



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

'After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them'.... John 20

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:

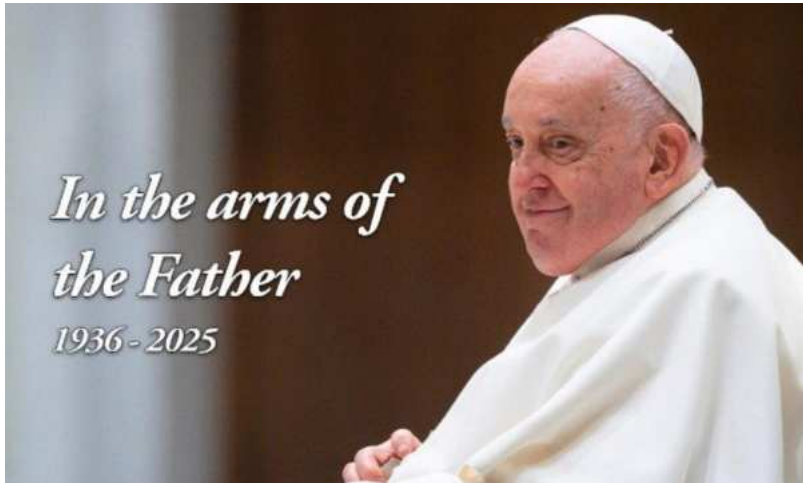
IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN IN - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS; CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

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.

A Memorial Mass will be held at St Martha's on Wednesday 30th April at 7.00pm.



The Pope of the People: Francis, a shepherd with the smell of the sheep

Among his many duties and decisions, the late Pope Francis clearly enjoyed the company of other people, drawing energy from them and returning their affection with a word of encouragement or sometimes with just a caring smile.

By Devin Watkins

Pope Francis loved people being with other people. You could see it every Wednesday morning when he held his weekly General Audiences. It was even visible when he would appear at the window of his office in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace at noon on Sunday to pray the Angelus. Despite the physical distance to St. Peter's Square below, he would wave heartily and greeted countless groups of visiting Catholics. His desire to be near others drove him to carry out 47 Apostolic Journeys, visiting nearly every corner of the earth. Yet, the late Pope Francis' love of people became most palatable exactly in the moment when physical separation was imposed on everyone. In a way, the Covid-19 pandemic shuttered him in the Vatican just as the Popes of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were practically imprisoned upon election because the Vatican was not yet a city-state. In another sense, however, the Argentine Pope refused to be chained behind the Leonine Walls of the Vatican City State. He embraced modern means of communication to reach out to the faithful as they huddled in their own homes, afraid of coming into contact with an unknown contagion. Every morning, at 6:00 AM, Pope Francis celebrated Mass in the chapel at his residence in the Casa Santa Marta, which was broadcast to the world on social media, television, and radio by the Dicastery for Communication (Vatican News' parent organization). Each time, he prayed for a different sector of society that was affected in various ways by the coronavirus, from nurses and healthcare professionals to teachers and prisoners. As Catholics in the Philippines were finishing lunch and the faithful in California were getting ready for bed, the Pope would reach into the homes of millions and offer a reminder that they were not alone, no matter their trepidation. Then, on March 27, 2020, he held his unprecedented Statio Orbis standing alone in an empty, rainy St. Peter's Square. Holding a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament, the Pope blessed all the world in a moment of great despair, presenting Christ as our only source of life and hope. Gradually, people ventured outdoors again, and the Pope started holding his weekly General Audiences, as well as his private audiences with various groups. Crowds became a familiar sight in Rome once more, and those months of physical distance only drove Pope Francis to seek out people with greater determination. Besides the heads of state that made their customary Vatican visits, numerous celebrities came to meet the Pope from the ends of the earth and share a laugh or a handshake with him. He shadow-boxed with Sylvester Stallone, joking with the star of Rocky that his three daughters reminded him of the three Marys of Biblical times. He shook hands with Arnold Schwarzenegger of Terminator fame, who thanked the Pope for his advocacy for the care of Creation and the environment. More recently, a cohort of comedians from around the globe made their appearance at a papal audience, and he reminded them that playful fun and laughter keep spirits up and tensions down. Yet, it was contact with the average Joes and Janes that really gave the late Pope Francis the energy to guide the Catholic Church for 12 years. As he would descend from the Pope-mobile and ascend the stage at his General Audiences, the Pope of the people would nearly always stop to greet the Vatican employees who would read the summaries and greetings in various languages, so that his words would be understood to all in St. Peter's Square or the Paul VI Hall. Even in those brief exchanges, he would ask after their ailing parents, wonder aloud if a pair of newlyweds were really coming back to work after their honeymoon, or even jokingly question the fashion choice of a scruffy reader's beard. In all these moments, some light-hearted and others solemn, the late Pope Francis took a keen interest in the lives of those he met, never forgetting his admonition to all priests to be "shepherds with the smell of the sheep."



The Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis: the first millennial saint has been postponed.

**A limited number of Divine Mercy Devotional Candles are
available at the Piety Stall in the Church Foyer (\$10 each)**

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the Canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter be called "Divine Mercy Sunday." St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus, including one of Jesus wearing a white garment with beams of red and white coming from His heart, which came to be known as the image of Divine Mercy. She wrote in her diary that He said: "I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it... My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy". According to the vision, those who receive communion and attend confession on the Feast of Mercy receive total forgiveness of sins. Pope John Paul II discussed the significance of the image of Divine Mercy in his homily for the canonization of St. Faustina: "From that Heart [of Christ], Sr. Faustina Kowalska, the blessed whom from now on we will call a saint, will see two rays of light shining from that heart and illuminating the world. "The two rays", Jesus Himself explained to her one day, "represent blood and water" (Diary, entry 299). Blood and water! We immediately think of the testimony given by the Evangelist John, who, when a soldier on Calvary pierced Christ's side with his spear, sees blood and water flowing from it (see Jn 19:34). Moreover, if the blood recalls the sacrifice of the Cross and the gift of the Eucharist, the water, in Johannine symbolism, represents not only Baptism but also the gift of the Holy Spirit (see Jn 3:5; 4:14; 7:37-39)". Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. As Pope John Paul II stated, "Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified." St Faustina – Pray for us

Reflection for Divine Mercy Sunday Year C *(Young Catholics)*

Divine Mercy Sunday Year C offers a unique opportunity to reflect on God's endless mercy and love. It is a time to deepen our faith, recognize the importance of community, and embrace the peace and forgiveness that come from following Jesus. These reflections explore key themes of mercy, faith, and our calling to share God's love with others.

God's Mercy Through Jesus and Our Call to Share It - Divine Mercy Sunday Year C reminds us of the great mercy God showed by sending Jesus to us. The incarnation of Jesus is a clear sign of God's love and mercy. Through Jesus, we can be fully reconciled with God and experience the Holy Spirit in our lives. This relationship with God, through Jesus, assures us that even death cannot separate us from His love. In the Gospel, Jesus breathes on His disciples and encourages them to receive the Holy Spirit. This act shows that the Holy Spirit is a gift that empowers us to continue Jesus' mission of spreading mercy and forgiveness. As followers of Christ, we are called to receive this Spirit and live out the mercy we have received. Our role as Christians is to share God's mercy with others. This means forgiving others, showing kindness, and being compassionate. We are reminded that just as we have received God's grace, we should also be channels of that grace to others. It's our duty to bring this message of mercy to the world, especially to those who are hurting or lost. Living as examples of God's mercy is a way to bring hope and healing to those around us. By being merciful, we can help others experience God's love and forgiveness. This is an important part of our faith, and it helps us grow closer to God and each other. On Divine Mercy Sunday Year C, we reflect on the incredible gift of God's mercy through Jesus. We are called to embrace this mercy, share it with others, and live as witnesses of God's love. By doing so, we continue the mission of Jesus, bringing light and hope to the world. Divine Mercy Sunday Year C challenges us to live out the mercy we receive from God. By trusting in Jesus, seeking forgiveness, and supporting one another, we can be signs of God's love in the world. Let us commit to spreading this message of mercy, bringing hope and healing to all we encounter.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your mercy and love. Help us to trust in You, share Your forgiveness, and be kind to others. Guide us to be faithful witnesses of Your peace and mercy. Amen.

Reflection Questions for Divine Mercy Sunday Year C



- How can I strengthen my faith like Thomas?
- In what ways can I experience and share the peace of Christ?
- How does being part of a faith community support my spiritual growth?
- What steps can I take to show forgiveness to others?
- How can I be a witness of God's mercy in my daily life?
- What does receiving the Holy Spirit mean to me?
- How do I respond to moments of doubt in my faith?
- In what ways can I support others in their faith journey?
- How can I grow closer to God through prayer and trust?
- What actions can I take to bring hope and healing to those around me?

**Funeral details for Father David Coffey: 12.00pm on Wednesday
30th April at St Mary's Church Concord.**





Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Today's reading, from the Gospel of John, is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted. Part of the mystery of Jesus? Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; he appeared to the disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this resurrected body, the disciples could still observe the marks of his Crucifixion. In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send his disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when he gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation. Thomas, the disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed.



The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal** will be held on the weekend 3rd & 4th May. The CWF funds six agencies: Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, CatholicCare, Chaplaincies, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), Ephpheta Centre and The Seminary of the Good Shepherd. The generosity of those who contribute financially to the CWF, means that these agencies are able to assist thousands of people each year.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Fr David Coffey, Dawn Clarice Davis, Basil Hayes, Don Anderson, Ivy Fernandez, Carmel Josephine Jack,
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 & Saiman 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, Isabel Mancel Mendoza.
	Andrew Coote, Damia Baini, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Peter Turpin, Antoinette Akle, Mary Colletta Saverimuthu.
Anniversaries:	
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 Harriss, Sophie O'Donnell, Ken South, Siena Fabrie, Joanna Jo, Simon Alam, Rosanne Sukkar, Henry D'Souza, Danielle Fabien, Maroun Moussa, Stephen Chase (snr).
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.

3rd & 4th May

IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrice Bonett	Gina Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Theresa Kuk
	Joanne Touma	Andri Surjadinata	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Maria Yu	Mark Soares	Owen Loney
	Volunteer Needed	Robert Smith	Merlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Mary Louise I.	Marcus V.	Volunteer Needed
	Peter T.	Archie S.	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
	Linda Praum	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

