



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

'You forget the commandment of God and hold onto human tradition' ... Mark 7

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



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. Commencing Monday 2nd September from 8.50am to 10.00am in the upstairs school hall. Playgroup runs every Monday during the school term only.

Contact: anne.wu@syd.catholic.edu.au

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.

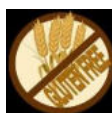
IMPORTANT NOTICE:

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.

Please support our Catholic Press
Copies of the Catholic Weekly are in the Church Foyer \$2.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS & FATHER LIKE FIGURES IN OUR LIVES WHO CONTINUE TO GIVE LOVE AND LIFE TO THEIR FAMILIES AND OUR PARISH COMMUNITY! MAY THE PEACE AND JOY OF THE LORD BE YOURS IN A SPECIAL WAY TODAY AND MAY HE BLESS YOU IN EVERY WAY. MAY WE ALWAYS BE THANKFUL FOR THE GIFT OF FATHERS.

We also remember our Parish Priests, Fr John & Fr Liem and thank them for their spiritual guidance and pastoral ministry to our St Martha's community.

Father's Day is a special occasion to honour and appreciate the fathers and father figures in our lives. It is a time to recognize their sacrifices, love, and dedication. Through prayer, we can seek God's blessings, guidance, and strength for them. We ask God to pour His favor upon them and guide them in their important role.

The Bible provides numerous verses that highlight the significance of fatherhood and God's promise to bless and guide fathers. In Proverbs 20:7, we read, "The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him." This verse underscores the impact of a father's integrity on his children. Additionally, Psalm 103:13 says, "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him." This verse highlights the loving and compassionate nature of a father, reflecting God's own love for us.

Let us seek God's guidance and blessings for the fathers in our lives, honoring their commitment and love.

A Short Reflection for Father's Day

Today we celebrate fatherhood in Australia. We honour not just dads, but grandfathers, big brothers, uncles, priests whom we call "Father," and anyone else who fulfills a fatherly role for others. As we recall the exemplary role-model and patron saint of fathers—Saint Joseph—foster father of Jesus, husband of Our Lady and patron of the Universal Church. St Joseph experienced the same difficulties in life we all do, yet he lived an exemplary life and established an ideal that is well-worth emulating for all fathers who have come after him. St Joseph was a man of compassion and caring. He was a man possessed of unwavering faith in God. He was a man who loved and protected his family. As St Matthew describes him in his Gospel, Joseph was a "righteous man" (Mt 1:19). On this Father's Day, let us ask St Joseph for his intercession on behalf of all dads and that his holy example continue to be an inspiration to all fathers, using a beautiful prayer from the Carmelite Sisters:

Oh, St Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.
Oh, St Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most Loving of Fathers.
Oh, St Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath.
St Joseph, Patron of departed souls, pray for me. Amen.

We also pray the prayer that Pope Francis gave us during the Year of St Joseph:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Heavenly Father,

In the name of Jesus, we come before You today to thank You for the fathers in our lives. We ask that You bless them with wisdom, strength, and patience as they fulfill their roles as providers and protectors. May Your guidance be upon them in every decision they make, and may they be filled with Your love and grace. Grant them the courage to lead their families in righteousness and the humility to seek Your will in all they do. We pray for their health, prosperity, and spiritual growth. Thank You for their unwavering dedication and the sacrifices they make. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

The Priests' Retirement Foundation is running this weekend. Also known as the Father's Day Appeal, each year our Archdiocese hosts this annually to support retired priests and thank our Fathers for their wonderful service to our community. Your gift is a 'thank you' to our priests who've contributed in many ways in your life. They are friends who've counselled, comforted and provided spiritual nourishment through their wisdom and willingness to teach. Give generously. Your tax-deductible gift will make a big difference to our retired Fathers who need our care. The Archdiocese will match every donation two-for-one. For example, if you give \$100, the Archdiocese will add another \$200, making your contribution worth \$300. Thank you. Donate at www.ourfaithourworks/prf or complete the parish envelope.



IMPORTANT NOTICES

DUE TO UNI COMMITMENTS, LARISSA WILL BE AWAY FROM THE OFFICE FROM FRIDAY 30TH AUGUST AND RETURN ON FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER. THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE UNATTENDED ON FRIDAYS DURING THIS TIME.

NICOLLE WILL BE ON ANNUAL LEAVE FROM THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER AND RETURN ON TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER. THE PARISH OFFICE WILL ONLY BE ATTENDED DURING LIMITED HOURS, BUT YOU MAY LEAVE MESSAGES THAT WILL BE RESPONDED TO ASAP.



Season of Creation Laudato Si 2024

1st September – 4th October

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION.

Hope and Act with Creation. Let us join in praise and celebrate the gifts and wonders that God bestows on us.

How can you be a part of Pope Francis' call for us to walk gently on this planet.

Resources are available in the Church Foyer.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark's Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. Recall that we focus on the Gospel of Mark in Lectionary Cycle B, but substitute John's report of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes for Mark's report of this event. In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians. In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples. Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses. Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life. If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning. Jesus' words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.

Family Connection: Children have learned the importance of following rules. Like the Pharisees in today's Gospel, they often bring to our attention the infractions of others. Even parents sometimes get caught off guard by their children's observations: "Why don't you have to go to bed at 8:00?" or "But I saw you eat a cupcake before breakfast once." Our rules for our children are not arbitrary. We establish and enforce family rules with the intention of helping our children grow to be healthy and mature adults. We foster this maturity when we also initiate conversations with our children about the purposes behind family rules and teach them the essential values that rules help us observe. As you gather as a family, list some of your most important family rules. Together, try to write a single, positive statement that captures the essential value behind your family rules. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus criticize the Pharisees for making their rules about ritual purity equal to the commandments of God's Law. Read today's Gospel, Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23. When we remember the essential element behind our rules, we see that our rules help us be the good people that Jesus wants us to be. Conclude in prayer together that we may always honor God's Law in our words and deeds. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 15.



CANA COMMUNITY APPEAL 21st & 22nd September

This appeal assists in the support of those people who are truly living on the margins in Sydney. The

Cana Communities are not government funded and rely on the generosity of people who want to contribute to their ministry of compassion and care. Some parishioners from our parish volunteer their time and love at Cana to assist those who are in such great need for the practical care of others.



First Holy Communion - Please continue to pray for the candidates who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday 8th September and Sunday 15th during special Masses at 12.00 noon. May our Lord watch over them on their faith journey. A special thanks to Linda Praum our Sacramental Coordinator who has been preparing the children.

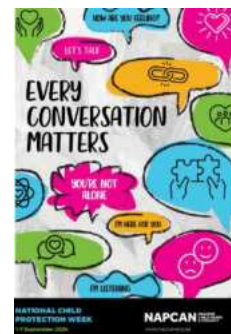


CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 1st to 8th SEPTEMBER

In 2024, the National Child Protection Week message that 'Every child in every community needs a fair go' will be complemented with the theme 'Every conversation matters'. Conversations are powerful tools to keep children and young people safe and well.

Conversations can help us understand issues, craft solutions, value community knowledge, and build the brains and social connections of children and young people.

Conversations between:



- ...children and their caregivers matter (from the very earliest days)
- ...children and their peers matter
- ...families with teachers, doctors, and other professionals matter
- ...friends or neighbours matter
- ...decision-makers and the communities they serve matter.

And, of course, conversations in the public realm and media matter...

So this National Child Protection Week we invite you to speak up – and speak together – about what needs to change for every child in every community to have a fair go. This theme provides a platform to: engage in important conversations, promote the value of conversations, and equip us to have conversations that keep kids safe. **Resources and Activity Books are available in the Church foyer.**

Recently Deceased:	Sr Patricia Woodbury, Sr Frances Caine, Adriana Lugo, Marie Winfield, Bishop Manning, Samir Hakim, John Moses, Jean Tabbakh, Gwenda Monaro.
Rest of The Soul:	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, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, James Webb & Wajih Saliba, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Lisa Cooke, Greg Doyle, Jim Bradbury, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Michael & Mary Cassar, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Larry & Fernando Laurento.
Anniversaries:	Monica Ryan, Joseph Sellathamboo, Bernard & Mark Kelly, John B & Mary N Liu, Gladstone Jebanasam, Duncan Maclean Snr, Maria Santana Almeida, Joy & Kevin Quinlan, Eric & Marie Leahy, 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, Joseph Tabbakh, Lawrie Soares, William (Bill) Starr, Bruce Thurn.
Sick Intentions:	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Mary Matthews, Willie Quan, Sr Mary Campion, 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 Harris, 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.

ROSTER 7th & 8th September

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Yvonne Martins	Elias Family	Ravi Family
	Marian McCluskey	Joseph Samarasinghe	Rita Piras	Ravi Family
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Daniel Martins	Elias Family	Helen Williamson
	Patricia Saad	Greg Glass	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Lucas M.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Thomas S.	Jacob M.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff C.	Archie S.	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Matthew Z.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Phil Robinson	Trudie Rogers	Volunteer Needed

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