



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

'Your redemption is near at hand ... Luke 21

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

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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: elena.razzoli@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.

Happy New Liturgical Year C

Let's all encourage each other to enter the season of Advent with Joy and Hope!

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world.

This Advent help us slow down, listen to your voice and focus on what's really important.

We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth. Amen.

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, Wardens & Altar Servers

To assist with the preparation of rosters for the Christmas Masses would any parishioners who are on the regular rosters please volunteer if available. The Sign Up Sheets are now located in the Church Foyer.

Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

First Candle - The Candle of Hope

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

(A person lights the First Candle here)

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

2025 Bible Diaries

To purchase a copy please see Father John or Father Liem in the Sacristy after Mass. 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.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory. The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near. Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unending love for us in all circumstances. Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

Family Connection: In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. Many families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to here. We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education, or any number of other concerns. All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him, remaining vigilant for his return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations. Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives. As you gather as a family, recall the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Observe that today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year. During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth and at the end of time. Read today's Gospel, Luke 21:25-28,34-36. Jesus describes signs that may disturb many people, but he says that these should not disturb his disciples. Why? (because these signs indicate that redemption is near) What does Jesus say that his disciples should do? (Be vigilant and pray for strength.) At this start of the new Church year, consider as a family what "Advent resolutions" your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming. Pray together for God's help in following through on these resolutions.

PARISH APPEALS DURING 2024

We wish to express our gratitude for your generous contributions towards all the Church Appeals this year including Project Compassion, Priests' Retirement, Catholic Mission and 3 Charitable Works Fund Appeals. Through your donations these Charities will be able to continue their good work and accomplish their goals to assist those in need.

Please visit the Church Notice-Boards for upcoming events.

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

A variety of 2nd hand religious books located in the Church foyer for anyone to take home.
These books are FREE but a silver coin donation would be appreciated.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Weekend 7th & 8th December

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold its annual Christmas Appeal in this Parish on 7th and 8th December 2024. Envelopes on the seats can be placed in either collection. You can also give by QR Code to the Appeal's Fundraising Website which will issue you with a receipt in real time. The focus of this year's Appeal is the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis resulting in housing insecurity, homelessness, food stress and hunger, family breakdown, and increased physical and mental illness as people must choose between food or medical treatment. We frequently assist whole families living in crisis accommodation. St. Martha's Conference of Vinnies and those we serve would be most grateful for anything you can give to help. **Anthony Thurn, President Strathfield Conference.**

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Card packs are now available in the Church foyer - \$10 for a pack of 5 cards.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Paul Haddock, Ghadi Nakhoul, Maddalena Pardo, Backos Nohra, Jack Davey, Sr Moira O'Sullivan rsc, Robert Joseph Abood, Hamide Najjar.
Repose of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Fr Mark Baird, Elias & Julia Georges, Alfredo Pjanic, Kevin Bouffler, Br Ray Dowding, Sr Audette Mansour, Francesco & Sarina Campanale, Daniel Lucich, Charlotte O'Brien, Stefano, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Filomena Pagano, Giuseppe Pagano, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Caterina Guarnia, Frances 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 & Slaiman 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, Michael & Mary Cassar, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Winne Byrne, Saad Saad, Michael Issa.
Anniversaries:	John St George, Michael & Nollaig Donegan, Thomas Kenny, Roland George Peters, Ilham (Helen) Matta, Jack Dawson, James Brady, Mary Dinhv, John Hao Vu, Thomas Ho Vo, Dominic Van So Duong, Giuseppe Pagano, Kathleen & Frank Moynihan, Joseph Manning, Mr Raju, Elias Georges, Frances Doumit, Margaret, Vito & Giuseppina Iannella, Donald Khoury, James Webb & Wajih Saliba.
Sick Intentions:	Phil Robinson, Monsignor Kerry Bayada, Giuseppe Mazzaferro, 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. Emile & Foula Moubarak

We sincerely thank all those who have ministered for our parish for so many years. As parishioners move on and altar servers grow up, we are in need of more volunteers to join the regular roster, especially for the Sunday 6pm Mass.

The new roster commencing February 2025 will need to be finalised before the end of this year. Please advise the parish office of any changes or if you wish to join in these Ministries by 1st December. A gentle reminder also that it is essential that we follow guidelines set out by the Archdiocese. If you are an Acolyte; Reader; Eucharistic minister or in the Music Ministry you are required to sign in – (red folders are kept in the sacristy). The altar servers sign in folder is located in the side corridor.

7th & 8th December

	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Special Ministers	Lisa Dennis	Gina Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed
	Joanne Touma	Andri Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	Helen Blefari	Maria Yu	Helen Williamson	Owen Loney
	Marianna Soo	Robert Smith	Merlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	Grace T.	Mary Louise I.	Emilia T.	Volunteer Needed
	Peter T.	Ryan W.	Marcus V.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Dylan W	Elijah M.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

Reflection for the 1st Sunday of Advent

(Young Catholics)

The 1st Sunday of Advent Year C marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. The readings for this Sunday call us to watchfulness, prayer, love, holiness, and trust in God's promises.

Trusting in God's Promises

The 1st Sunday of Advent Year C invites us to trust in God's promises. In the first reading, Jeremiah speaks about God's promise to bring forth a righteous branch from David's line. This branch represents Jesus, who brings justice and righteousness. This promise shows us that God is faithful and keeps His word. Jeremiah's message is a source of hope. Even in difficult times, we can trust that God is working for our good. His promises give us strength and courage. When we feel uncertain or afraid, we can remember that God has a plan for us, just as He did for the people in Jeremiah's time. The theme of trusting in God's promises is also found in the Gospel reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C. Jesus tells us to stand up and lift our heads because our redemption is near. This means we should not be afraid but trust that God will fulfill His promises. Jesus will return, and we need to be ready. As we begin Advent, let's focus on trusting in God's promises. Are we placing our hope in Him? Are we confident that He will guide us and fulfill His word? By trusting in God's promises, we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus and find peace in His faithfulness.

Growing in Love and Holiness

The 1st Sunday of Advent Year C calls us to grow in love and holiness. In the second reading, Paul prays for the Thessalonians to increase in love and to live in holiness. This message is important as we begin Advent. We are called to love more and live better lives. Paul's prayer reminds us to focus on our relationships. Increasing in love means caring for others, helping those in need, and showing kindness. These actions reflect God's love in our lives. By loving more, we prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming. Living in holiness means following God's teachings. It means avoiding sin and striving to do what is right. Paul urges us to live in ways that please God. This can be challenging, but it is important for our spiritual growth. Holiness helps us to be ready for Jesus. As we start Advent, the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C encourages us to examine our lives. Are we growing in love? Are we living in holiness? By focusing on these themes, we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus and deepen our faith.

Watchfulness and Prayer

The 1st Sunday of Advent Year C reminds us to be watchful and prayerful. Jesus warns about signs in the sun, moon, and stars. These signs can seem scary, but Jesus tells us not to be afraid. Instead, we should stand tall because our redemption is near. This teaches us to be ready for Jesus' return. Being watchful means staying alert and paying attention to how we live. We should avoid things that distract us from God. Instead, we should focus on prayer and good deeds. Jesus calls us to live in a way that pleases God. This makes us ready for His coming. Prayer is a key theme in the readings for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C. Jesus urges us to pray for strength to face challenges. Prayer helps us stay connected to God and strong in our faith. It reminds us that we need God's help every day. By praying, we grow closer to Him and prepare our hearts for Jesus' return. As we begin Advent, the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C encourages us to reflect on our lives. Are we living in a way that honours God? Are we watchful and prayerful? By focusing on these themes, we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus and grow in our faith. The 1st Sunday of Advent Year C invites us to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming through trust, love, holiness, and vigilance. As we reflect on these themes, let us open our hearts to God's guidance and strive to live in a way that pleases Him. May this Advent season bring us closer to God and ready our hearts for the birth of Christ.

Reflection Questions for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C

1. How can I be more watchful and vigilant in my daily life?
2. What distractions do I need to avoid to stay focused on God?
3. How can I increase in love for those around me?
4. In what ways can I live a holier life that pleases God?
5. How can I strengthen my prayer life during Advent?
6. What does trusting in God's promises mean to me personally?
7. How can I find hope in God's promises during difficult times?
8. In what ways can I help others recognize the Kingdom of God?
9. How can I better prepare my heart for the coming of Jesus?
10. What steps can I take to deepen my faith this Advent season?

Prayer

Lord, help us to be watchful and prayerful, to grow in love and holiness, and to trust in Your promises. Guide us through this Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Amen.

