



# 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)

**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

**'Unless you repent you will all perish as they did'.... Luke 13**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

**Phone:** 9746 6131 **Fax:** 9746 3040

**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 9.00am-5.00pm



**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

**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](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 [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@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.**



**Third Sunday of Lent**  
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

**Lam** is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



*Photo credit: Caritas Australia*

**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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413 413.

## **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.**

**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*



# New Book Release Now Available to Purchase



## Irish Bigamy

New insights into colonial New South Wales

**Copies signed by the Author are now available to purchase.**  
Please see Father John or Father Liem in the Sacristy after mass.

**Publisher: Colonial Press ABN 19 406 218 550**  
PO Box 343 Goulburn, NSW, 2580. Email: [irishbigamy@gmail.com](mailto:irishbigamy@gmail.com)

Irish Bigamy is available direct from the publisher by emailing: [irishbigamy@gmail.com](mailto:irishbigamy@gmail.com) or completing an order form in the church foyer.

**Damian John Gleeson**

## When Irish Eyes Are Smiling!

Inviting parishioners to join the Maria Forde Celtic Tour of Ireland 2025 (September 20– October 4th). Enjoy two glorious weeks traversing the spectacular Irish countryside, experiencing the hospitality of the Irish people, and learning about their history and story. Enjoy Celtic music, cuisine, and sacred sites, including Glendalough, Clonmacnoise and Kylemore Abbey. Travel comfortably by coach and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of a small tour. (Max 20 people) If you're worried about travelling alone or going abroad for the first time, rest assured that our Irish driver, other guests, and I will welcome and support you. For an itinerary, please contact Debbie at Emerald Travel on 96902123, [debbie@emeraldtravel.com.au](mailto:debbie@emeraldtravel.com.au) or scan the QR code.



# PURPOSE CAMP

## Know, Love, Serve.

**ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH CAMP**

**OPEN TO YR9-YR12**



We can't even begin to tell you how excited we are to host Purpose Camp 2025! The Sydney Catholic Youth team and Youth Leaders from across the Sydney Archdiocese are working hard to make this year's high school camp bigger and better! So, if you are currently in years 9-12 then come have the time of your life these upcoming holidays with tons of friends you haven't met yet! There'll be heaps of time for games, activities, talks, discussions, prayer and the chance to grow in your faith. This camp is so big we can only run it once a year so get on board now or miss out!

Email [info@sydneycatholicyouth.org](mailto:info@sydneycatholicyouth.org) or call Sydney Catholic Youth on 0437 863 316.

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

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

 **kids helpline**  
Anytime | Any Reason  
**Call 1800 55 1800**

**Lifeline**  
Saving Lives  
Crisis Support, Suicide Prevention,  
Lifeline  
P: 13 11 14  
W: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

**1800RESPECT**  
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE  
1800RESPECT  
P: 1800 737 732  
W: [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)



# 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):** Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable. Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin. Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit. Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us. This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

**Family Connection:** We may be unfamiliar with fig trees, but we might know about the growth of spring flowers. Perhaps we have looked at a dry, brown flower bulb and wondered how this produces the colorful tulip or daffodil blossom that we expect to bloom in the spring. Perhaps we've even thought about the patience and hope that are required to plant flower bulbs in October. We don't have to be gardeners, however, to know about patience and hopefulness. As parents, we practice these virtues each day with our children. We may become frustrated and even angered by their willfulness and lack of cooperation. Yet we continue to offer our attention and guidance in hope that one day our efforts will bear fruit. Today's parable suggests that God is like that with us, working with us in patience and in hope that one day we will show evidence that such work is not in vain. As parents, we know God's kindness when we find evidence for our hope for our children. Does God find such glimmers of hope as he works with us? Gather your family and show a spring flower in bloom. Recall that in the fall this flower was a dry bulb (if a flower bulb is available, show this as well). Talk about the hopefulness and patience shown by those who plant flower bulbs in the fall in the hope that they will bloom in the spring. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 13:1-9. Compare the parable of the barren fig tree to your discussion about spring flowers. Consider the patience and hopefulness that God has with us as he works with us, calling us to return to him when we sin. Offer prayers of thanks and praise to God for his patience and hopefulness towards us. Conclude by praying together today's Psalm, Psalm 103.

## Mass Intentions

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Carmel Josephine Jack, Bill Graves, Moussa Soueid, John Cullen, Rebecca Forwood, Sue Yee, Angela Vasta, Paul Pickering, Mary Henry, John Butcher, Ann Hoban.
<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, 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 Sellathamboo, Teresa & Christy Moses, Myrtle Fernandes, Ian Jack.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Paul Duggan, Mattia Taglini, 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.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	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.
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	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.*

29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> 2025				
IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Gina Surjadinata	Relyn Aguinaldo	Andrew Bova
	Rick Herro	Andri Surjadinata	Helen Williamson	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Maria Yu	Emmanuel Nathan	Melanie John
	Maria Soo	Robert Smith	Michael Quinlan	Paulina Roncevic
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Mary Louise I.	Emilio A.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Collin A.	Archie S.	Emilia T.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Paulina Roncevic