



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 are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much' ... Mark 8

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. 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 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.

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

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.

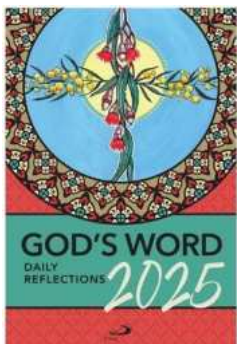
Resources are available in the Church Foyer.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Today's reading is the turning point in Mark's Gospel. In the presentation of the life and ministry of Jesus found in

the Gospel of Mark, the deeds of Jesus have shown Jesus to be the Son of God. Yet many, including Jesus' disciples, have not yet realized his identity. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples for a field report by asking what others say about him. He then turns the question directly to the disciples and asks what they believe. Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ. The word Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah, which means "the anointed one." At the time of Jesus, the image of the Messiah was laden with popular expectations, most of which looked for a political leader who would free the Jewish people from Roman occupation. Jesus does not appear to have used this term for himself. As we see in today's reading, Jesus refers to himself instead as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures, found in the Book of Daniel and in other apocryphal writings. Many scholars suggest that the phrase Son of Man is best understood to mean "human being." Now that the disciples have acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he will be rejected, must suffer and die, and will rise after three days. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely. The image of Christ that Jesus is giving is not the image of the Messiah that Peter was expecting. Jesus then teaches the crowd and the disciples about the path of discipleship: To be Christ's disciple is to follow in the way of the cross. We can easily miss the fear that Jesus' words must have evoked in his disciples. Death by crucifixion was all too familiar as a method of execution in Roman-occupied territories. It was also an omnipresent danger to the Christian community for whom Mark wrote. The path that Jesus was inviting his disciples to share meant tremendous suffering and death. This is the kind of radical commitment and sacrifice that Jesus calls us to adopt for the sake of the Gospel.

Family Connection: Peter had expectations about what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah, the Christ. Jesus was indeed the Messiah, but his life and death would show a different understanding of what it means to be the Messiah. We, too, have expectations of God and our own ideas about what we think God ought to be doing in our world. Like Peter, however, we may risk limiting our image of God by thinking only in human ways. God's plan is always more than we can ever imagine. As you gather as a family, talk about what we expect God to be doing in our world and in our family life. Then read today's Gospel, Mark 8:31-35. Why do you think Peter was so upset by what Jesus was saying? Notice how Jesus reprimands Peter. Do we sometimes forget to let God be God for us? That is, do we sometimes get discouraged because God doesn't act in our world in the ways that we expect? Pray together that we will remember that God is always working for the world's salvation in ways that are beyond our imagination. Conclude by praying together today's psalm, Psalm 116.

May God bless the children coming forward this Sunday to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. On this special day, we congratulate you on taking this big step in your faith journey and we hope that you experience the joy of God's presence in your lives always. Thank you to Linda Praum, our Sacramental Coordinator and her team of helpers for preparing the children.



2025 Bible Diaries (limited stock) - To reserve a copy please write your name on a completed payment envelope in the Church Foyer. **Orders will be available for collection from 1st October.** These Bible Diaries are designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God make these an ideal gift. **\$20 each (rrp \$21.95) Cash payments only.**



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.



The parish is also 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.

Working Too Hard - It Begins as a Virtue and Ends as an Escape

By Ron Rolheiser

There are dangers in overwork, not matter how good the work and no matter how noble the motivation for doing it. Spiritual guides, beginning with Jesus, have always warned of the dangers of becoming too taken-up in our work. Many are the spouses in a marriage, many are the children in a family, many are the friends, and many are churches, who wish that someone they love and need more attention from was less busy. But it is hard not to be over-busy and consumed by work, particularly during our generative years when the duties of raising children, paying mortgages, and running our churches and civic organizations falls more squarely on our shoulders. If you are a sensitive person you will wrestle constantly with the pressure to not surrender yourself to too many demands. As Henri Nouwen once described this, our lives often seem like over-packed suitcases with too much in them. There is always one more task to do, one more phone call to make, one more person to see, one more bill to pay, one more thing to check on the internet, one more-leaky faucet to tend to, one more demand from some church or social agency, and one more item that needs to be picked up from the store. The demands never end and we are always conscious of some task that we still need to do. Our days are too short for all that needs to be done. And so we give ourselves over to our work. It begins in good will and innocence but it invariably transmutes into something else. Initially we give ourselves over to all these demands because this is what is asked of us, but as more and more time goes by that commitment becomes less and less altruistic and more self-serving. First off, though we are generally blind to this, our work soon becomes an escape. We remain busy and preoccupied enough that we have an inbuilt excuse and rationalization so as not to have to deal with relationships be that within our own families, our churches, or with God. Being weighed-down constantly with work and duty is a burden but it is also the ultimate protection. We do not get to smell the flowers, but we do not have to deal either with the deeper things that lurk under the surface of our lives. We can avoid the unresolved issues in our relationships and our psyches. We have the perfect excuse! We are too busy. Generally too our society supports us in this escapism. With virtually every other addiction, we are eventually sent off to a clinic, but if we are addicted to our work, we are generally admired for our disease and praised for our selflessness: If I drink too much, or eat too much, or become dependent on a drug, I am frowned upon and pitied; but if I overwork to the point of neglecting huge and important imperatives in my life, they say this of me: "Isn't he wonderful! He's so dedicated!" Workaholism is the one addiction for which we get praised. Beyond providing us with an unhealthy escape from some important issues with which we need to be dealing, overwork brings with it a second major danger: The more we over-invest in our work the greater the danger of taking too much of our meaning from our work rather than from our relationships. As we become more and more immersed in our work, to the detriment of our relationships, we will naturally begin too to draw more and more of our meaning and value from our work and, as numerous spiritual writers have pointed out, the dangers in this are many, not least among these is the danger that we will eventually find it harder and harder to find meaning in anything outside of our work. Old habits are hard to break. If we spend years drawing our identity from working hard and being loved for being anything from a professional athlete to a dedicated mum, it will not be easy to simply shift gears and draw our meaning from something else. Classical spiritual writers are unanimous in warning about the danger of overwork and of becoming over-preoccupied with our work. This is in fact what Jesus warns Martha about in the famous passage in scripture where she, consumed with the very necessary work of preparing a meal, complains to Jesus that her sister, Mary, is not carrying her share of the load. In a rather surprising response, Jesus, instead of chastising Mary for her idleness and praising Martha for her dedication, tells Martha that Mary has chosen the better part, that, at this moment and in this circumstance, Mary's idleness trumps Martha's busyness. Why? Because sometimes there are more important things in life than work, even the noble and necessary work of tending to hospitality and preparing a meal for others. Idleness may well be the devil's workshop, but busyness is not always a virtue.



Short Reflection for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary (Young Catholics)

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

Listening to God, acting on our faith, and following Jesus are key themes. By focusing on these, we grow closer to God and strengthen our commitment to our faith journey. Following Jesus means accepting His path, even when it is difficult. Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow Him. This means we may face challenges and hardships as part of our faith journey. The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B reminds us that following Jesus requires sacrifice. We may have to give up our own desires and face difficulties. But by doing so, we find true life in Christ.

Prayer: Lord, help us to listen to Your voice and follow Your path. Give us the strength to live out our faith through our actions.

May we take up our cross and find true life in You. Amen.

Recently Deceased:	Sr Patricia Woodbury, Sr Frances Caine, Adriana Lugo, Marie Winfield, Bishop Manning, Samir Hakim, John Moses, Jean Tabbakh, Gwenda Monaro.
Repose of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Fr Mark Baird, Kevin Bouffler, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Daniel Lucich, Stefano, 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, Antonio Sahyoun, Larry & Fernando Laurento.
Anniversaries:	Antoinette Khattar, Thomas Raju, Khalil Herro, Therese Mitry, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Greg Doyle, Jim Bradbury, Mary & Damian Nadarajah, Emil & Foula Moubarak, Phillip & Hind Azar, 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, Roslyn & Francis Sinnadurrai.
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, 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.

Remembering someone with a Mass Intention honours them in a unique way – surrounding them with the warmth of God's love. A Mass may be offered for the living or deceased, for a Birthday, Anniversary, for somebody who is ill, or for a special intention. Mass Intention envelopes are available at the Church Entrances. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this.

ROSTER 21st & 22nd September

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrice Bonett	Gian Surjadinata	Jackie Romanous	Ravi Family
	Volunteer Needed	Artha Surjadinata	Khairallah Family	Ravi Family
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Donald Bonett	Greg Glass	Anne Marrins	Melanie John
	Volunteer Needed	Sonia Gomez	Steven Doumit	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marissa B.	Liam D.	Jay L.	Volunteer Needed
	Olivia B.	Shannon D.	Jarvis L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Khairallah Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Phil / Linda	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Volunteer Needed



Beyond Blue
Beyond Blue
P: 1300 22 4636
W: www.beyondblue.org.au



CatholicCare - Archdiocese of Sydney
P: 13 18 19
W: www.catholiccare.org



kidshelpline
Anytime Any Reason
Call 1800 55 1800



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



1800RESPECT
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE
1800RESPECT
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

ASK RUOK?™ ANY DAY

A conversation could change a life.