



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

'Your brother here was dead and has come to life'.... Luke 15

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 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.



**Last Tuesday on the
Feast Day of
The Annunciation,
the school community
took part in a
playground Liturgy and
Blessing of the newly
installed Mary Statue.**



**It is with much sadness that we announce the death of
Basil Hayes who died peacefully on Wednesday 26th March.
A Requiem Mass will be at St Martha's at 11.30am on Friday 4th
April followed by interment at Rookwood Catholic Cemetery.
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon
him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in Peace.**



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.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love. The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree. Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behavior of the father. First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being. The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honors him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father. We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

Family Connection: "Hey, that's not fair!" How many times have we heard this spoken in our family? Family members challenge one another's generosity, operating from the perspective of limited resources. If we have given to one, perhaps there won't be enough for the other. Jesus wants us to understand that this is not how it is with God's mercy and forgiveness. God offers his love to all of us in abundance. The forgiveness of the father in the parable is an image of God's love for us, generous beyond measure in his love for both of his sons. Can we truly believe that God acts this way towards us and accept his mercy without jealousy, knowing that God's love for another does not diminish his love for us? As you gather as a family, talk about the words and phrases you speak to one another when angry. Identify words or phrases that reflect jealousy towards one another. Talk about why we sometimes feel jealousy towards one another. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. Talk about why the older brother is jealous of the younger brother. Identify words that the family members in the parable might say to one another to begin to heal their broken relationships. Make a family commitment to say these types of words and phrases to one another with greater frequency. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Reflection for the 4th Sunday of Lent Year C (Young Catholics)

Celebrating New Beginnings

The 4th Sunday of Lent Year C highlights the Israelites' first Passover in the Promised Land. This event marks a new beginning for them and shows God's faithfulness. He fulfilled His promise to bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey. This celebration is a powerful reminder of God's constant care. The Israelites' journey was long and difficult, but God was always with them. Their first Passover in the Promised Land is a moment of gratitude and renewed hope. For us, the 4th Sunday of Lent Year C encourages us to reflect on our own journeys. We are reminded of God's promises and His presence in our lives. Just as the Israelites celebrated their new beginning, we too can find joy in God's promises and look forward to our own new beginnings with faith and hope.

Dear Lord, thank You for Your constant care and mercy. Help us to seek new beginnings in You and to forgive others as You forgive us. Guide us to live in peace and love. Amen.

Reflection Questions for the 4th Sunday of Lent Year C

- How does the story of the Israelites' first Passover inspire you to trust in God's promises?
- In what ways can you celebrate new beginnings in your own life?
- What does the parable of the Prodigal Son teach you about freedom and duty?
- How can you show mercy and forgiveness to others in your daily life?
- Do you see yourself more in the younger son or the older son? Why?
- How can you balance freedom and responsibility in your relationship with God?
- What steps can you take to reconcile with someone you have wronged?
- How does Paul's message of being a new creation in Christ impact your faith?
- In what areas of your life do you need God's renewal?
- How can you live out God's call to be ambassadors of reconciliation?



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.



Fourth Sunday of Lent
29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

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

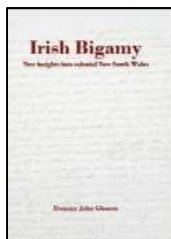
Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Boxes and Share Packs are still 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.



New Book Release Now Available to Purchase

Is your wife or husband lawful or unlawful?

A new book of wide appeal called *Irish Bigamy: New insights into colonial New South Wales*, is now available at a special price of \$30 for St Martha's parishioners. Researched and written by our parish historian, Damian Gleeson, the book can be ordered through irishbigamy@gmail.com and collected from the parish office. A must read!

Copies can be purchased after Mass in the Sacristy or complete an order from in the Church foyer.

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.



Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Basil Hayes, Ivy Fernandez, Carmel Josephine Jack, Bill Graves, Moussa Soueid, 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, Ian Jack.
Anniversaries:	Antoine Nader, Mary Colletta Saverimuthu, Antoine Nader, Irvan Fernandez, Paul Duggan, Mattia Taglini, Rosy D'Costa, Anna Lam, Patrick Marrins (snr), Harry Amalan, Anne Lam, Jim Henness, Morna Marturia, Peter Choi.
Sick Intentions:	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Toni N, Norma Habib, 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 Harris, 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.

5 th & 6 th April				
IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Gian Surjadinata	Elias Family	Helen Williamson
	Marian McCluskey	Artha Surjadinata	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Greg Glass	Elias Family	Owen Loney
	Patricia Saad	Sonia Gomez	Mark Soares	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Archie S.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Thomas S.	Shannon D.	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff C.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Matthew Z.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Linda Praum	Aboud Baladi	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn



Volunteering Opportunity - Join our vibrant and supportive team at the St Vincent de Paul Office in Burwood, where you'll play a key role in assisting local disadvantaged clients. The office is located on Burwood Road, just near the train station so transport is easy. As a volunteer, you'll receive comprehensive training to ensure you're well-equipped to make a meaningful impact. You'll work alongside a passionate group of like-minded individuals, all dedicated to supporting the more vulnerable members of our community. This is a fantastic opportunity to give back, learn new skills, and be part of a dynamic, fun team that truly makes a difference in the lives of those in need. If you have a few hours or a full day each week to help with this important work, or if you'd like to learn more, please reach out to our Regional President, Cathy Nelson-Smith on 0417 657 573.

Enrolling @ St Martha's Primary School

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2026 are now being taken. Years 1-6 anytime of the year. Please contact the School Office on 9764 1184 for an Enrolment Pack or a personalised tour. All enrolments are welcome.

