



# 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

**'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity' ... Mark 9**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 Fax: 9764 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. 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](mailto: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](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.

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



## CANA COMMUNITY APPEAL 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### IMPORTANT NOTICES

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

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



#### Prayer for the Season of Creation

Written by Michael McGee

God of all life,  
We thank you for the gift of creation,  
For the water that keeps us alive,  
For our food and shelter,  
All of which come from the generosity of Earth.  
We thank you for the very air we breathe  
Which we share with every creature.  
May we take good care of Earth  
As our common home takes care of us.  
May we work for justice for those  
Most hurt by damage to our environment.  
May we enjoy the beauty of nature  
And pray that it be treated with deeper respect.  
Jesus asked us to learn from the lilies of the field  
And the birds of the air.  
We ask this in his name.  
Amen.

Photo: Caritas Australia

### Season of Creation Laudato Si 2024

**1<sup>st</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> 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):** In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus again predict his passion, death, and Resurrection to his disciples. The setting here is

important. Jesus and his disciples are preparing to journey through Galilee, a Jewish territory in which Jesus has already encountered problems with the Pharisees. Perhaps this is why Mark indicates that Jesus was trying to journey in secret. In predicting his passion, Jesus is acknowledging the danger they will face and is trying to preparing his disciples for it. Yet Mark tells us that the disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying and were afraid to ask what he meant. Such hesitation on the part of the disciples is not characteristic behavior. Peter had no fear about rebuking Jesus in last week's Gospel. Perhaps this is an indication that the disciples were aware that a new situation was emerging. Mark paints a vivid picture in today's Gospel. Having arrived at Capernaum, Jesus and his disciples enter a house. In this private place, Jesus asks his disciples about the argument they had while they were journeying. Again, the disciples are uncharacteristically silent and afraid to answer. They have been found out. Jesus then summons the Twelve, whom Mark identified earlier in his Gospel as those chosen by Jesus to preach and to drive out demons. To this select group of disciples, Jesus teaches that those who would be first in God's kingdom must be servants of all. Jesus then calls forward a child and teaches the Twelve that to receive a child in Jesus' name is to receive both Jesus and the One who sent him. We might easily fail to understand the significance of this action. In first-century Palestine, children were without status or power, possessing no legal rights. In this action, Jesus is teaching his disciples and us that when we serve the least ones among us, we serve Jesus himself. Who are the people without power or status in our society that Jesus is calling us to serve? Do we do so willingly? Jesus teaches that God's judgment of us will be based on this criterion alone.

**Family Connection:** Conversations such as the one described in today's Gospel are common in family life. Perhaps these examples are familiar: "I should get the first piece of cake because I am the youngest;" "I did the dishes yesterday; someone else should do them today." How might we respond if Jesus asked about our family arguments? What would Jesus say to us in reply? All of us need the reminder found in today's Gospel: To be great in God's Kingdom is to be the servant of all. As you gather as a family, recall a recent family argument about household chores or an example of bickering among family members. Talk about what was at issue in the argument. Together imagine that Jesus entered the room just as the argument ended. What would you tell Jesus your argument was about? What might Jesus say in reply? Read together today's Gospel, Mark 9:30-37. How was your family argument like the argument among Jesus' disciples? What might your family do to remember that those who are great in God's kingdom are those who willingly serve others? Pray together that your family life will reflect your commitment to serve one another with love. Pray Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity.

#### Prayer for Generosity - St. Ignatius of Loyola

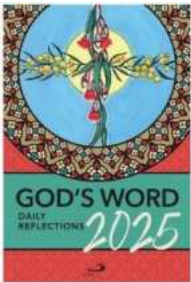
Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, Teach me true generosity.  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve. To give without counting the cost,  
To fight heedless of wounds, To labor without seeking rest,  
To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward  
Save the knowledge that I have done your will. Amen.



**FR JOHN HAYES HAS TWO VERY SPECIAL DATES FAST APPROACHING.  
HIS BIRTHDAY IS ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER & HIS  
26<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION IS ON TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.**

**Reflecting on Padre Pio by Msgr. Ronald Knox  
(Feast Day 23<sup>rd</sup> September)**

‘He must increase, but I must decrease’ – there is a more intimate sense in which the words concern us. For the business of our life in this world, after all, is not to leave a mark on it behind us or to take an honoured name away from it with us, but to make our peace with God before he calls us to a better one. And what is it, making our peace with God, but letting the influence of our Lord grow more and more in us, dominating our lives and throwing self into the background. He must increase; whenever he comes to me in Holy Communion, whenever he draws close to me in prayer, what is his purpose but that my will should be more his will, my life more his life. ‘I must decrease’ – this self that struggles so against the supernatural influence of his grace, that makes me so proud, so grasping, so quick to take offence: only as it decreases will he increase; only as he increases will it decrease. Thus would I live, yet now not I, but he in all his power and love henceforth alive in me.



**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Slaiman Herro, Helen Jewehh, Ken Wai Ken Lee, Sr Patricia Woodbury, Sr Frances Caine, Adriena Lugo, Marie Winfield, Bishop Manning, Samir Hakim, John Moses, Jean Tabbakh, Gwenda Monaro.
<b>Repose of The Soul:</b>	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.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Campbell Farrell, Antoinette Khattar, Thomas Raju, Gerald Wilson, 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.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Willie Quan, Sr Mary Champion, 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.
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.

**ROSTER 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September**

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Georgette Sahyoun	Rachel Suriano	Mary L'Estrange
	Joanna Touma	Peter Yamin	Rita Piras	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marianna Soo	Paulina Roncevic	Helen Williamson	Owen Loney
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Robert Smith	Merlyn D'Souza	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Mary Louise I.	Emilia T.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Peter T.	Ryan W.	Marcus V.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Dylan W.	Elijah M.	<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
	Edith Pun	Mary Cooke	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

# Saints for a New Situation

By Ron Rolheiser

Everywhere in church circles today you hear a lament: Our churches are emptying. We've lost our youth. This generation no longer knows or understands the classical theological language. We need to announce Jesus again, as if for the first time, but how? The church is becoming evermore marginalized. That's the situation pretty much everywhere within the secularized world today. Why is this happening? Faith as a spent project? Secularity's adolescent grandiosity before the parent who gave it birth, Judeo-Christianity? The "buffered self" that Charles Taylor describes? Affluence? Or is the problem mainly with the churches themselves? Sexual abuse? Cover-up? Poor liturgies? Poor preaching? Churches too liberal? Churches too conservative? I suspect it's some combination of all of these, but single out one issue here to highlight, affluence. Jesus told us that it's difficult (impossible, he says) for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. No doubt, that's a huge part of our present struggle. We're good at being Christians when we're poor, less-educated, and on the margins of mainstream society. We've had centuries of practice at this. What we haven't had any practice at, and aren't any good at, is how to be Christians when we're affluent, sophisticated, and constitute the cultural mainstream. So, I'm suggesting that what we need today is not so much a new pastoral approach as a new kind of saint, an individual man or woman who can model for us practically what it means to live out the Gospel in a context of affluence and secularity. Why this? One of the lessons of history is that often genuine religious renewal, the type that actually reshapes the religious imagination, does not come from think-tanks, conferences, and church synods, but from graced individuals – saints, wild men and women who, like Saint Augustine, Saint Francis, Saint Clare, Saint Dominic, Saint Ignatius, or other such religious figures can reshape our religious imagination. They show us that the new lies elsewhere, that what needs fixing in the church will not be mended simply by patching the old. What's needed is a new religious and ecclesial imagination. Charles Taylor, in his highly-respected study of secularity, suggests that what we're undergoing today is not so much a crisis of faith as a crisis of imagination. No Christians before us have ever lived within this kind of world. What will this new kind of saint, this new St. Francis, look like? I honestly don't know. Neither, it seems, does anyone else. We have no answer yet, at least not one that's been able to bear much fruit in the mainstream culture. That's not surprising. The type of imagination that reshapes history isn't easily found. In the meantime we've come about as far as we can along the road that used to take us there, but which for many of our children no longer does. Here's our quandary: We're better at knowing what to do once we get people into a church than we are at knowing how to get them there. Why? Our weakness, I believe, lies not in our theological imagination where we have rich theological and biblical insights aplenty. What we lack are saints on the ground, men and women who, in a passion and fidelity that's at once radically faithful to God and fiercely empathic to our secular world, can incarnate their faith into a way of living that can show us, practically, how we can be poor and humble disciples of Jesus even as we walk in an affluent and highly secularized world. And such new persons will appear. We've been at this spot before in history and have always found our way forward. Every time the world believes it has buried Christ, the stone rolls back from the tomb; every time the cultural ethos declares that the churches are on an irrevocable downward slide, the Spirit intervenes and there's soon an about face; every time we despair, thinking that our age can no longer produce saints and prophets, some Augustine or Francis comes along and shows that our age, like times of old, can too produce its saints; and every time our imaginations run dry, as they have now, we find that our scriptures are still full of fresh insight. We may lack imagination, but we don't lack hope. Christ promised we will not be orphaned, and that promise is sure. God is still with us and our age will produce its own prophets and saints. What's asked of us in the moment is biblical patience, to wait on God. Christianity may look tired, tried, and spent to a culture within which affluence and sophistication are its current gods, but hope is already beginning to show its face: As secularization, with its affluence and sophistication, marches unswervingly forward we're already beginning to see a number of men and women who have found ways to become post-affluent and post-sophisticated. These will be the new religious leaders who will teach us, and our children, how to live as Christians in this new situation.

## Volunteer with CatholicCare Sydney

### Benefits of joining us:

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- Gain new skills and experiences
- Meet new friends and help support their growth
- Join a supportive and friendly team
- Get support for your professional development

To find out more, contact Jacqui Willoughby on **0424773658** or email [jacqui.willoughby@catholiccare.org](mailto:jacqui.willoughby@catholiccare.org)



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W: [www.catholiccare.org](http://www.catholiccare.org)



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W: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)



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