



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 say that I am king' ... John 18

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.



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

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

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.

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.

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.

Congratulations to the Candidates that received

THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION during the week

Thank you to Linda Praum, Sacramental Coordinator, teachers, helpers and parents for preparing the children.

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.

PRE-ORDERS CAN BE COLLECTED FROM THE SACRISTY AFTER ANY MASS



**Final
Stock!**

The 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.

Also just a reminder 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. Thank you.

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

We invite all families to write the names of departed loved ones in the book of remembrance. Mass Offering Envelopes are also available. (names cannot be printed in the Weekly Bulletin due to the large volume).

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year. On this Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Each year we set aside this Sunday to reflect upon this title that we have given to Jesus. In Lectionary Cycle C, we read a portion of the passion from the Gospel of John, which is also part of the Gospel reading proclaimed each year on Good Friday. In John's Gospel, Pilate is shown in a more favorable light than in the other Gospels. In today's reading, we hear one of two dialogues between Jesus and Pilate that are reported in John's Gospel. Pilate questions Jesus about the charges brought against him. Caiaphas and the high priests have charged Jesus with a political crime, one that would require a punishment of death. Pilate distances himself from the Jewish leaders who accuse Jesus; he is not a Jew, and he seems to want little to do with this Jewish affair. In his responses to Pilate's questions, Jesus distinguishes his kingdom from the political powers of this world. King and kingdom may be appropriate terms for Jesus' mission and promise, but only by analogy. Jesus is king, but not the kind of king we imagine or expect. He was certainly not the kind of king Pilate feared he might be. Jesus refers to a kingdom that does not belong to this world. This has been mentioned earlier in John's Gospel. Recall that in his prayer during the Last Supper discourse (see John 17:6-18), Jesus prayed for his disciples who are in the world but do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world's salvation. In today's reading, we see Jesus identify the final proof that his kingdom is not of this world: If his kingdom were of this world, then there would be people fighting to save him. Again we hear echoes of John's theme—salvation is worked out through a cosmic battle. It is helpful to return to the first chapter of John's Gospel to understand the context for Jesus' words to Pilate. Jesus came into the world, but the world did not know him. In John's language, the world prefers the darkness, and yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness. Truth has been another important theme in John's Gospel. We see it emphasized in the conclusion of the dialogue between Jesus and Pilate. Those who know the truth will recognize Jesus as king and will know how to interpret this insight. Yet Jesus' kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries. Only those chosen, those who have the eyes of faith, are able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we also struggle at times to recognize Jesus as king. Today's Gospel invites us to see with eyes of faith that we might recognize that Jesus, through his crucifixion and death, is indeed king and Savior of all.

Family Connection: Understanding today's feast of Christ the King may be particularly challenging. While most of us do not have direct experience with kings or royalty, we have a sense of who they are. We know that royalty have sovereignty over their kingdoms. We know that those who are subjects to royalty offer them allegiance and honor. To understand how Christ is our king, we extend and magnify what we know to be true of the best of human royalty. Christ's kingship extends to all places, all people, and all times. Christ manifests his kingship through his death on the cross in which he offered salvation to everyone. Those who can see with eyes of faith recognize Jesus to be our heavenly king. As you gather as a family, recall that this Sunday is the last Sunday in the Church year and on this Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Talk together about what it means to be a king or queen. How do those who are subjects behave toward royalty? Invite children to role-play what one does in the presence of royalty. Read today's Gospel, John 18:33b-37. Ask your family to discuss these questions: Does Pilate treat Jesus like royalty? (No.) What does Jesus say about his kingdom? (It is not of this world.) Talk about how your family shows honor and obedience to Christ our King. Pray together the Lord's Prayer and ask God to help your family act in ways that show you recognize and honor Christ as King.

Please visit the Church Notice-Boards for upcoming events.

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.

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.

The Parish wishes to sincerely thank the Catechists of St Martha's for their generous commitment to teaching Special Religious Education to the children in the State schools during 2024. A very special thank you to Lorraine Kazzi for her coordination and assistance.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	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, Stefano, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Filomena Pagano, Matteo & Caterina Genova, 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, Antonio Sahyoun, Larry & Fernando Laurento, Saad Saad, Thomas Cahill, Mary Marrins, Patrick Marrins, Michael Issa.
Anniversaries:	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, Thomas Kenny, 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

ROSTER 30th November / 1st December

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Yvonne Martins	Volunteer Needed	Andrew Bova
	Beatrice Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Donald Bonett	Daniel Martins	Anne Marrins	Helen Williamson
	Helen Blefari	Greg Glass	Steve Doumit	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marissa B.	Lucas M.	Jay L.	Volunteer Needed
	Olivia B.	Jacob M.	Jarvis L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Archie S.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Volunteer Needed	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

The kingship of Jesus is completely different than that of the world: He did not come to dominate but to serve. He did not come amid signs of power, but with the power of signs. He is not like other kings, but he is King for the others... Pope Francis

The Solemnity of Christ the King Year B is a time to reflect on Jesus' kingship and His eternal rule. Through the readings from Daniel, Revelation, and the Gospel, we are reminded of Jesus' unique kingship that differs from earthly rulers.

THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF CHRIST

The Solemnity of Christ the King Year B helps us understand Jesus' eternal rule. In the first reading from Daniel 7:13-14, we see a vision of "one like a Son of man" coming with the clouds of heaven. This figure receives all authority, glory, and a kingdom that will never end. This vision points to Jesus and His eternal kingship. Jesus' kingdom is different from any earthly kingdom. Earthly kings come and go, but Jesus' rule is everlasting. He has all power and authority given by God. His kingdom is one of peace, justice, and love that will never fade away. Daniel's vision shows all people, nations, and languages serving Jesus. This universal reign of Christ includes everyone. Jesus invites all of us into His kingdom, regardless of our background. His kingship is for everyone who believes and follows Him. The Solemnity of Christ the King Year B reminds us of the hope we have in Jesus' eternal kingdom. Unlike earthly kings who take and rule by power, Jesus rules with love and service. His kingdom is eternal and unshakable. We can find true peace and joy by being part of His everlasting kingdom.

CHRIST, THE FAITHFUL WITNESS AND ETERNAL KING

The Solemnity of Christ the King Year B reminds us of Jesus' ultimate authority and love. In the second reading from Revelation 1:5-8, Jesus is called the "faithful witness," the "firstborn from the dead," and the "ruler of the kings of the earth." These titles show His power and His role as our King and Saviour. Jesus' faithfulness is central to His kingship. He came to testify to the truth and to show us the way to God. By His death and resurrection, He freed us from our sins and opened the path to eternal life. His sacrifice is a clear sign of His love and commitment to us. As the ruler of the kings of the earth, Jesus has authority over all creation. His kingdom is not limited by time or space. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. His eternal reign brings hope and security, knowing that He is in control. The reading from Revelation reminds us that Jesus will come again in glory. Every eye will see Him, and all will recognize His kingship. This promise encourages us to remain faithful and to live according to His teachings. The Solemnity of Christ the King Year B calls us to honour Jesus as our King. His love, sacrifice, and authority are unmatched. By following Him, we become part of His eternal kingdom, where true peace and joy are found.

THE TRUE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST

The Gospel shows Pilate judging Jesus by the world's standards. We often judge others the same way. We look at their clothes, status, and actions. This reveals what we think is important. Pilate saw kingship as earthly power and control. When the Israelites asked for a king, God warned them of the heavy burdens a human king would bring. Worldly kings take from their people and rule through fear and power. They demand service and take what they want. Jesus' kingship is different. He gives rather than takes. At the Last Supper, Jesus washed His disciples' feet, showing that true kingship means serving others. Jesus does not seek to be served, but to serve. He is humble and preaches truth, not manipulating through fear. Christ the King does not need human respect. His humility is a model for us. Imagine how free we would be if we were like Him, motivated only by our relationship with God. We would seek to please the Father above all else. The Solemnity of Christ the King Year B calls us to see Jesus' kingship clearly. He is a king who serves and loves us. Following His example leads us to true freedom and joy. The Solemnity of Christ the King Year B brings us to reflect on the unique kingship of Jesus. Through the readings, we see His eternal kingdom, His role as the faithful witness, and His call to humble service. By embracing Jesus as our King, we enter into a kingdom of peace, love, and eternal joy.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, King of kings, help us to follow Your example of humble service. Guide us to live in Your truth and love. May we always seek to serve others and honour You as our eternal King. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING YEAR B

1. How does the vision in Daniel 7:13-14 help you understand Jesus' eternal kingship?
2. In what ways is Jesus' kingdom different from earthly kingdoms?
3. How can you live out the values of Jesus' kingdom in your daily life?
4. What does it mean for you that Jesus is the "faithful witness"?
5. How does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross show His kingship?
6. What hope do you find in knowing Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega?
7. How can you prepare for Jesus' return in glory?
8. In what ways can you serve others as Jesus served His disciples?
9. How does Jesus' humility challenge your own attitudes and actions?
10. How can recognizing Jesus as King bring peace and joy to your life?