recognize the work that God is doing through them. With eyes of faith they see the power and salvation of God breaking through into their lives and into the world. Gather as a family and talk about what you know about Mary and her being a model of faith. Recall that we are celebrating a holy day, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we remember that God took Mary to heaven, body and soul. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:39-56. In this reading we hear Mary's song of praise to God, the Magnificat. Invite each person in the family to write or draw one or more ways in which they see God working in your family life and in our world today. Use these prayers of thanksgiving to create your family's song of praise to God. Conclude by praying together this song of praise.

A Beautiful Reflection on Mary Most Holy by Bob Reddy

"At the conclusion of Her earthly life, the Mother of Christ was raised in soul and body to Heaven, that is, in the glory of eternal life, in full communion with God," said Pope Francis when describing why on Aug. 15, 2022, the Church celebrates one of the most important feasts dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary: the Solemnity of Her Assumption. Pope Francis said that "Mary's Assumption is a great mystery that concerns each one of us; it concerns our future. Mary, in fact, precedes us on the way on which all those go that, through Baptism, have bound their life to Jesus, as Mary bound her life to Him. That one of us dwells in the flesh in Heaven gives us hope: we understand that we are precious, destined to rise again. God does not allow our bodies to vanish into nothing. With God, nothing is lost... It is beautiful to think that the humblest and loftiest creature in history, the first to win heaven with her entire being, in soul and body, lived out her life for the most part within the domestic walls, she lived out her life in the ordinary, in humility." While the Blessed Virgin has entered into heavenly glory, the Holy Father added that "this does not mean that She is distant or detached from us; the Assumption should bring eternal hope to the faithful... May we not be robbed of hope, because this strength is a grace, a gift from God which carries us forward with our eyes fixed on heaven. Mary is always there... she accompanies them, suffers with them, and sings of hope with them and brings victory over death." The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Assumption as follows: "The Immaculate Virgin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of death." This Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the oldest celebration of Our Lady. The original celebration, known as the "Memory of Mary" or "Falling Asleep" of Mary for it initially centered on the end of her earthly existence, is commonly known as her "dormition." Soon the name was changed to the "Assumption of Mary," since there was much more to the feast than the end of her earthly life. The belief that Mary had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven dates to the Apostles. It was clear from the beginning that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated, and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of the end of her earthly existence or dormition. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. In 1950, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church, therefore, an ancient belief became Catholic Doctrine and the Assumption was declared a truth revealed by God. The declaration of the dogma was to "make our belief in our own resurrection stronger and render it more effective," Pope Pius XII stated in a proclamation. The proclamation went on to say that the definition of the Assumption "will contribute in no small way to the advantage of human society, since it (reflects and builds up) the glory of the Most Blessed Trinity, to which the Blessed Mother of God is bound by such singular bonds." It was also expected that the faithful would be stirred up to a stronger piety toward their heavenly Mother and that those who meditate upon the glorious example Mary offers, be more and more convinced of the value of a human life entirely devoted to carrying out the heavenly Father's will and to bringing good to others. Pope Francis said the current devotion the faithful throughout the world have toward the Blessed Virgin confirms the earlier expectations of Pope Pius XII. "We pray to Mary in a particular way, through the Rosary. This prayer brings us closer to the Blessed Mother and to her Son. We join in her suffering and her glory and rejoice looking to eternity and giving us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended." All the feast days of Mary mark the great mysteries of her life and her part in the work of redemption. The central mystery of her life and person is her divine motherhood, celebrated both at Christmas and a week later (Jan. 1) on the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) marks the preparation for that motherhood, so that she had the fullness of grace from the first moment of her existence, completely untouched by sin. The Assumption completes God's work in her since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption.

Prayer for the Assumption of Mary

Father in heaven,
all creation rightly gives you praise,
for all life and all holiness come from you.
In the plan of your wisdom
she who bore the Christ in her womb
was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven.
May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness
and join in her hymn of endless love and praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GIFT CARD SCAM WARNING

It has come to our attention that a text message scam is targeting some of our parishioners by impersonating Father John and requesting gift cards. **Please notify the parish office if you have been contacted.** We encourage everyone to remain vigilant and not to respond directly to the message and do not click on any links in the message (which may contain viruses). Phishing emails or text messages disguise themselves as legitimate messages, but are actually ploys to get you to reveal personal information—such as passwords, credit card numbers—or gift card codes. They may say that they need help, or ask a favour or that they're in an emergency situation.

What to do if you or someone you know is a victim of a scam

If you or a family member has experienced a scam, you should report the scam to your local police department. You can also report scams to the ACCC's Scam Watch website. You can also report scams to the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC). **Please note: that neither Father John or Father Liem would ever ask anyone to purchase giftcards. The Parish is not responsible for reimbursing victims who engage with scam emails and text messages without authenticating its source and origin.**

CWF AUGUST PARISH APPEAL

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal is still running this weekend. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney - including our local Aboriginal community, as well as single mothers facing homelessness, people struggling with mental health issues and many others. Appeal envelopes will be provided for your use so please keep an eye out for them. You can also make a donation and find out more at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): On this Sunday, we continue to read from the “Bread of Life discourse” found in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. Recall that we have been reading from this chapter for the past two weeks and will continue to read from it for another two. Last week, the crowd asked for a sign that would show that Jesus came from God. Jesus replied by saying that he is the sign and the bread of life sent by God. At this point, our Lectionary omits six verses in which Jesus predicts the unbelief of the crowd and further develops his connection with God the Father. In these verses, Jesus says that he was sent by God to do the Father’s will. Jesus promises that those who look upon the Son with faith will find eternal life. Some of these themes are repeated in today’s Gospel reading. Today’s Gospel begins with a report that the Jews complained about Jesus’ claims regarding his identity. They knew his family, and they knew he was the son of Joseph. They could not comprehend what Jesus meant when he said that he came down from heaven. Jesus responds to the complaints by saying that only those who are chosen by God will recognize him as the one that God sent. This is a recurring theme in John’s Gospel, that God has chosen those who will have faith in Jesus. In the verses that follow, Jesus talks more about his unity with the Father. He is the one who has seen the Father and, therefore, knows the Father. Those who listen to God will recognize that Jesus is the one sent from God. Those who believe will have eternal life. Jesus concludes with the central element of our eucharistic theology. He promises that the bread of life will bring eternal life to those who partake of it, and he tells us that the bread of life will be his own flesh, given for the life of the world. In today’s reading, we hear Jesus say again, as he did in last week’s Gospel, that he is the bread of life. We also hear Jesus add that he is the living bread. Both of these statements help us understand better the gift that Jesus gives us in the Eucharist. We celebrate this gift of Jesus each time we gather for Mass. We believe that receiving Jesus in the Eucharist will lead us to eternal life.

Family Connection: Today’s Gospel focuses our attention on our faith in Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist. Jesus is the bread of life. He gives us his Body and Blood as bread so that we may have eternal life. When we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, our lives begin to reflect the reality that our communion with Jesus prepares in us. Our Eucharist leads us to live as people of the promise, confident that we will one day share the fullness of life with God. As you gather as a family, talk about our hope that one day we will share eternal life with God in heaven. This hope can transform the way we live our daily lives, calling us to be people of hope and expectation. In today’s Gospel, Jesus promises us this gift of eternal life in the Eucharist. Read together today’s Gospel, John 6:41-51. Observe that Jesus taught us that those who listen to God know that Jesus has been sent by God for the life of the world. Jesus fulfills this promise to us through his passion, death, and Resurrection. He gives us the gift of himself in the Eucharist, which is his Body and Blood, given so that we may have eternal life. Conclude in prayer together asking God to increase our faith in Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist. Pray together the Act of Faith.



Fr Liem Duong celebrates his 18 Year anniversary of Ordination on Monday 19th August.

Prayer for Priests

Heavenly Father, we ask you to raise up in this Archdiocese many priests after the Heart of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest. May they be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd. May they devote themselves wholeheartedly to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty; shining models of holiness; tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of Your grace in the sacraments. Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of priests, and Saint John Vianney, Patron Saint of all priests, help all those called to the priesthood to respond with a generous heart. Amen.

TAX RECEIPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER.

"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 22nd July 2024

At St. Martha's Parish Hall
90 Churchill Ave, Strathfield

Child minding provided
(Enquiries: Domenico 0419 536 536)

Renewing our Baptismal Graces

Mondays 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).



Recently Deceased:

Sr Frances Caine, Adriana Lugo, Marie Winfield, Bishop Manning, Samir Hakim, John Moses, Jean Tabbakh, Gwenda Monaro, Kelsi Baker, Chahid Katrib, Karen Chung, William Tse, Cynthia Spratt.

Repose of The Soul:

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 & Mary Sorbello, James Webb & Wajih Saliba, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar.

Anniversaries:

Francesco Campanale, Giuseppina & Lorenzo Tati, Philip Winfield, Josephine Khoury, Roslyn & Francis Sinnadurrai, Eric Leahy, Lough Campion, Ruth Hayes, Stephen Bonett, Salvatore Bonett, Patrick Duggan, Colin Soleiman, Joseph Tabbakh, Lawrie Soares, William (Bill) Starr, Henry O'Hara, Sidney Yenson, Elie Sahyoun, Frank Hickey, Mary Baini, Lachlan Graves, Giuseppe Cipriani, Bruce Thurn.

Sick Intentions:

Margaret Harrington, 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.

Special Intentions:

Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.

Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the Church Entrances.

ROSTER 17th & 18th August

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Gina Surjadinata	Jackie Romanous	Kynetha Torcato
	Beatrice Bonett	Andri Surjadinata	Khairallah Family	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Maria Yu	Anne Marrins	Owen Loney
	Volunteer Needed	Robert Smith	Steve Doumit	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marissa B.	Mary Louise I.	Jay L.	Volunteer Needed
	Olivia B.	Ryan W.	Jarvis L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Dylan W.	Khairallah Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

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



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
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.
P: 13 11 14
W: www.lifeline.org.au



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

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