



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

'As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning'.... Luke 9

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 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.**

LENT 2025

Lenten Devotions

Stations of the Cross – Every Friday of Lent at 7pm

Go Make Disciples - FREE Lenten Companion 2025.

Limited copies are available in the Church foyer to take home.

Copies of Archbishop Anthony's Lenten Penance are also available.



LENTEN PIETY STALL

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



First Sunday of Lent
8th and 9th of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Boxes and Share Packs are now available in the Church foyer.

Easter is the largest liturgical celebration throughout the year and many volunteers are needed across all ministries. If you are on the regular roster and attending any of the Easter Liturgies, could you please consider volunteering.

We are in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Lectors, Altar Servers, Acolytes & Wardens. Please write your name on the sheets on the rear table of the church or contact **Helen Williamson on 0408 970 120.**

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 'WASHING OF THE FEET' AT THE HOLY THURSDAY MASS. PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER.

Lent: A Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love

The Feast Day of St Patrick - Monday 17th March

An Old Irish Blessing for St. Patrick's Day

May your days be many and your troubles be few.
 May all God's blessings descend upon you.
 May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.
 May you find what you're seeking, wherever you roam.
 May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.
 May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.
 May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore. Amen.

The Feast Day of St Joseph - Wednesday 19th March

Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary, be with us this day.
 You protected and cherished the Virgin;
 loving the Child Jesus as your Son,
 you rescued Him from the danger of death.
 Defend the Church, the household of God, purchased by the Blood of Christ.
 Guardian of the Holy Family, be with us in our trials.
 May your prayers obtain for us the strength to flee from error
 and wrestle with the powers of corruption so that in life we may grow in holiness
 and in death rejoice in the crown of victory. Amen.

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): On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery. The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of

Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death. As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt. On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus "master" instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the disciples listen to him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son. In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death.



Family Connection: In today's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to the disciples saying, "Listen to him." The Transfiguration was a focused moment for the disciples when they heard God speaking to them and experienced Jesus in glory. They most certainly left this focused moment with a new appreciation for the importance of Jesus' words even if they did not yet understand everything that he had taught them. During Lent, we are invited to consider our attentiveness to Jesus and to one another. In the pace and noise that often characterizes family life, how well do we listen to one another? What opportunities do we have for quiet prayer? As you gather as a family, count the number of pieces of equipment in your home that produce sound: televisions, radios, CD players, computers, video games, etc. Observe if sometimes more than one piece of equipment is playing simultaneously and how this might affect communication. Discuss the question: What is it like to try to talk with one another when this equipment is on? Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 9:28-36. Consider whether the noise and pace of your family life allows family members opportunities for quiet prayer. During Lent, it may be appropriate for your family to choose a time for quiet in the household by turning off televisions, radios, and CD players. Consider whether your family would like to establish such a time during this Season of Lent and suggest that it might allow you the opportunity to listen more attentively to one another and to find time for quiet prayer. Spend a few such moments as a family, asking God to help you listen well to one another and to Jesus.

Global Mission: No age limit!

Ever thought volunteering overseas was beyond you? IT'S NOT. Palms always values our older participants for the wisdom and resourcefulness they share in communities! Palms is celebrating Seniors Week with a special [online session](#) showcasing older volunteers' experience and insights from the mission field. Explore our [unique opportunities](#) and match your life experience to the experience of a lifetime! Contact **9560 5333** palms@palms.org.au

Venue: Online via Zoom- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events **Date:** Thursday 27 March 2025

Time: 11am -12 pm



Beyond Blue
 Beyond Blue
 P: 1300 22 4636
 W: www.beyondblue.org.au

CatholicCare
 CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney
 P: 13 18 19
 W: www.catholiccare.org

kidshelpline
 Anytime Any Reason
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

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	John Cullen, Rebecca Forwood, Sue Yee, Angela Vasta, Paul Pickering, Mary Henry, John Butcher, Ann Hoban.
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, Xavier & Josephine Sellathambu, Joseph Sellathambu, Teresa & Christy Moses, Myrtle Fernandes,
Anniversaries:	Rosy D'Costa, Anna Lam, Patrick Marrins (snr), Harry Amalan, Anne Lam, Jim Henness, Morna Marturia, Peter Choi, Roland Peters, Mrs Raju, Maureen Sarks, Margaret McGannon, Richard Sullivan, John Tandiono, Grace Hunt, Mark Kelly, Dorothy Harris, Elias Aslan, Antonio Iannella.
Sick Intentions:	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Toni N, Joe Everitt, Alf Buda, 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, Maroun Moussa.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.



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.

22nd & 23rd March 2025				
IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Yvonne Martins	Rachel Suriano	Mary L'Estrange
	Joanne Touma	Joseph Samarasinghe	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Daniel Martins	Mark Soares	Theresa Kuk
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Merlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Jacob M.	Marcus V.	Volunteer Needed
	Peter T.	Volunteer Needed	Elijah M.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk

New Book release ... A wonderful St Patrick's Day 2025 present.... [for your unlawful or lawful wife or husband]?

Irish Bigamy

New insights into Colonial New South Wales

ISBN: 978-0-646-71088-4

Published by Colonial Press, Goulburn, NSW

This fascinating book is the first to examine colonial bigamy with emphasis on its widespread practice amongst Irish convicts in penal New South Wales. Although illegal, bigamy was condoned by civil and most church authorities between 1788 and 1825. Bigamous marriages in the colony had far reaching implications for first families who lived in destitute circumstances in Ireland.

- Featuring original letters written by Irish convicts/ families for the first time
- More than 100 Catholic and Protestant case studies
- Analyses the Catholic Church's response to bigamy cases
- Comprehensive Referencing, and Subject and People indexes
- A must read for anyone interested in Australia's early history

Book Chapters

Part One: Ireland: Marriage and bigamy. Irish bigamists transported. Families left behind.

Part Two: New South Wales: Two parallel legal systems. 1798 emancipists. *Almorah* and *Mariner*. Female bigamists. Male bigamists. Dual bigamists. Catholic Church intervention. Avoidance and Deception. Bigamy or Digamy? Trigamy.

Author

Damian John Gleeson, Dip FHS (SAG) PhD (UNE), PhD ()
Honorary Associate, University of New England UNSW

2022-2023 Australian Religious History Fellow, State Library of New South Wales.

Publisher: Colonial Press ABN 19 406 218 550

PO Box 343 Goulburn, NSW, 2580. Email: irishbigamy@gmail.com

Irish Bigamy is available direct from the publisher.

- Order by email to: irishbigamy@gmail.com.
- Signed copies may be paid for and collected from **St Martha's Parish, Strathfield**. \$30 list price.

