



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

'Master, grant that I may see' ... Mark 10

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. 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE- DUE TO UNI COMMITMENTS, LARISSA WILL BE AWAY FROM THE OFFICE FROM FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER AND RETURN ON FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER. THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE UNATTENDED ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS DURING THIS TIME, BUT YOU MAY LEAVE MESSAGES THAT WILL BE RESPONDED TO ASAP.

The Annual Catholic Mission Appeal is running this weekend. Envelopes are available.



This week, you're invited to partner with the Church in Mongolia to help deliver essential services to people who need it most. Lack of access and social stigma mean that some of the most vulnerable people are not getting the support they require.

The House of Mercy will provide a haven for many people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Without your partnership, people in need will go without the assistance they require.

During World Mission Sunday, we are called to "Invite others to the banquet", and we invite you to share the warmth of God's love with our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mongolia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/mongolia, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.

catholic mission Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/mongolia

SCAN ME



CWF November Parish Appeal

The next Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal will be held across the weekend 9th & 10th November. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney. Appeal envelopes are available in the Church Foyer. You can also make a donation and find out more at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel. In this Gospel, we find evidence of Jesus' fame in the sizable crowd that accompanies him as he journeys to Jerusalem. Jesus' reputation as a healer has preceded him. When the blind man, Bartimaeus, hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, he calls out to him, asking for his pity. When Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, the crowd around him tries to silence him. Yet Bartimaeus persists, calling out more loudly and with greater urgency. He will not be silenced or deterred from getting Jesus' attention. We notice how quickly the crowd's reaction changes when Jesus calls for Bartimaeus. Those who sought to quiet him now encourage him. When Jesus restores Bartimaeus's sight, no elaborate action is required. (In other healing stories in Mark's Gospel, actions accompany Jesus' words). In this instance, Jesus simply says that Bartimaeus's faith has saved him. Throughout Mark's Gospel, the success of Jesus' healing power has often been correlated with the faith of the person requesting Jesus' help. For example, it is because of her faith that the woman with the hemorrhage is healed. When faith is absent, Jesus is unable to heal; we see this after his rejection in Nazareth. Once his sight has been restored, Bartimaeus follows Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. In Mark's Gospel, Bartimaeus is the last disciple called by Jesus before he enters Jerusalem. Bartimaeus hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, but he calls out to Jesus using words of faith—"Son of David." Many in Jesus' time believed that the anticipated Jewish Messiah would be a descendent of King David. Bartimaeus's words prepare us for the final episodes of Mark's Gospel, which begin with Jesus' preparation for the Passover and his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As Mark has shown us in our readings over the past few Sundays, however, Jesus will be the Messiah in a way that will be difficult for many to accept. Jesus will show himself to be the Messiah through his suffering and death.

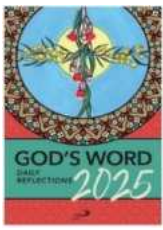
Family Connection: Today's Gospel offers us a powerful example of faith and persistence in prayer. Those around him rebuked Bartimaeus for his efforts to attract Jesus' attention. When silenced by the crowd, however, Bartimaeus called out all the more. He is persistent and bold in his confidence that Jesus will show mercy on him and do what he asks. His persistence and great confidence that Jesus would help him reminds us of the confidence with which our children bring to us their needs. In their faith and trust we can find an example of the attitude with which we might approach God in prayer. As a family, recall a request that has been made repeatedly by one family member to another. Talk about why the request continues to be made if the answer continues to be no. Then read together today's Gospel, Mark 10:46-52. After reading the Gospel, pose questions such as these to your family: Why must Bartimaeus be persistent in calling out to Jesus? (Some people in the crowd are telling him to be quiet.) What does Bartimaeus do when some try to stop him? (He calls out to Jesus all the more.) When Jesus stops and calls for him, what does Jesus do and say? (He restores Bartimaeus's sight; Jesus tells Bartimaeus his faith has saved him.) When we pray, God wants us to be so confident he will help us that we don't permit anyone to keep us from bringing our needs to God in prayer. Invite family members to identify the things they need most from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer your prayers. Respond to each petition. "Jesus. Son of David. have pity on us." Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father.

*During the month of November,
we remember those who have returned to the Father!*

FROM THIS WEEK WE INVITE ALL FAMILIES TO WRITE THE NAMES OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES IN THE BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE. THESE BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTENTIONS WILL BE SET UP ON A SPECIAL MEMORIAL ON THE SANCTUARY DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.

(NAMES CANNOT BE PRINTED IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN DUE TO THE LARGE VOLUME).

All Saints Day Friday 1st November - Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am
All Souls Day Saturday 2nd November - Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am



2025 Bible Diaries (limited stock) - To purchase a copy please write your name on a completed payment envelope in the Church Foyer.

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.

ORDERS CAN NOW BE COLLECTED FROM THE SACRISTY

Let us keep the HSC students and their families in our prayers during their final exams.

Prayer for HSC Students

Dear Lord, we ask for your blessing on our students that are preparing to undertake HSC Examinations over the coming weeks. Grant them the confidence they deserve from their years of diligent study. Grant them the ability to comprehend questions and effectively plan and articulate their responses. May they be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit Wisdom, Understanding, Fortitude and Knowledge. May their faith and piety give them the strength to face these examinations and the satisfaction of achieving their personal best. We ask these things though Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Some Advice on Prayer from an Old Master

By Ron Rolheiser

At the risk of being simplistic, I want to say something about prayer in a very simple way. While doing doctoral studies, I had a professor, an elderly Augustine priest, who in his demeanour, speech, and attitude, radiated wisdom and maturity. Everything about him bespoke integrity. You immediately trusted him, the wise old grandfather of storybooks. One day in class he spoke of his own prayer life. As with everything else he shared, there were no filters, only honesty and humility. I don't recall his exact words, but I remember well the essence of what he said and it has stayed with me for the nearly forty years since I had the privilege of being in his class. Here's what he shared: prayer isn't easy because we're always tired, distracted, busy, bored, and caught up in so many things that it's hard to find the time and energy to centre ourselves on God for some moments. So, this is what I do: no matter what my day is like, no matter what's on my mind, no matter what my distractions and temptations are, I am faithful to this: Once a day I pray the Our Father as best I can from where I am at that moment. Inside of everything that's going on inside me and around me that day, I pray the Our Father, asking God to hear me from inside of all the distractions and temptations that are besetting me. It's the best I can do. Maybe it's a bare minimum and I should do more and should try to concentrate harder, but at least I do that. And sometimes it's all I can do, but I do it every day, as best I can. It's the prayer Jesus told us to pray. His words might sound simplistic and minimalistic. Indeed, the church challenges us to make the Eucharist the centre of our prayer lives and to make a daily habit of meditation and private prayer. As well, many classical spiritual writers tell us that we should set aside an hour every day for private prayer, and many contemporary spiritual writers challenge us to daily practice centering prayer or some other form of contemplative prayer. Where does that leave our old Augustinian theologian and his counsel that we pray one sincere Our Father each day – as best we can? Well, none of this goes against what he so humbly shared. He would be the first to agree that the Eucharist should be the centre of our prayer lives, and he would agree as well with both the classical spiritual writers who advise an hour of private prayer a day, and the contemporary authors who challenge us to do some form of contemplative prayer daily, or at least habitually. But he would say this: at one of those times in the day (ideally at the Eucharist or while praying the Office of the Church but at least sometime during your day) when you're saying the Our Father, pray it with as much sincerity and focus as you can muster at the moment ("as best you can") and know that, no matter your distractions at the moment, it's what God is asking from you. And it's enough. His advice has stayed with me through the years and though I say a number of Our Fathers every day, I try, at least in one of them, to pray the Our Father as best I can, fully conscious of how badly I am doing it. What a challenge and what a consolation! The challenge is to pray an Our Father each day, as best we can. As we know, that prayer is deeply communitarian. Every petition in it is plural – "our", "we", "us" – there's no "I" in the Our Father. Moreover, all of us are priests from our baptism and inherent in the covenant we made then, we are asked daily to pray for others, for the world. For those who cannot participate in the Eucharist daily and for those who do not pray the Office of the Church, praying the Our Father is your Eucharistic prayer, your priestly prayer for others. And this is the consolation: none of us is divine. We're all incurably human which means that many times, perhaps most times, when we're trying to pray we'll find ourselves beset with everything from tiredness, to boredom, to impatience, to planning tomorrow's agenda, to sorting through the hurts of the day, to stewing about who we're angry at, to dealing with erotic fantasies. Our prayer seldom issues forth from a pure heart but normally from a very earthy one. But, and this is the point, its very earthiness is also its real honesty. Our restless, distracted heart is also our existential heart and is the existential heart of the world. When we pray from there, we are (as the classical definition of prayer would have it) lifting mind and heart to God. Try, each day, to pray one sincere Our Father! As best you can!

Trust in God's Call

(Young Catholics)

Jesus is heading to Jerusalem, knowing He will face rejection there. He has been talking about His coming sacrifice and the need to give everything for His mission. He also calls His disciples to do the same. Bartimaeus did not just gain his sight; he chose to follow Jesus. Bartimaeus has the faith and courage to leave his cloak and everything behind to follow Jesus. Jesus told Bartimaeus to go his way, but he chose to follow Jesus instead. This shows his complete trust and dedication. Bartimaeus teaches us to follow Jesus no matter the cost. On the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, we reflect on our own willingness to follow Jesus. Are we ready to leave behind our old ways and trust in Him fully? The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B readings remind us of God's love and mercy. They show us the importance of faith, compassion, and trust in God. As we reflect on these themes, let us open our hearts to God's healing and guidance.

Reflection Questions for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

- How do I see God's restoration in my life?
- What can I do to be more compassionate like Jesus?
- How does my faith help me in difficult times?
- Am I willing to leave behind my old ways to follow Jesus?
- How can I encourage others in their faith journey?
- In what ways do I trust God with my future?
- How can I show understanding and love to those around me?
- Do I persist in prayer like Bartimaeus did?
- How has my faith led to healing in my life?
- What steps can I take to follow Jesus more closely?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as you journeyed to Jerusalem, you knew the sacrifice that awaited you. Help us to follow your example of giving all for the mission. Grant us the courage to encourage others in their faith and to leave behind anything that holds us back. Like Bartimaeus, may we have the faith to follow you and start anew. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Robert Joseph Abood, Hamide Najjar, Dr Peter Hancock, Anthony Arditto, Wilfred D'Souza, Charlotte O'Brien, Monsignor John Usher, Helen Jewell, Melville Mendes, Slaiman Herro, Ken Wai Ken Lee, Sr Patricia Woodbury, Sr Frances Caine.
Repose of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Fr Mark Baird, Kevin Bouffler, Br Ray Dowding, Sr Audette Mansour, Francesco & Sarina 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, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Gerald Wilson, Lisa Cooke, Greg Doyle, Jim Bradbury, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Michael & Mary Cassar, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Antonio Sahyoun, Larry & Fernando Laurento, Saad Saad.
Anniversaries:	Margaret McGannon, Anthony Hayes, Gamini Perera, Monica Ryan, Paul Albert Sarks, John Quinlan, Ted Burton, Francis Doumit, Vito & Giuseppina Iannella, Donald Khoury, James Webb & Wajih Saliba, Lawrie Soares, Michael Hickey, Charlotte Bonaser, Charlotte Alam, Alfred Alam.
Sick Intentions:	Monsignor Kerry Bayada, Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Con Limnios, John Weitering, 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. Dorothy Harris.

ROSTER 2nd & 3rd November

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Yvonne Martins	Rachel Suriano	Andrew Bova
	Joanne Touma	Joseph Samarasinghe	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Daniel Martins	Helen Williamson	Helen Williamson
	Marianna Soo	Greg Glass	Merlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Lucas M.	Emilia T.	Volunteer Needed
	Peter T.	Jacob M.	Marcus V.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Archie S.	Elijah M.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Volunteer Needed	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari



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
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