



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro admin@stmarthas.org.au

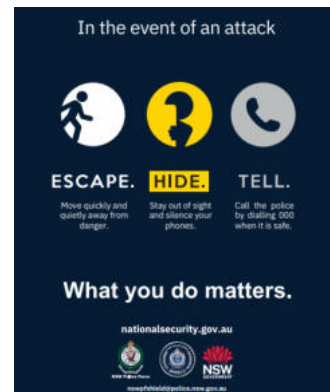
Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum sc@stmarthas.org.au

Safeguarding Officers: Dianne Dawson safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Marion Li

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry



'Who is my neighbour?'... Luke 10

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

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**

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.



Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit
Inspired by St Martha
We Celebrate & Witness
God's love
Using our Gifts & Talents**



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

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.



**Office of the
Children's Guardian**

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.**

Father John will be away from the parish in Italy for the Jubilee of Youth until Friday 8th August. Please keep him in your prayers.



Today the Church celebrates the 5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, with the motto “**Blessed are those who have not lost hope**” (cf. Sir 14:2). The theme, announced by the Vatican on 4th February, is taken from the Book of Sirach as part of its moral instruction to the Jewish faithful. The theme expresses the blessedness of the elderly and points to the hope placed in the Lord as the way to a Christian and reconciled old age. Particularly during the Holy Year 2025, the world day seeks to be an opportunity to reflect on how the presence of grandparents and elderly people can become a sign of hope in every family and ecclesial community. The Church observes the World Day each year on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Jesus’ grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne. Pope Francis instituted this Day in 2021 since, he believes, grandparents are often forgotten, yet they “are the link between generations, passing on

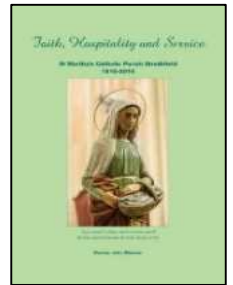


the experience of life and faith to the young.” Pope Francis chose as this year’s theme “Do not cast me off in my old age”. As Christians, he said, the World Day dedicated to grandparents and the elderly calls us to put aside our throwaway culture and show “tenderness and affectionate attention” to the most fragile members of our communities. Prayer cards and copies of Pope Leo’s Message are available to take home.



The Parish Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of St Martha, our patron saint, will be at 7.30am on Tuesday 29th July

The parish is offering copies of the Parish History Book, written by Dr Damian John Gleeson, at a reduced rate of \$10. The Book was published to commemorate the Parish Centenary in 2016. Discover the history of St Martha’s Parish Strathfield in this skilfully written, carefully researched book that includes a large number of historic photographs, illustrations and documents. Find out the story of the Parish, the evolution of its identity as a unique Catholic



community, its beliefs, relationships and challenges. Copies will be available in the Church Foyer for the next few weeks.

Payment can be placed in the secure box provided.

Lessons in Faith and Friendship

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus show us what it means to live in friendship with Jesus. Their home was a place where Jesus felt welcome, and they each shared a deep bond with Him. Their lives remind us that Jesus wants to be close to us too, not just as our Saviour, but also as our friend. Martha teaches us about the importance of service. She worked hard to make sure Jesus and others felt cared for. But sometimes she became distracted by her tasks. Jesus gently reminded her to focus on Him first. This shows us the need to balance our responsibilities with time for prayer and faith. Mary reminds us to stop and listen. She chose to sit at Jesus’ feet and hear His words. This wasn’t about avoiding work but about giving Jesus her full attention. Mary’s example invites us to slow down and spend time with Jesus, especially when life feels busy or stressful. Lazarus teaches us to trust Jesus, even in hard times. When Lazarus died, his sisters were heartbroken. But Jesus came and showed His love by raising Lazarus from the dead. This story gives us hope and reminds us that Jesus is with us, even when things seem impossible. Think about your day. How often are you on your phone, scrolling through social media, watching videos, or texting your friends? How much time do you spend on schoolwork, sports, or other activities like music practice, gaming, or hanging out? These are all normal parts of life, and most of them are good in the right balance. But sometimes, without even realizing it, these things can take over so much of our time and attention that we lose focus on what really matters—our relationship with God. In Luke 10:38-42, we see an example of this in the story of two sisters, Martha and Mary. When Jesus visits their home, Martha immediately starts preparing everything to make Him feel welcome. She is cooking, cleaning, and making sure everything is perfect. Mary, on the other hand, chooses to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to Him teach. Martha gets upset and asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. But instead, Jesus says something surprising. He tells Martha that while she is “anxious and troubled about many things,” Mary has chosen “the better part,” which won’t be taken away from her. Jesus isn’t saying that Martha’s work is bad; after all, serving others is important. But He reminds her that spending time with Him is even more important. Distractions today might look different than they did in Martha’s time, but they’re just as real. Instead of cooking or cleaning, we’re often distracted by our phones, endless to-do lists, or the pressure to succeed in school, sports, or other activities. These distractions can make us feel like there’s no time for prayer, Mass, or quiet time with God. And sometimes, even when we do make time, our minds are still racing with thoughts about everything else we need to do. It’s not that these things are bad. School, sports, and relationships are all important. Even relaxing with a good TV show or spending time on your favourite hobby can be good for you. But when these things crowd out time for God, they become a problem. Just like Martha, we can get so caught up in everything we think we “have to do” that we forget to simply be with Jesus. And when that happens, we might start to feel overwhelmed, stressed, or even disconnected from God. God doesn’t ask us to give up all the things we enjoy or stop doing what’s important in our daily lives. But He does ask us to put Him first. That might sound like a big challenge, but it doesn’t mean you have to spend hours in prayer every day or give up all your activities. It’s about finding balance and making small but intentional choices to prioritize your relationship with God. For example, you could start or end your day with just five minutes of prayer. You could read a short passage from Scripture and think about how it relates to your life. Or you could take a moment to thank God for your blessings and ask Him to guide you through your day. Even small changes like these can make a big difference. Over time, they help you build a habit of turning to God, even when life gets busy. And when you do face distractions, you can ask Jesus to help you refocus. Remember, He understands what it’s like to be human and experience daily challenges. He’s always ready to help you, but you need to make space in your life to hear His voice. Mary chose to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to Him. She recognized that nothing was more important than being in His presence. That’s the “better part” that Jesus invites all of us to choose. It doesn’t mean we stop everything else, but it does mean we learn to say no to the things that distract us from God and yes to the things that bring us closer to Him. This choice isn’t always easy, especially with so many things competing for our attention. But the more we practice, the easier it becomes. When we put God first, everything else in our lives falls into place. We still have responsibilities and activities, but they don’t feel as overwhelming because we’re grounded in what really matters. By choosing the better part, like Mary, we open our hearts to a deeper relationship with Jesus. And that’s something that will never be taken away from us.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Luke gives more attention to Jesus’ teachings on prayer than any other Gospel writer. He also mentions Jesus at prayer more than the others. In today’s reading, from the beginning of Chapter 11 of his Gospel, Luke presents the core of Jesus’ teaching on prayer. It consists of Jesus teaching a prayer to his disciples, a parable on the persistent neighbor, and assurances that God hears our prayers. The disciples notice Jesus praying “in a certain place.” They ask him to teach them to pray just as John the Baptist had taught his disciples. Jesus teaches them a simple version of the most famous Christian prayer, the Our Father, or the Lord’s Prayer. Matthew’s version shows signs of being shaped by

public prayer. Luke's version is probably closer to the original form that Jesus taught. Stripped of much of the language we are used to, Luke's version seems simple and direct. We pray that God's name will be recognized as holy and that his rule over all will be established. This is followed by petitions for our needs for bread, for forgiveness, and for deliverance. Luke uses the more theological language of "sins" rather than "debts," which is used in Matthew's version. Having taught his disciples a simple, daily prayer, Jesus goes on to reassure them that God answers prayers. First he tells a parable about a persistent neighbor who asks a friend for bread at midnight. The friend is already in bed and has no desire to disturb his family by opening the door. But because the neighbor is persistent, the sleeping man gets up and gives him all that he needs. If a neighbor is willing to help us if we are persistent enough, how could God not respond to our requests? This teaching concludes with the reminder that if we seek, we will get a response. If a human father, with all his faults, knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more will our heavenly Father give us? Instead of good gifts, however, Luke substitutes the word Holy Spirit. This foreshadows the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is central to Luke's theology and who will play an important role in the growth of the early Church after Pentecost. The parable and the concluding teaching in this section should not lead us to think of prayer as a series of requests presented to God. Rather, as Jesus teaches in his model prayer, prayer consists in recognizing God's holiness and his rule over all things.

Family Connection: When someone in our family is going through a hard time, we can't just sit by and watch. We try to do everything we can to let him or her know that he or she is not alone. Sometimes we even try to find a special gift for him or her—something that will help that person to understand how important he or she is to us. Talk about times in your family when this has happened. Like a good father, God saw that his children needed help. He decided to offer his beloved children a special gift to reveal his love. What did God give us? Not a thing, but a person—the Father's beloved Son, Jesus. Jesus, in turn, taught us to approach God as we would approach a loving father. He gave us the words of a prayer that we call the Our Father, or the Lord's Prayer. Read aloud Luke 11:1-13. Talk about how Jesus teaches us to be persistent in prayer. Think of times when family members were persistent about something until they were able to achieve a goal or receive what they sought. Talk about what it means to be persistent in prayer. Help your children understand that prayer is not like sitting on Santa Claus's lap, asking for what we want until we get it. Emphasize that prayer is a way of striving to recognize how God is reaching out to us in love and responding by presenting him with our needs. Conclude this time together by joining hands and praying the Lord's Prayer.

BECOME A CATECHIST - DURING THE SCHOOL TERM ONLY.

We are in need of additional Catechists to teach scripture in our local public schools.

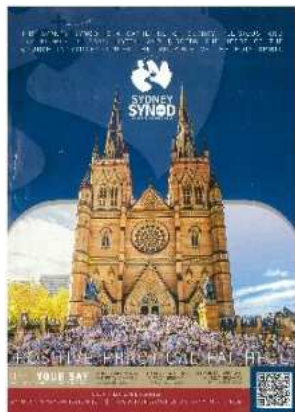
- **Homebush Public School- 11.15am-12.00pm on Wednesdays.**

All training and teacher resources & support will be provided.

Please contact Lorraine Kazzi on 0400 505 205.

New sets of 2025/26 Planned Giving Envelopes are now available for collection in the Church Foyer. We encourage all Parishioners to join the giving system by either Weekly Envelope or Monthly Credit Card as this is the main income of the parish, by means of which we run everyday expenses, funds projects and plan for the future. Tax deductibility is 30%. If you would like to join, please complete the slip below or completed a form in the Church Foyer which can be returned via any collection plate or directly to the parish office.

2024/2025 TAX RECEIPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN THE CHURCH FOYER



SYDNEY SNOD 2026 RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Archbishop Fisher has convoked an Archdiocesan Synod for 2026 in response to Holy Spirit-inspired longings from Sydney Catholics for more prayerful liturgies, more Christ-centred communities, and a more mission-oriented Church. In preparation, the Archbishop invites you to share your positive, faithful, and practical ideas on how these longings can be met, by attending any of the three regional consultations:

Saturday 30 August 9am - 12pm, Menai

Tuesday 14 October 6 - 9pm, Cathedral

Thursday 16 October 6 - 9pm, Liverpool

For more information and to be part of the consultations, go to

<https://sydcath.au/sydney-synod>



CWF AUGUST PARISH APPEAL

The next Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal will be held across the weekend 9th & 10th August. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney - including our local Aboriginal community, as well as single mothers facing homelessness, people struggling with mental health issues and many others. Appeal envelopes will be provided for your use so please keep an eye out for them. You can also make a donation and find out more at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf



2nd & 3rd August


Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Gian Surjadinata	Anne Marrins	Theresa Kuk
	Tandiono Family	Artha Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Baini	Greg Glass	Helen Williamson	Andrew Chasle
	Maria Soo	Sonia Gomez	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lincoln M.	Ryan W.	Beatrice L.	Volunteer Needed
	Hayden M.	Dylan W.	Holly C.	Volunteer Needed
	Zachary A.	Matthew C.	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Emile Habib, Catherine Tolme, Percy Karunatileka, William Terence McWilliams, Joseph Ramanathan, Luke James Manassa, Maria Nguyen Thi Mung, Robert (Bob) O'Hara.
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, Joseph Tannous, Nejia 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, Gladstone & Noel Jebanasam, George Lasrado, Rachel Francis, Norma Peralta Collantes, Peter Sereno, Phillip & Hind Azar, Emile & Foula Moubarak, Bridie McWilliams, John Harrington, Patricia Wilson.
Anniversaries:	Lawrie Soares, Giuseppe & Maria Andreacchio, John McNamara, William (Bill) Starr, Antonio Truscello, Samir Hakin, Mary Anne Harrington, Clare Kenny, Vincenzo Nadile, Elie Sahyoun, Frank Hickey, Mary Baini.
Sick Intentions:	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Elliot Leahy, Jason Gereis, Br Tony Wheelan cfc, Toni N, Norma Habib, Joe Everitt, Alf Buda, Ann Cincotta-Tangey, 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. Deceased members of the Georges & Sassine Families. Naomi & Maher Watson, Reg O'Neill.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

St Martha's Feast Day



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF EDUCATION

Tuesday 29th July 2025


9:30 am Mass at St Martha's Catholic Church
with Most Rev Terry Brady

10:30am Mosaic Blessing in School Playground

11:00am Morning Tea in School Hall

11:40am Open Classrooms

Please RSVP for the Morning Tea by Friday 4 July via
the google form link or QR code below.



[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/Y9VND5C9](https://tinyurl.com/y9vnd5c9)

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE CELEBRATION OF OUR

100 YEARS

Gala Dinner

DATE: SATURDAY 02/08/2025

TIME: 7PM - 11:30 PM

VENUE: STRATHFIELD GOLF COURSE

52 WEEROONA RD, STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

\$155 PER PERSON

INCLUDES 3 COURSE DINNER.

UNLIMITED BEER, WINE, & SOFT DRINKS

DRESS CODE: SEMI FORMAL

To purchase tickets visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1367178>

TABLES OF 10 OR SINGLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE

MUST BE OVER 18 YEARS OLD TO ATTEND

RSVP 18TH JULY 2025

