



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

'What, then, must we do?'... Luke 3

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 Playgroup Christmas Party Monday 16th December from 8.50am in the upstairs school hall. Entry via the School Office.

(see [noticeboard](#) for more details)

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.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be held at 6.00pm on Monday 23rd December.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Monday 23 rd December	6.00pm	2 nd Rite of Reconciliation
Tuesday 24 th December	9.10am	Morning Mass
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Children's Christmas Vigil Mass
	11.15pm	Carols
	12.00am	Christmas Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25 th December Christmas Day Public Holiday	8.00am	Christmas Mass
	10.00am	Christmas Mass (there will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day)
Thursday 26 th December Boxing Day	9.10am	Mass - Feast of St Stephen
Wednesday 1 st January New Year's Day	9.10am	Mass - The Solemnity of Mary



Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

Third Candle - The Candle of Love

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the Candles of Hope and Peace. We light them again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

(A person lights the Candles of Hope & Peace)

Today we light the third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show Gods love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love here)

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

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Altar Servers

More Volunteers are **URGENTLY NEEDED** – if you are attending the Christmas Masses and are already on the regular roster could you please consider assisting by writing your details on the sheets in the Church foyer or contact Helen Williamson on 0408 970 120.

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

	5PM VIGIL	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
Special Ministers	Grace Herro	Maria Soares	Marian McCluskey	Volunteer Needed
	Rick Herro	Theresa Kuk	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
		Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	5PM VIGIL	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
Readers	Maria Soo	Natalie Baini	Greg Glass	Helen Williamson
	Lisa Dennis	Mark Soares	Elizabeth Gomez	Rachel Suriano
	5PM VIGIL	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
Altar Servers	Emilio A	Lincoln M.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Hayden M.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
Wardens	Edith Pun	Theresa Kuk	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers
	Georgette Sahyoun	Anton De Almaida		

A GIFT CARD WAS FOUND AFTER MASS ON SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER. PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU ARE THE OWNER.

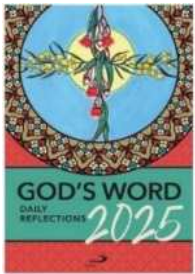
Christmas Offering Envelopes are now Available at the Church Entrances

On Friday we celebrated the closing school Mass and farewelled our Year 6 Students who are heading off to high school along with some of our Year 4 Boys who are moving to other schools to finish their primary education next year. Although they are moving on, may they always feel welcome at St Martha's. We extend our congratulations and best wishes and ask everyone to keep them in your prayers over the holiday period. May God continue to guide them on their faith journey.

Congratulations to SIENNA BONETT & HOLLY CHAN

on receiving the St Martha's Parish Award for 2024, in recognition of their outstanding service to our Church and Parish Community.

The Christmas Eve Children's Mass – Practise for children's songs and roles in the Christmas Eve Mass will be held on Monday 23rd December at 3pm. All children may participate in this Mass by coming along dressed as either an Angel or a Shepherd. Children will need to supply their own costume. The specific roles of Mary, Joseph, the Three Wise Men, Readers and Offertory Procession will be allocated by Fr John. More information will be made available over the coming weeks.



2025 Bible Diaries (only 7 copies left)

Final stock is available to purchase 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.

**Final
Stock!**

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles. In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel. When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Family Connection: The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation. As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent. Sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or pray together today's second reading, Philippians 4:4-7, as you light the third candle on your Advent wreath.



We extend our Congratulations to Dr Damian John Gleeson in recognition of his latest achievement graduating as Doctor of Philosophy at the University of New England and receiving his Diploma last Saturday.

Columban Calendars and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards (packs of 5) are now available in the Church foyer - \$10 each.

Please visit the Church Notice-Boards for upcoming events.

St Martha's Christmas Piety Stall

Items are available to purchase in the Church Foyer. Cash Payments only.

 <p>Devotional Christmas Candle</p> <p>(2 styles)</p> <p>\$10 each</p>	 <p>Glow in the dark Mary & Infant Jesus & Snow Globes</p> <p>\$3 each</p>	 <p>Acrylic Nativity Tree Ornament</p> <p>\$3 each</p>  <p>Up Nativity Scene</p> <p>\$2 each</p>
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Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Phil Robinson, Christine Moses, Alosiya Edirmanasinghe, Catherine Ta Thi Trinh, Doris Borg, Paul Haddock, Ghadi Nakhoul, Maddalena Pardo, Backos Nohra.
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, Rosalie Quito-an, Sylvia Tagalog, Winne Byrne, Saad Saad, Michael Issa, Gertrude Adelaide Daley, Dorothy & Carl Butler, Harold Bryan Smith, Joseph Sellathamboo, Teresa Moses.
Anniversaries:	Gerald Gleeson Snr, Norma McMillan, Rose Russo, Elisa, Patrick & Mereani Chang, Ethan Yan, Emily Mattar, Charles & Daniel Borg, Yang So Wong, Stella Yih Juan Lim, 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, Jose Buan Jr.
Sick Intentions:	Phil Robinson, Monsignor Kerry Bayada, Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Ann Cincotta-Tangey, 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

21st & 22nd December

	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Special Ministers	Peter McCluskey	Georgette Sahyoun	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Marian McCluskey	Peter Yamin	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	Lisa Dennis	Paulina Roncevic	Elias Family	Andrew Chasle
	Patricia Saad	Robert Smith	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	Celeste S.	Mary Louise I.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Thomas S.	Ryan W.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff C.	Dylan W	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Matthew Z.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	Edith Pun	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

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.

The New February to August Roster is now available from the side entrance of the Church and on the parish website.

 <p>Beyond Blue P: 1300 22 4636 W: www.beyondblue.org.au</p>	 <p>CatholicCare CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney P: 13 18 19 W: www.catholiccare.org</p>	 <p>Call 1800 55 1800</p>	 <p>Lifeline Saving Lives Crisis Support, Suicide Prevention. Lifeline P: 13 11 14 W: www.lifeline.org.au</p>	 <p>1800RESPECT NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE 1800RESPECT P: 1800 737 732 W: www.1800respect.org.au</p>
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