



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

'Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the Mother of the Lord?'... Luke 1

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: 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.



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the death of Phillip Arthur Robinson who died peacefully on Friday 13th December. A Requiem Mass will be at St Martha's at 9.30am on Monday 23rd December followed by interment at Rookwood Catholic Cemetery.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace.

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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	8.00am	Christmas Mass
Christmas Day		
Public Holiday	10.00am	Christmas Mass (there will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day)
Thursday 26 th December	9.10am	Mass - Feast of St Stephen
Boxing Day		
Wednesday 1 st January	9.10am	Mass - The Solemnity of Mary
New Year's Day		

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.

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

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

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 Offering Envelopes are now Available at the Church Entrances

Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

Fourth 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, Peace and Joy. We light them again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

(A person lights the Candles of Hope, Peace & Joy)

Today we light the fourth 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 Fourth 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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS & JANUARY

MONDAY 23 rd DECEMBER	TUESDAY 24 th DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 25 th DECEMBER	THURSDAY 26 th DECEMBER	FRIDAY 27 th DECEMBER
LARISSA 9AM-3PM	NICOLLE 9AM - 5PM	CHRISTMAS DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	BOXING DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	LARISSA 9AM - 3PM
MONDAY 30 th DECEMBER	TUESDAY 31 st DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 1 st JANUARY	THURSDAY 2 nd JANUARY	FRIDAY 3 rd JANUARY
NICOLLE 9AM - 5PM	NEW YEAR'S EVE	NEW YEAR'S DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	NICOLLE 9AM - 5PM	LARISSA 9AM - 3PM
MONDAY 6 th JANUARY	TUESDAY 7 th JANUARY	WEDNESDAY 8 th JANUARY	THURSDAY 9 th JANUARY	FRIDAY 10 th JANUARY
LARISSA 9AM - 3PM			LARISSA 9AM - 3PM	LARISSA 9AM - 3PM
MONDAY 13 th JANUARY	TUESDAY 14 th JANUARY	WEDNESDAY 15 th JANUARY	THURSDAY 16 th JANUARY	FRIDAY 17 th JANUARY
LARISSA 9AM - 3PM			LARISSA 9AM - 3PM	LARISSA 9AM - 3PM
MONDAY 20 th JANUARY	TUESDAY 21 st JANUARY	WEDNESDAY 22 nd JANUARY	THURSDAY 23 rd JANUARY	FRIDAY 24 th JANUARY
LARISSA 9AM - 3PM			LARISSA 9AM - 3PM	LARISSA 9AM - 3PM
MONDAY 27 th JANUARY	TUESDAY 28 th JANUARY	WEDNESDAY 29 th JANUARY	THURSDAY 30 th JANUARY	FRIDAY 31 st JANUARY
AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	NICOLLE 9AM - 5PM		NICOLLE 9AM - 5PM	

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah. Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy. It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

Family Connection: In the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth described in today's Gospel, we learn that other people can help us recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Mary traveled to see Elizabeth because Elizabeth's pregnancy was a sign that everything the angel told Mary would truly happen. Elizabeth recognized Mary as the mother of her Lord because her unborn child, John the Baptist, leapt at the sound of Mary's greeting. Elizabeth and Mary rejoiced together at the wonderful things God was doing in their lives. We too are blessed when we have people who help us recognize God's action in our lives. We pray that our family can be this for one another. As you gather as a family, work together on a word search or hidden-picture puzzle. Help one another until everyone has found each of the words or pictures in the puzzle. Talk about this experience, noticing how some people found words or pictures more easily than others and how easy it was to see the word or picture once someone else pointed it out. Observe that sometimes we need the help of others to recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:39-45. Ask: What did Elizabeth recognize about Mary? (that she was to be the mother of Jesus, the Lord) How did Elizabeth know this? (Her baby, John the Baptist, leapt with joy at Mary's greeting) Pray together that as we share our faith together as a family, we may help one another recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Pray together the Hail Mary.

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>Baby Jesus in Crib (resin figurine) \$5 each</p> 		<p>Acrylic Nativity Tree Ornament \$3 each</p> <p>Up Nativity Scene \$2 each</p> 
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Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Phil Robinson, Warren Stephens, Christine Moses, Alosiya Edirmanasinghe, Catherine Ta Thi Trinh, Doris Borg, Paul Haddock, Ghadi Nakhoul, Maddalena Pardo, Backos Nohra.
Rest 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, Margaret Hetherton, Mabel Doyle, Greg Doyle & Jim Bradbury, John, Pauline & Katherine Murphy.
Anniversaries:	Gerald Gleeson Snr, George Bugeja, Des McNamara, Monica Ryan, Tori Johnson & Katrina Dawson, Beryl Erskine, Norma McMillan, Rose Russo, Elisa, Patrick & Mereani Chang, Ethan Yan, Emily Mattar, Charles & Daniel Borg, Yang So Wong, Stella Yih Jiu-an Lim, John St George, Michael & Nollaig Donegan, Thomas Kenny, Kathleen & Frank Moynihan, Joseph Manning, Mr Raju, Elias Georges, Jose Buan Jr.
Sick Intentions:	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. Kathy, Zoe & Max Stephens.

28th & 29th December

IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Joseph Samarasinghe	Anne Marrins	Mary L'Estrange
	Tandiono Family	Volunteer Needed	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Baini	Volunteer Needed	Mark Soares	Helen Williamson
	Marianna Soo	Greg Glass	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lincoln M.	Volunteer Needed	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
	Hayden M.	Volunteer Needed	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Beatrice L.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Volunteer Needed	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari

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.



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 Saving Lives
Crisis Support, Suicide Prevention.
Lifeline
P: 13 11 14
W: www.lifeline.org.au



1800RESPECT
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE
1800RESPECT
P: 1800 737 732
W: www.1800respect.org.au