



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

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

'Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!'... Luke 6

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 Fax: 9746 3040

Email: office@stmarthas.org.au

Website: www.stmarthas.org.au

Parish Office Hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9.00am-5.00pm



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.



JUBILEUM 2025

Resources and copies of the Decree on the Proclamation of Places of Pilgrimage in the Archdiocese of Sydney on the occasion of the Jubilee Year of Our Lord 2025 are available to take home in Church Foyer.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Last Sunday we heard Jesus call Peter to be his disciple. Jesus then travels with Peter and the other disciples. Luke reports acts of healing (a person with leprosy and a paralytic man) and the call of Levi, the tax collector. Jesus also replies to questions from the Pharisees regarding fasting and the observance of the Sabbath. In the verses immediately before today's gospel reading, Jesus is reported to have chosen 12 men from among his disciples to be apostles. Apostle is a Greek word that means "one who is sent." Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in Matthew 5:1-7,11 that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these gospel readings. When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us. Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the Beatitudes in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel—Luke uses the article "you" whereas Matthew uses "they" or "those." There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning. The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God. The word blessed in this context might be translated as "happy," "fortunate," or "favored." As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of "woes," those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation . . . these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness. The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God.

Family Connection: Today's Gospel offers a contrast to many of the messages we hear in our society today. If we were to accept uncritically the "get ahead" messages of our culture, we would think that happiness means having money, being successful, and having many possessions. In this way, we are not unlike the people who heard Jesus teach on the day that he taught the Beatitudes. They too associated happiness with possessions and success. The report of the Beatitudes in Luke's Gospel, however, takes things one step further. Not only will we not find happiness through the "get ahead" messages of the world, but relying upon these messages will cause us harm. The warnings spoken are particularly challenging because they suggest that our way of life must change if we are to gain the lasting happiness of eternal life. Talk together as a family about what society tells us makes a person successful. Make a list of the traits that you associate with a successful person. Then read together today's Gospel, Luke 6:17,20-26. Reflect on Jesus' description of blessedness in the Kingdom of God. Then consider the warnings. Why are these surprising and challenging? What, then, is the measure of success in the Kingdom of God? Together write prayers of petition based on your discussion. Pray these prayers together, asking God to help your family seek the blessings of the Kingdom of God.

LENT 2025

**THE SEASON OF LENT COMMENCES ON
WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH.**

ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE.

Mass Times & the Distribution of Ashes

7.00am, 9.10am, 11.40am (School Mass) & 6.30pm

Readers, Special Ministers, Acolytes & Altar Servers are needed for each Mass.

The sign-up sheet is in the Church Foyer.



2025 LENTEN PROGRAM (Wollongong Diocese Resource)

The program will commence on Monday 3rd March in the Church from 10.30am to 11.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend (booklets are \$10).

A Call for Catechists We are in need of additional Catechists to teach scripture at Homebush Public School. Classes are on Wednesday from 11:15 to 12pm. All training will be provided. Please contact Lorraine Kazzi if you are interested on 0400 505 205.

Continue the Marist Spirit at St Patricks - Sunday February 23 - We invite you to be part of an important conversation on how we can continue the Marist Spirit in St Patricks Church Hill community. With the Marist Fathers set to leave St Patrick's in December 2025 after 157 years, this is an opportunity to reflect on their legacy and explore ways to develop the Marist spirit. Join us for a discussion led by Marist Laity Australia as we discern the future of the Marist presence at St Patrick's. Time 10am to 11am in the Crypt of St Patrick's Church Hill. All are welcome! For more information - www.maristlaityaustralia.com

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Paul Pickering, Mary Henry, John Butcher, Ann Hoban, Michael Seuy Peng Ng, Paul Pickering, Peter Harrington.
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 & 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, Margaret Raeburn, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Gerald Wilson, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, James Webb & Wajih Saliba.
Anniversaries:	Mrs Raju, Maureen Sarks, Margaret McGannon, Richard Sullivan, John Tandiono, Grace Hunt, Mark Kelly, Dorothy Harris, Elizabeth Keating, Sandor Toth, Maureen & Edmund Duggan, Eliana Barnes, Anne Russo, Harry Russo, Elias Aslan, Antonio Iannella, Dower family, Daniel Dillon.
Sick Intentions:	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Ann Cincotta-Tangey, Margaret Harrington, Mark Samaha, John Weitering, Willie Quan, John Hay, Ajith Antony, 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, Joanna Jo, Simon Alam, Rosanne Sukkar, Henry D'Souza, Danielle Fabien.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Jonathan Fernandes and family.

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 Entrance.

If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this.

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

22 nd & 23 rd February				
IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Yvonne Martins	Relyn Aguinaldo	Mary L'Estrange
	Rick Herro	Joseph Samarasinghe	Helen Williamson	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Daniel Martins	Michael Quinlan	Theresa Kuk
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Jacob M.	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed
	Collin A.	Volunteer Needed	Emilia T.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Abboud Baladi	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk

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

Reflection for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

(Young Catholics)

The readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C focus on themes of trust, resurrection, and true happiness. Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus each offer insights into how we should live our lives in faith. These reflections explore what it means to trust in God, the hope found in Jesus' resurrection, and the blessings and woes of our earthly lives.

Trusting in God's Strength - Jeremiah, in the reading for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, warns us against trusting in human strength. He compares those who trust in humans to a shrub in the desert, dry and struggling to survive. This shows that relying on ourselves or others can leave us feeling empty and lost. Instead, Jeremiah calls us to trust in God. Those who trust in God are like a tree planted by water, always green and fruitful. This image helps us understand that God's support brings life and strength. Trusting in God means turning to Him in all situations. It means praying and seeking His guidance. The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C reminds us that true happiness comes from relying on God, not on our own abilities.

Hope in the Resurrection - In 1 Corinthians, Paul talks about the resurrection of Jesus. He explains that our faith is built on the truth that Jesus rose from the dead. Without the resurrection, our faith is useless, and we have no hope. Paul's message in the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C shows us that the resurrection is central to our faith. It gives us hope for eternal life with Jesus. This hope helps us face difficulties and challenges with confidence. Believing in the resurrection means trusting that Jesus conquered death. It means having faith that we too will have eternal life. The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C teaches us to hold on to this hope and live with joy, knowing that Jesus is alive.

Blessings and Woes - The readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C talk about blessings and woes. Jeremiah speaks about blessings for those who trust in God and curses for those who trust in humans. These verses remind us to seek blessings through faith in God. Jesus, in the Gospel, talks about the blessings of the poor and hungry. He contrasts their future joy with the sorrow of the rich and satisfied. Jesus warns those who are comfortable now that their happiness is temporary. This message teaches us to look for true happiness in God. It reminds us that worldly comforts are not lasting. The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C encourages us to trust in God and seek His blessings, knowing that He cares for those in need.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean to trust in God's strength in your daily life?
2. How can you rely less on human strength and more on God?
3. Why is the resurrection of Jesus central to your faith?
4. How does the hope of eternal life with Jesus affect your perspective on challenges?
5. In what ways can you seek blessings through faith in God?
6. How do Jesus' teachings about the poor and hungry inspire you?
7. What temporary comforts might you be relying on instead of God?
8. How can you find true happiness in God rather than in worldly things?
9. What steps can you take to deepen your trust in God?
10. How can you share the hope of the resurrection with others?

JUBILEE
OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES,
GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY
PILGRIMAGE

DATES
24 May 2025 - 2 June 2025

COST
\$4990 per person
(indicative land cost)

REGISTRATION
Closes 7 March 2025

INCLUDES
Accommodation at Domus
Tours of Basilicas & Vatican
Museums
Pilgrimage to Assisi
Papal Audience
Mass at the Basilica of St Paul
Visit to the Catacombs
Participation in Jubilee Rites
Mass with the Holy Father

BOOK HERE:

Accompanied by
Bishop Danny Meagher
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of
Sydney

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys

All babies, toddlers and preschoolers
with their parents / grandparents / carers
are invited to the

St Martha's Playgroup

On Monday 17 February 2025
From 8:50 am to 10 am
in the St Martha's School Hall, Strathfield.

Please enter from the school office
(88 Churchill Ave, Strathfield, NSW, 2135) to sign in.

If you have any questions, please email the St
Martha's Family Educator (Mrs Elena Razzoli)
at elena.razzoli@syd.catholic.edu.au

Playgroup is a great opportunity for
children aged 0 to 5 y.o. to enjoy some books
and craft activities and get to know each other.

Feel free to invite your friends too!