



# 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

**'I Give my sheep eternal life'.... John 10**

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

**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

6.00pm 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 **2nd 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.**

# We warmly welcome Father Paul Passant, an Australian priest missionary in the Turks and Caicos Islands who is staying with us whilst on a break in Sydney.



To all the mums, grandmothers & mother like figures in our lives who continue to give love and life to their families and our parish community! May the Lord bless you in a very special way today and may we always be thankful for the gift of mother's. May the example of Mary, mother of Jesus, inspire them, guide and protect them in challenging times.

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things.  
From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone.  
From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God."

ST POPE JOHN PAUL II

## Reflection

Mother's Day has been celebrated in Australia on the second Sunday of May since 1924. But, Catholics have been celebrating a sort of mother's day since the first few centuries of the Church. The fourth Sunday of Lent, or Laetare Sunday, traditionally was a time to return to your mother church (home parish) and leave an offering. Those who practised this custom were said to have gone "a-mothering", and soon it became known as "Mothering Sunday." As the popularity of "Mothering Sunday" grew, it became a day when domestic servants were given leave to be with their families. The day became one of the few times a year where a grown family could gather, as working families often had conflicting schedules. Once the tradition became a day for family reunion, with a reference to mothers in the name, it naturally evolved to include all mothers within the celebration. For children, the long walk back home became a time for picking flowers for mum, and this would grow to the tradition of giving gifts of all sorts to mothers. In Catholic tradition, the month of May is dedicated to Mary. Chosen by God above all other women, Mary's faith and obedience paved the way for the Incarnation. Her example teaches us faith, obedience, humility and most of all, how to love. As St Thomas of Villanova said, "If in this world any creature ever loved God with whole heart, with whole soul, and with whole mind, she was the creature." At the foot of the cross, her heart broke for Jesus, yet she accepted God's will not only for her Son, but for herself in her new role as mother to us all (cf. John 19:25-27). As we honour today our earthly mothers and mother figures—including stepmothers, relatives, guardians, close family friends and those who would be mothers—let us honour our heavenly mother as well. Those devoted to her are always led to her Son. For her wise counsel tells us, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

*And so, we invite you to pray:*

Lord Jesus Christ,

You chose to put yourself—tiny, needy and helpless—into the nurturing and watchful hands of a human mother. Since then, every act of mothering, both physical and spiritual, in every time and every corner of the world recollects Mary's. Inspired by this example, we, too, honour our mothers and mother figures today. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers and nurturers.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, honour them always with a spirit of profound respect. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

## Prayer

Loving Father,

We pray for those for whom Mother's Day is a time of heartache rather than celebration.

**Heavenly Father, bless them with your love**

We pray for those who have never known their mother or whose mothers have died.

**Heavenly Father, bless them with your love**

We pray for those who long to be mothers but as yet have not had their own children.

**Heavenly Father, bless them with your love**

We pray for those who struggle with the way their children have chosen to live their lives.

**Heavenly Father, bless them with your love**

We pray for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother.

**Heavenly Father, bless them with your love**

May they have the comfort of knowing that your love for them is constant, your understanding is perfect, your compassion is never-ending.

Amen.



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

*The Canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will be on 28<sup>th</sup> July.*

*Prayer cards are available in the Church foyer.*



**ALTAR SERVER TRAINING SESSIONS** — Children who have received their First Holy Communion (approximately 8 year olds and over) are invited to register to become Altar Servers at St Martha's. There will be 2 training sessions over 2 consecutive afternoons on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm**. To enable inclusion in the next roster please mark your preferred Mass attendance for serving on the sign-up sheet in the church foyer and take home a parent consent form for permission to participate.

## St Martha's May Piety Stall

### New Stock Available - MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

\$5	Children's Books
\$10	Mother – Framed Stained Glass
\$10	Devotional Candles (Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Grace, Divine Mercy, St Charbel, The Holy Family & Sacred Heart of Jesus.
\$20	Coloured Crystal Rosary Beads
\$25	Our Lady of Fatima Statue
\$25	Mother & Child Wooden Figurine
\$20/\$30	Rosary Necklaces
\$30	Mother and Child Statue
\$35	Bronze pocket Mary Statue
\$40/\$50	Genuine Mother of Pearl Rosary Beads
\$85	Madonna & Child Figurine
\$125	Madonna & Child Figurine
\$145	Wooden Our Lady Figurine



**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. Already, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31 and 10:39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death. Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's

Gospel reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of my sheep." Then Jesus asserts his unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he escapes arrest. We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as his sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and his followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep. Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, expressed as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.



**Family Connection:** Not only can we recognize family members' voices, we can also read the tone of their voices and know something about how they are feeling. In our relationship with Jesus, we know Jesus' voice and are called to follow. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. Knowing Jesus means knowing the Father. Read with your family today's Gospel, John 10:27-30. Ask your family members to talk about some ways that

Jesus brings them closer to God and closer to one another. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.



### *Reflection for the 4th Sunday of Easter Year C - Good Shepherd Sunday*

#### **The Inclusive Call of the Good Shepherd (Young Catholics)**

On the 4th Sunday of Easter Year C, we focus on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In Revelation, a great multitude stands before God. This vision shows us that salvation is offered to everyone. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wants all people to follow Him, not just a select few. In the past, hearing God's voice was a privilege for priests and prophets. But Jesus changes this. He calls everyone to hear His voice and follow Him. His message is for all people, no matter who they are or where they come from. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows each of us by name. He cares for us and guides us on the right path. When we listen to His voice, we find the way to true peace and happiness. On the 4th Sunday of Easter Year C, we are reminded of the inclusive love of Jesus. He reaches out to all of us, inviting us to be part of His flock. By following Him, we join the great multitude standing before God, united in faith and love.

#### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY'S WINTER APPEAL - 31<sup>st</sup> MAY / 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE.**

Our conference members thank you sincerely for your past donations. Times are tough for everyone, and there are many calls on your generosity. Our members and those we serve are grateful for anything you can spare. As always, you can give by cash or credit card by putting the appeal envelopes in either collection. Wardens with buckets will also be at the church doors at the end of Mass on that weekend. You can also scan the QR code that will be available or give online at <https://www.vinnies.org.au/>. Thank you again for your generosity! Anthony Thurn, St. Martha's Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society.





17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Georgette Sahyoun	Elias Family	Mary L'Estrange
	Marian McCluskey	Peter Yamin	Maria Soares	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Paulina Roncevic	Elias Family	Theresa Kuk
	Patricia Saad	Robert Smith	Mark Soares	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Ryan W.	Elias Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Thomas S.	Dylan W.	Elias Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Jeff C.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Aidan M.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Matthew Z.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Abboud Baladi	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

### Mass Intentions

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Anne Bechara, Don & Marie Anderson, Helen Behan, Michael Leahy, Fr David Coffey, Dawn Clarice Davis, Basil Hayes, Ivy Fernandez.
<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, Isabel Mancel Mendoza.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Blanche Saldanha, Deborah Dahdah, Harry Doumit, Maria Schiavo, Andrew Coote, Damia Baini, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Peter Turpin, Antoinette Akle, Mary Colletta Saverimuthu.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Br Tony Wheelan cfc, 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).
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Tony & Julie Gabastie.
<b>Mother's Day Intentions:</b>	May Chapman, Sadie Coorey, Deborah Dahdah, Frances Doumit, Anne Cecilia Glass, Agnes Glass, Frances Gleeson, Judith Goodacre, Alice Herro, Carmel Jack, Elizabeth Keating, Sadie Lahood, Ilham (Helen) Matta, Pauline Murphy, Doreen McNamara, Mary Romanos, Blanche Saldanha, Maureen Sarks, Maud Soares, Najla Stanton, Dorothy Starr, Estelle Thurn, Lorna Waters.

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.

## Donate to the Charitable Works Fund Appeal

3 and 4 May 2025

The CWF is the charity of the Catholic community in Sydney and your local parish. Together, we bring hope and care to those who need it most.

Give generously.  
Your tax-deductible gift changes lives.



**To donate:**  
Scan the QR code  
Visit: [www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-cwf](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-cwf)  
Call: 1800 753 959  
Or complete the parish envelope.

**Scan to Give**




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



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



Call 1800 55 1800



Lifeline  
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W: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)



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W: [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)