



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

'Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off' ... Mark 9

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 protect them.



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.

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.**



**FR JOHN HAYES HAS TWO VERY SPECIAL DATES FAST APPROACHING.
HIS BIRTHDAY IS ON WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER & HIS
27TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION IS ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER.**



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 we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for their

argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today’s Gospel, the disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus’ name. John’s question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark’s Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John’s question is further evidence that the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus’ words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus’ name with others. Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal. The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus’ name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus’ name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus’ healing powers with others. Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes “stumbling” or “causing scandal.” In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

Family Connection: The second part of today’s Gospel contains a strong message for those who share the responsibility of fostering faith. It is indeed an awesome responsibility. Today’s Gospel reminds us that faith is a lifelong journey toward God. We don’t always get it all or even get it right. But we pray for the grace to acknowledge and build upon even the smallest signs of faith, in ourselves and in others. There are plenty of obstacles that might prevent the growth of faith. Let us pray that we are not contributing to the obstacles that might hinder another person’s faith in Jesus. As you gather as a family, observe that there are things in our lives that nurture our faith and things that can hinder it. Talk about some of the things that nurture our faith—healthy family relationships, healthy friendships, good literature, and so on. Name some of the things that might be an obstacle to faith—unhealthy relationships, scandals, and so on. Observe that Jesus teaches us in today’s Gospel that we are to do everything we can to help one another have faith in Jesus and do all that we can to avoid creating obstacles that might hinder another person’s faith. Read together today’s Gospel, Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48. Conclude by praying together that we will be a family that helps each other grow in faith. Pray together today’s psalm, Psalm 19, or the Lord’s Prayer.

Our Father,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Let us keep the HSC students and their families in our prayers during this time of preparation for the 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.

GOD WALKS WITH HIS PEOPLE.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Last 29 October marked the conclusion of the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. This session allowed us to deepen our understanding of synodality as part of the Church's fundamental vocation. "Synodality is mainly presented as a joint journey of the People of God and as a fruitful dialogue between the charisms and ministries at the service of the coming of the Kingdom" (Synthesis Report, Introduction). Emphasizing the synodal dimension allows the Church to rediscover its itinerant nature, as the People of God journeying through history on pilgrimage, "migrating", we could say, toward the Kingdom of Heaven (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 49). The biblical narrative of Exodus, depicting the Israelites on their way to the promised land, naturally comes to mind: a long journey from slavery to freedom prefiguring the Church's journey toward her final encounter with the Lord. Likewise, it is possible to see in the migrants of our time, as in those of every age, a living image of God's people on their way to the eternal homeland. Their journeys of hope remind us that "our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil 3:20). The images of the biblical exodus and of migrants share several similarities. Like the people of Israel in the time of Moses, migrants often flee from oppression, abuse, insecurity, discrimination, and lack of opportunities for development. Similar to the Jews in the desert, migrants encounter many obstacles in their path: they are tried by thirst and hunger; they are exhausted by toil and disease; they are tempted by despair. Yet the fundamental reality of the Exodus, of every exodus, is that God precedes and accompanies his people and all his children in every time and place. God's presence in the midst of the people is a certainty of salvation history: "The Lord your God goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you" (Deut 31:6). For the people who came out of Egypt, this presence manifested itself in different forms: a pillar of cloud and fire showing and illuminating the way (cf. Ex 13:21), the meeting tent that protected the ark of the covenant, making God's closeness tangible (cf. Ex 33:7), the pole with the bronze serpent assuring divine protection (cf. Nm 21:8-9), manna and water (cf. Ex 16-17) as God's gifts to the hungry and thirsty people. The tent is a form of presence especially dear to the Lord. During David's reign, God chose to dwell in a tent, not a temple, so that he could walk with his people, "from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling" (1 Chr 17:5). Many migrants experience God as their traveling companion, guide and anchor of salvation. They entrust themselves to him before setting out and seek him in times of need. In him, they find consolation in moments of discouragement. Thanks to him, there are good Samaritans along the way. In prayer, they confide their hopes to him. How many Bibles, copies of the Gospels, prayer books and rosaries accompany migrants on their journeys across deserts, rivers, seas and the borders of every continent! God not only walks with his people, but also within them, in the sense that he identifies himself with men and women on their journey through history, particularly with the least, the poor and the marginalized. In this we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation. For this reason, the encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, "is also an encounter with Christ. He himself said so. It is he who knocks on our door, hungry, thirsty, an outsider, naked, sick and imprisoned, asking to be met and assisted" (Homily, Mass with Participants in the "Free from Fear" Meeting, Sacrofano, 15 February 2019). The final judgment in Matthew 25 leaves no doubt: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (v. 35); and again "truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (v. 40). Every encounter along the way represents an opportunity to meet the Lord; it is an occasion charged with salvation, because Jesus is present in the sister or brother in need of our help. In this sense, the poor save us, because they enable us to encounter the face of the Lord (cf. Message for the Third World Day of the Poor, 17 November 2019).

Dear brothers and sisters, on this day dedicated to migrants and refugees, let us unite in prayer for all those who have had to leave their land in search of dignified living conditions. May we journey together with them, be "synodal" together, and entrust them, as well as the forthcoming Synod Assembly, "to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a sign of sure hope and consolation to the faithful People of God as they continue their journey" (XVI Ordinary General Assembly Synthesis Report: Proceeding Along the Journey).

Prayer

God, Almighty Father,

we are your pilgrim Church journeying towards the Kingdom of heaven.

We live in our homeland, but as if we were foreigners.

Every foreign place is our home, yet every native land is foreign to us.

Though we live on earth, our true citizenship is in heaven.

*Do not let us become possessive of the portion of the world
you have given us as a temporary home.*

*Help us to keep walking, together with our migrant brothers and sisters,
toward the eternal dwelling you have prepared for us.*

*Open our eyes and our hearts so that every encounter with those in need
becomes an encounter with Jesus, your Son and our Lord. Amen.*

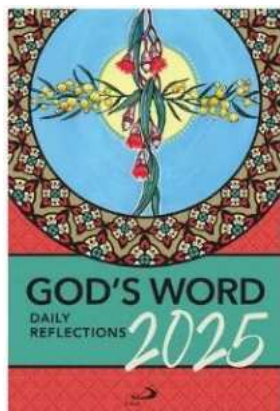
Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world. Pope Francis

October Rosaries - In Memory of Charlotte O'Brien.



Blessed Rosaries will be available in the Church foyer during the month of October. All donations will go directly to the Kids Helpline which is the charity chosen by Charlotte's

parents. Your support will be appreciated. Thank you to the Quan Family, founders of the Rosary Mission Group for generously providing the rosary beads to St Martha's so that we can support this worthy charity.



2025 Bible Diaries (limited stock only 40 copies left) - 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.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Charlotte O'Brien, Monsignor John Usher, Helen Jewell, Melville Mendes, Slaiman Herro, Ken Wai Ken Lee, Sr Patricia Woodbury, Sr Frances Caine, Adriena Lugo.
Rest 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:	Campbell Farrell, Antoinette Khattar, Thomas Raju, Gerald Wilson, 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.
Sick Intentions:	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, John Weitering, 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.

ROSTER 5th & 6th October

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Yvonne Martins	Relyn Aguinaldo	Andrew Bova
	Rick Herro	Joseph Samarasinghe	Stella Male Brown	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Daniel Martins	Emmanuel Nathan	Helen Williamson
	Marianna Soo	Greg Glass	Michael Quinlan	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Lucas M.	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed
	Collin A.	Jacob M.	Makini B.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Archie S.	Johari B.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Phil Robinson	Trudie Rogers	Volunteer Needed

