



# 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](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Friday) [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson & Helen Williamson [safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au](mailto: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

**'All people shall see the salvation of God... Luke 3**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

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Email: [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Website: [www.stmarthas.org.au](http://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](mailto: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

1<sup>st</sup> 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:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

# **2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation will be held at 6.00pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.**

## **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal Weekend 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold its annual Christmas Appeal in this Parish This weekend. 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.**

**Columban Calendars and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Card packs are now available in the Church foyer - \$10**

### **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.

**The Christmas Eve Children's Mass** - Plans are underway for school aged children to take part and 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.

### **Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles**

#### **Second Candle - The Candle of Peace**

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

**All:** Thanks be to God.

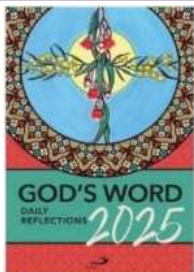
**Leader:** Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of Hope.

Today we light the Second Candle, the Candle of Peace. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace." He told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

**(A person lights the Second Candle here)**

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.



#### **2025 Bible Diaries (only 7 copies left)**

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.

**Final Stock!**

**FREE! FREE! FREE!** - Packs of non-religious Christmas Cards are available in the Church Foyer. A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

**Please visit the Church Notice-Boards for upcoming events.**

**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation. The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3. The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry. In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

**Family Connection:** During the season of Advent, we choose to add many activities to our family's schedule to prepare for our celebration of Christmas. John the Baptist reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out this sacrament on an individual basis. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Talk about how John the Baptist called upon the people to prepare the way of the Lord through repentance. Together as a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas. Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around the family Advent wreath. Read again from today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive his or her sins. Pray together the Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing the sign of peace with one another.

### Mass Intentions

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Catherine Ta Thi Trinh, Doris Borg, Paul Haddock, Ghadi Nakhoul, Maddalena Pardo, Backos Nohra.
<b>Repose of The Soul:</b>	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,
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	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.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	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.
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Emile & Foula Moubarak

*Remembering someone with a Mass Intention honours them in a unique way – surrounding them with the warmth of God's love. A Mass may be offered for the living or deceased, for a Birthday, Anniversary, for somebody who is ill, or for a special intention. Mass Intention envelopes are available at the Church Entrances. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange*

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

*Reflection for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Young Catholics)*

The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Through the readings, we are invited to reflect on themes of joyful return, partnership in the gospel, and clearing the path for Jesus. These reflections guide us in our spiritual journey, encouraging us to remove obstacles, grow in faith, and support one another.

### *Returning to Joy and Hope*

On the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C, the first reading from the book of Baruch speaks of a joyful return to God. Baruch invites the people to take off their garments of sorrow and put on the beauty of God's glory. This symbolizes a transformation from despair to hope. It reminds us that God is always ready to restore us, no matter how far we have strayed. Baruch speaks of God leading His people back with mercy and justice. This journey back to God is not just a physical return but a spiritual one. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we are called to examine our hearts and return to God with joy and trust. This theme of restoration is central to the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C, emphasizing that Advent is a time for spiritual renewal and hope. God promises to make the path smooth and fill the valleys, making the journey easier. This imagery shows that God removes the obstacles that hinder our return to Him. As we reflect on this reading, we can be encouraged that no matter the mountains or valleys in our lives, God is ready to help us overcome them. The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C reminds us of God's faithfulness and His desire to bring us back to Him in joy and hope.

### *Joyful Partnership in the Gospel*

The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C offers a message of joyful partnership from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul begins by thanking God for the Philippians' faith and their partnership in spreading the gospel. This gratitude is a reminder of the joy that comes from working together in faith. It shows that our journey towards God is not meant to be walked alone but with the support and encouragement of others. Paul expresses confidence that God, who began a good work in the Philippians, will bring it to completion. This assurance can comfort us, reminding us that God is always at work in our lives. Even when we face challenges, we can trust that God is guiding us and helping us grow in faith. This theme is essential for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C, as we reflect on how we can allow God's work to continue in our hearts. Paul's prayer for the Philippians is that their love may abound more and more, filled with knowledge and insight. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we too should pray for growth in love and understanding. This prayer encourages us to deepen our relationships with others and with God. The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C calls us to be active partners in the gospel, supporting one another and growing in faith and love.

### *Clearing the Path for Christ*

The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C invites us to prepare our hearts for Jesus. In the Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to make our paths straight, which means removing anything that stands between us and God. We all face different challenges, such as pride or comfort, which can hinder our spiritual journey. This Advent, we are called to address these obstacles and make room for the Lord. John the Baptist's message was compelling because people were overwhelmed by the difficulties of their time. He offered them hope by announcing that change was coming and they needed to be ready. This preparation wasn't passive; it required active effort. John's call to baptism was a call to leave behind old habits and prepare for something new. It was about transforming their hearts and lives to welcome Jesus. As Christians, we share in the prophetic mission through our baptism. John the Baptist proclaimed God's work, and we are also called to reveal God through our lives. Our actions and words should reflect our faith and help others encounter Jesus. However, to do this effectively, we must first confront and overcome our own obstacles. The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C reminds us that by actively preparing our hearts and lives, we can better guide others towards Christ. The reflections for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C encourage us to prepare for Christ's coming with joyful hearts, mutual support, and clear paths. Each reading brings a unique perspective, reminding us of God's faithfulness, the importance of community, and the need for personal transformation. As we journey through Advent, let these reflections inspire us to grow in faith and love, drawing closer to God and each other.

### *Prayer*

*Lord, help us prepare our hearts for Your coming. Guide us to remove obstacles that keep us from You.  
Strengthen our love and faith as we journey together. Amen.*

### *Reflection Questions for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C*

- What obstacles in your life need to be removed to prepare for Jesus?
- How can you help others in their spiritual journey?
- What does it mean to you to "put on the beauty of God's glory"?
- How can you grow in love and knowledge this Advent?
- What are some practical steps you can take to support your faith community?
- How can you actively prepare your heart for Christ's coming?
- In what ways can you reflect God's work in your daily life?
- What mountains or valleys are you facing, and how can you overcome them?
- How does the assurance of God completing His good work in you give you hope?
- What changes can you make in your life to better reveal Christ to others?



Beyond Blue  
P: 1300 22 4636  
W: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)



CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney  
P: 13 18 19  
W: [www.catholiccare.org](http://www.catholiccare.org)



Call 1800 55 1800



Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

Lifeline  
P: 13 11 14  
W: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)



NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

1800RESPECT  
P: 1800 737 732  
W: [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)