



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

'Be merciful as your Father is merciful'... 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@sydnecatholic.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.



The Nicene Creed

This year, 2025, marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, the first Ecumenical Council of the Church. This important Council, called for by the Emperor Constantine, resolved the problem of the Arian heresy which denied the divinity of Christ. The Arian heresy was condemned. And the word “consubstantial” was included in the Creed to signify the absolute equality of the Son with the Father. We will use the Nicene Creed in Mass for the next 2 Sundays before reverting to the Apostolic Creed in Lent.

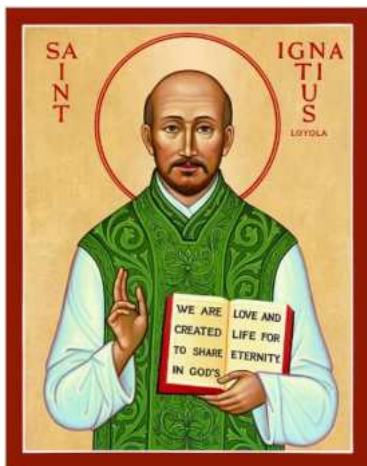
Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Today's gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' disciples. This is in contrast to the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds. These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged. There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the Beatitudes. Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the law and the prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing. Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is the terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behavior of his followers with the behavior of “sinners.” In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behavior desired with the behavior of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasizing God's mercy. In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.

Family Connection: It is easy to choose to be with others when they are acting politely and respectfully. But children do not always act this way, especially with other family members. We can probably all recall a family meal in which such behavior was not observed. Yet we probably chose to sit through the meal anyway. We regularly give our children second chances—and often third and fourth chances—hoping that our generosity will be rewarded. That is how God acts with us. The ethic that Jesus describes seems like an impossible task: to give when asked and to do good to those who hate us. Yet family life is filled with opportunities to act generously and to love without measure. This is what we parents try to do every day. This is what we ask our children to learn. We are reminded that when we love generously and gratuitously, we love as God loves us. This is the meaning of mercy. As you gather as a family, identify some things that family members are expected to do each day (prepare meals, go to school or work; complete homework assignments, complete household chores, behave appropriately at school, at work and at home; and so on). Discuss whether it is easy to live up to these expectations. Why or why not? Then discuss the meaning of the phrase “go the extra mile” and what it would mean to go the extra mile in the expectations you identified. Introduce today's Gospel: In today's Gospel reading, Jesus describes how we are to act toward one another. What he says may sound like what we mean by the phrase “going the extra mile.” Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 6:27-38. Discuss whether the actions Jesus describes are easy and consider why we might act in these ways if they seem difficult. Observe that today's Gospel challenges us to make choices based on God's standard; God loves us all the time by going the extra mile for us. During a time of quiet reflection, invite each family member to choose an action for the week in which he or she will go the “extra mile” for the family. Conclude in prayer by praying together St. Ignatius's Prayer for Generosity.

Prayer for Generosity

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, Teach me true generosity.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve. To give without counting the cost,
To fight heedless of wounds, To labor without seeking rest,
To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward
Save the knowledge that I have done your will. Amen.



Ignatius's Journey - Ignatius's visit to Montserrat was part of an intense and difficult period for him: he was recovering from a battle injury to his leg, and he was struggling to leave behind his privileged and prestigious past as a noble man. At Montserrat, Ignatius began to live his faith, spending all night in prayer before the statue of the Virgin. He put on simple clothes and gave his expensive clothing to a beggar.

After Ignatius's visit to Montserrat, he stopped at Manresa, a small town nearby. He planned to spend a few nights writing down his thoughts, but he stayed for 11 months and left profoundly changed. The fruit of Ignatius's reflections at Manresa became one of the greatest works of Christian spirituality, the Spiritual Exercises.

Daily Examen - Spiritual writers tell us that it is good for us to review our choices and actions at the end of each day. They say that we should focus on the good choices we made as well as the bad ones. The idea is not to create guilt feelings but to make us aware of the direction in which we are going so that we can change direction whenever necessary. The focus ought to be not just on what I did but why I did it. What were my priorities? An examination of conscience can have a different focus each time—my family, my job, my life in society—and it can be based on different perspectives.



ST MARTHA'S LENTEN PIETY STALL

A wide variety of religious items and Easter Cards will be available to purchase soon in the Church Foyer with Prices starting from \$2 to \$15.
Cash payments only. Please see the Church Wardens for assistance.



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.**

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS ROSTER			
Please add your name to sign up sheet in the Church Foyer if you are able to assist.			
Special Ministers	7.00AM	9.10AM	6.30PM
	Julie Ryan	Lisa Dennis	Relyn Aguinaldo
	Theresa Kuk	Claudia Elias	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	7.00AM	9.10AM	6.30PM
Readers	Greg Glass	Sr Rosemary	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Jennifer Clarke	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	7.00AM	9.10AM	6.30PM
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Emilio A.
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Acolytes	7.00AM	9.10AM	6.30PM
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed



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).

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Angela Vasta, Paul Pickering, Mary Henry, John Butcher, Ann Hoban, Michael Seuy Peng Ng, Paul Pickering.
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, 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, Julian & Mabel Doyle & Jim Bradbury, Joseph Sellathambo, Teresa & Christie Moses.
Anniversaries:	Jim Henness, Morna Marturia, Peter Choi, Roland Peters, 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.
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. Zoe Harries, Antonio Heo.

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.

1 st & 2 nd March 2025				
IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Gina Surjadinata	Elias Family	Andrew Bova
	Marian McCluskey	Andri Surjadinata	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Maria Yu	Elias Family	Paulina Roncevic
	Patricia Saad	Robert Smith	Mark Soares	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Mary Louise I.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Thomas S.	Archie S.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff C.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Matthew Z.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Paulina Roncevic

*Reflection for the 7th Sunday
in Ordinary Time Year C (Young Catholics)*

Showing Compassion - The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C reminds us of Jesus’ teaching about not judging others. Jesus warns us against judging because it leads to unfairness and a lack of compassion. When we judge, we often don’t know the whole story and can hurt others with our assumptions. Jesus calls us to understand and help each other. Instead of judging, we should try to understand the struggles others are facing. Showing compassion means being kind and supportive, even when we don’t fully understand someone’s situation. Judging others can create barriers and harm relationships. It separates us and makes it hard to see the good in others. By choosing to show understanding instead of judgment, we can build stronger, more loving communities. Reflecting on this message during the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, we see that Jesus wants us to follow His example of love and mercy. When we avoid judging and instead show compassion, we follow the path that Jesus set for us. This way, we help bring more kindness and understanding into the world.

Living Like Christ - The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C also brings Paul’s message about bearing the image of Christ. Paul explains that we are to live like Jesus, showing His love and mercy in our actions. Living like Christ means embodying His values in our everyday lives. Being in the image of Christ means showing love, kindness, and forgiveness. Jesus showed us how to love others, even those who hurt us. By following His example, we can reflect His goodness to the people around us. This calling is not always easy. It requires patience and a willingness to put others first. But when we strive to live like Christ, we become a light for others, showing them the path to peace and love. Reflecting on Paul’s message during the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, we are reminded of our call to live like Jesus. By bearing His image in our actions, we help to spread His message of love and kindness. This way, we bring a bit of Christ’s love into the world each day.

Mercy and Forgiveness - The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C teaches us about being faithful to Jesus’ call. Jesus tells us to love our enemies, which goes against the way our world usually works. Today, we often see competition, especially in politics and on social media, where getting ahead seems most important. Imagine how different things could be if we truly loved our enemies and showed forgiveness and mercy to everyone. Jesus’ message is clear. We are called to a life of mercy, just like David showed mercy to Saul. Mercy means choosing kindness over revenge. It means forgiving others, even when it is hard. This path is not easy, but it brings us closer to living like Jesus. Forgiveness is something we all need. We might think it is just for those who have wronged us, but we also need it for ourselves. Holding grudges can harm us and prevent us from finding peace. Jesus reminds us that we should forgive to be forgiven. Healing from wounds takes time. When someone hurts us, the pain doesn’t disappear overnight. We can pray for God’s help in healing our hearts. Asking for the strength to let go of our need for revenge and for the desire to forgive can lead us to true peace. On this 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, let’s remember Jesus’ teachings. By choosing love and mercy over revenge, and by seeking forgiveness, we can live a life that reflects Jesus’ love. This change in our hearts can make the world a better place.

 <p>Beyond Blue P: 1300 22 4636 W: www.beyondblue.org.au</p>	 <p>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>
---	---	---	---	---