



# 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

**'My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink' ... John 6**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

**Phone:** 9746 6131 **Fax:** 9746 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**



### **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.**

## Happy Anniversary to Fr Liem Duong who celebrates 18 Years of Ordination on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August.



Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.  
Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.  
Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.  
Set their souls on fire with love for your people.  
Grant them the wisdom, understanding,  
and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.  
Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.  
Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.  
Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.  
Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** On this Sunday, we continue to read from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. Today's Gospel elaborates further on the teaching that Jesus began in our liturgy last week. In that reading, the crowds wondered about how Jesus could say that he had come down from heaven because they knew Jesus to be the son of Joseph. In this Gospel, some have difficulty with Jesus' teaching that he is the living bread sent from God. Recall that Jesus had told them that just as God gave the Israelites manna to sustain them in the desert, so now God has sent new manna that will give eternal life. We hear the concluding verse of last week's Gospel repeated in today's reading: Jesus himself is the bread sent by God; Jesus' flesh is the bread that is given for the life of the world. Among the stumbling blocks for those who heard but did not understand Jesus is the teaching that the bread that Jesus will give is his own flesh. In response to the people who quarreled over his words, Jesus teaches with even greater emphasis that salvation comes to those who eat his Body and Blood. Jesus doesn't seem to answer the question posed about how salvation will come about, perhaps because this reality can only be understood after his death and Resurrection. Instead, Jesus teaches about the life that he will give to the world. To many ears, Jesus' words are jarring and difficult to hear. Many who heard Jesus could not accept what he said. Many today continue to struggle to accept these words. But they are important words because they reveal our intimate connection with Jesus. This is the mystery that is at the heart of our eucharistic theology. In the elements of bread and wine, Jesus' Body and Blood are made truly present. When we share in the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus himself comes to dwell within us. This communion with the Lord makes us one body, brings us eternal life, and sends us forth to be Christ's body for the life of the world.

**Family Connection:** Our faith teaches us that when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, Jesus himself is present to us. Through the actions of the Mass, the bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Christ. This is what we mean by the word transubstantiation. Jesus makes himself present to all who receive the Body and Blood of Christ. If there are children in your family who have already celebrated their First Communion, invite them to share their memories of this special day. If you have family photos from this occasion, bring them out and share them. Adults in the family may also share memories or photos of their First Communion. Then read together today's Gospel, John 6:51-58. Reflect together on what Jesus means when he calls himself the "living bread." Recall that every time we receive the Eucharist, Jesus keeps the promise he made in today's Gospel. Perhaps family members can share what it means for them to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Together, thank God for this gift of Holy Communion. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's psalm.

### **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.**

*"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**

*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).***



# Reflection: The Assumption

Image: "Mother of the Incarnate Word" by Fr. William Hart McNichols

Years ago, a friend gave me a holy card with an unusual depiction of the Blessed Mother. She is visibly pregnant, and reading from a book – praying from scripture. As my friend explained to me: it's a great image for a writer. It shows Mary reading the word, while carrying The Word. The Word is within, and without.

When I was in formation, studying to become a deacon, I taped that image inside my binder, and it was always with me when I went to class. Later, when I gave my first homily at St. Josephat's in Bayside, I was surprised to see a similar image in a stained glass window near the altar. It depicts the Annunciation, with Mary once again reading an open book at the moment of conception. It shows Mary's great devotion to the word, in every manifestation.

I thought of that image again when I read over this evening's gospel. It's one of the more challenging passages in scripture. I imagine a lot of people hear this reading from Luke, as we're about to celebrate one of the great Marian feasts, the Assumption, and are taken aback. A woman in the crowd calls out, praising the womb that bore him and the breasts that nursed him. But then Jesus seems to change the subject. "Rather," he replies, "blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it." This hardly sounds like high praise for the Blessed Mother. But that's exactly what it is. He is talking about the woman who heard the word, who read the word, who observed the word, and who carried the Word – and who responded at every moment of her life with a word of her own: "Yes." And if you want to dissect this scripture passage even further, I think it comes down to this: Mary's sanctity was more than a matter of biology. It was much more than her physical reality. Making the Word incarnate involved than just shared DNA. No. It was a matter of faith.

And: as it was with Mary, so it can also be with us.

Henri Nouwen, I think, understood that. He was a Dutch priest, scholar, and academic who taught at Yale and Harvard for several years in the 1970s and '80s. But Nouwen felt called by God to do something else with his life. He struggled with it, and prayed over it, for many years, and finally found the answer with the group L'arche, founded by the great Canadian, Jean Vanier. L'arche cares for the mentally and developmentally disabled. And so it was that Henri Nouwen, this deep-thinking writer and intellectual, spent the last years of his life bathing those who could not bathe themselves, feeding them, celebrating the sacraments with them, and seeing in them the beautiful face of Christ. I think Henri Nouwen, in many ways, also "heard the word of God and observed it." And I think he also felt a profound connection to Mary's simplicity and humanity. In one of his journals, he describes meeting a priest who summed up Mary's meaning to the world so beautifully. "To look at Mary," this priest said, "is to see God's original plan for humanity." As Nouwen explained, "In her, we see the way God wanted us to be...Mary shows us how to receive the marvellous gift of God's love, and how to respond to God's redemptive action in our lives." Looked at that way, I think the Assumption takes on an even deeper meaning. If Mary does indeed show us "God's original plan for humanity," so does her glorious Assumption. In the Assumption, preserved forever before the face of God, freed from the corruption of the grave, Mary not only fulfills her great destiny – but also offers us a beautiful glimpse of our own. This is what God wants for us. This is what He dreams for us. This is His desire and design for the world.

The Assumption offers us that promise – and that hope.

Our prayer on this feast is to be worthy of it, to model ourselves on the Mother of God – in all her holiness, in all her humility. It means saying "Yes" to God and working, as Jesus said, "to hear the word of God and observe it." That means, very simply, to live it. To embrace it. To desire, like Mary, to bring the Word into the world. It has nothing to do with biology, or DNA. It is everything to do with trust. With love. With obedience. And, as I said before, it is all a matter of faith. As Henri Nouwen once put it so beautifully:

*"A faith in him who became flesh in her, a faith that makes it possible for him to become flesh in us, too."*

 <p><b>Beyond Blue</b> Beyond Blue P: 1300 22 4636 W: <a href="http://www.beyondblue.org.au">www.beyondblue.org.au</a></p>	 <p><b>CatholicCare</b> CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney P: 13 18 19 W: <a href="http://www.catholiccare.org">www.catholiccare.org</a></p>	 <p><b>kidshelpline</b> Anytime Any Reason <b>Call 1800 55 1800</b></p>	 <p><b>Lifeline</b> Saving Lives Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention. Lifeline P: 13 11 14 W: <a href="http://www.lifeline.org.au">www.lifeline.org.au</a></p>	 <p><b>1800RESPECT</b> NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE 1800RESPECT P: 1800 737 732 W: <a href="http://www.1800respect.org.au">www.1800respect.org.au</a></p>
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**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](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	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.
<b>Repose of The Soul:</b>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Fr Mark Beard, 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.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Carmelina Truscello, 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 Bains, Lachlan Graves, Giuseppe Cipriani, Bruce Thurn.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	John Hay, 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.
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.

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

**ROSTER 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August**

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Gian Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Mary L'Estrange
	Joanne Touma	Artha Surjadinata	Rita Piras	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Greg Glass	Helen Williamson	Andrew Chasle
	Marianna Soo	Sonia Gomez	Merlyn D'Souza	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Liam D.	Emilia T.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Peter T.	Shannon D.	Marcus V.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Elijah M.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Phil / Linda	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari

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

**PLEASE SEE THE CHURCH NOTICEBOARD FOR OTHER EVENTS.**