



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 Officer: Dianne Dawson safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Marion Li

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry



'See that you are prepared'.... Luke 12

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

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

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. It is a fundamental legal, moral and spiritual responsibility 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.

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.

The Feast of the Assumption of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation.

**Masses will be celebrated on Friday 15th August at
9.10am,
11.40am (with the school community) and 6.00pm.**

Reflection for The Assumption of Mary

Written by Fr Brian Maher OMI (The Oblates)

We hear that when Mary arrived at the house of Elizabeth she was overjoyed and greeted Mary with these words: "...Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?" I think that this word, 'honoured', is at the very heart of everything the Church has ever said about Mary. We cannot ever capture her life; we cannot ever understand the relationship she had with God; we cannot ever know the loneliness, fears, doubts, joys and sorrows she carried in her heart. Nor, I believe, should we try to do so. It is enough that we do what Elizabeth did; simply and humbly honour her as "the mother of our Lord." I truth, we know almost nothing about Mary's life. The Gospels are silent about her, apart from a few small, almost cameo, appearances she makes. Only Luke gives us any insight into her thoughts. The 'Magnificat' (today's Gospel) – which is in fact a very early hymn or poem in praise of Mary, could never be the actual words she spoke to Elizabeth, but it must be based on the memories of those who knew her and interacted with her. In it, her faith, her courage, her gentle humility and her absolute trust in the power of God to fulfil the promises he made to his people, shine through in magnificent colour. From the moment of Mary's conception to the moment she returned to God her life was sacred. At no time in history did 'human' and 'Divine' ever become so intertwined as in the person of Mary. No words, or art, or music, or poetry will ever even begin to express the sacred mystery she was chosen to live. Many have tried to do so in magnificent works of art or sculpture, in poetry and music, and more recently in film, and all have failed – have had to fail – to capture the absolutely unique relationship she must have had with her God. Through the centuries the Church has given her countless titles and in popular piety her statue is carried in procession in every culture and time. Millions of people make pilgrimages to places of deep prayer where she has been reported to have appeared. Yet none of these titles, processions or pilgrimages even begin to capture her greatness. Also through the centuries, the Catholic Church has tried to express the mystery of her life and the debt of gratitude we owe her in documents, pronouncements, and even dogmas. Intellectually, these expressions of homage are important, but we must view them, not as intellectual exercises in themselves, but as the Churches' way of honouring her. There are four official Dogma's of the Roman Catholic Church concerning Mary. The first one, and the most important one, is that Mary is the 'Mother of God'. It is so easy for us to say that, and it seems so obvious, but it took over four hundred years for the Church to be able to state officially that Mary was, not just mother of Jesus, but also mother of God. Remember, before anything could be said about Mary, the question, "Who was Jesus?" had to be answered. Again, it is easy for us to now say that that is obvious, but debate, disagreements and conflict lasted for three hundred years before it could be proclaimed officially that Jesus was, in fact, God, the second person of the Blessed Trinity, and that he was also fully human, born of Mary. Only after this was declared could Mary's part in his conception and birth be considered. In time this led to the formal declaration the Mary was indeed 'Mother of God'. Think about that for a few moments and you will see just how huge this statement is. Mary, a human woman, brought into the world, gave birth to, the God who created everything that is! But how does one even begin to pay homage to the woman who gave the 'Son of God' to us? The simple answer is, "we can't"! However we can try. The other three Dogmas – the perpetual Virginity of Mary, her Immaculate Conception and today's Feast, the Assumption of Mary into Heaven – are all honours the Church bestows on her as "Mother of God." Getting into arguments about the intellectual intricacies of any of these Dogma's might be interesting but it achieves nothing and actually pulls us away from the woman we honour – Mary, Mother God. For example, we might ask about today's Feast, "Did Mary actually die and was then resurrected and taken bodily to Heaven or does Assumption imply that she was miraculously taken to Heaven before death?" To that question I answer, "Interesting as an intellectual exercise, but it makes absolutely no difference to the honour I give to this great woman."

All of the Dogma's simply say:

- That before, during and after the birth of Jesus, Mary was a special woman, a woman set apart, different and unique.
- That Mary was herself conceived without sin – an honour given to her since she was to give birth to God.
- That at the end of her life God granted her the honour of taking her directly to Heaven. Her body, which gave birth to God, does not decay but is immediately with God.
- I can say that I don't understand any of these dogmas, and that I enjoy pondering and debating them with anyone who wants to do so. But I can also say that these honours, given to Mary by the Church, make perfect sense to me.

*There is no honour too great for this incredible, courageous, and wonder-filled woman – Mary,
the Mother of God.*



CWF AUGUST PARISH APPEAL

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal is running this 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

Enrol Now - First Holy Communion (For Year 3 Students or older)

Download the enrolment form from our website

<https://stmarthas.org.au/sacraments/first-holy-communion/>

(Enrolments close Monday 11th August 2025 at our Information Session)

Information Session with Fr. John on Monday 11th August 2025 @ 6pm in St Martha's Church Strathfield.

This session is **compulsory** for one parent to attend)

(Both are welcome. Children can attend, though session will be for parents)

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Jesus' instructions on how to be ready for the coming judgment continue in the stories and sayings found in today's Gospel. We are not to be like the greedy rich man in last Sunday's Gospel who planned to store his great harvest in barns rather than share it. We are, rather, to share our wealth with those in need. The antidote for the anxiety brought on by the coming judgment is to relinquish our possessions and provide for the needs of others. Our treasure will be in heaven where it will not wear out or be destroyed. The other major way to be ready for the coming judgment is to be watchful. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about watchfulness to begin making this point. We must be like servants waiting for the master's return from a wedding banquet, which, even now, can last for a few days in the Middle East. We must be watchful so that even if the master comes after midnight, we will be ready for him. This is what the coming of the Son of Man will be like. Peter asks if this parable is meant for the apostles or for the large crowd that has gathered to listen to Jesus. Without answering Peter's question, Jesus responds with another parable about servants awaiting the return of their master. It begins with a question: "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?" This parable adds to the theme of watchfulness; it explains how to wait and reminds us of the reward for the faithful follower at the heavenly banquet after the judgment. If it is addressed to the apostles, then it could also be addressed to leadership in the early Church. Either way, the parables reminds us that we should be found doing our jobs when the master arrives. If we are doing our jobs, our reward will be great. But if we relax, neglect our duties, and begin to act like the greedy rich man—eating, drinking, and making merry—we will not have a place in the kingdom. Watchfulness means living in such a consistently moral and obedient way that we are always ready to give an account to God of how we have lived.

Family Connection: Years ago, most families had only one or two clocks in their home. Today, we have clocks everywhere—on our walls, on our microwave ovens, on our DVD players, on our cell phones, and so on. As a family, go through the house and count how many clocks (time-telling devices) your family has. Talk about important events for which family members need to be on time. Recall experiences of being late for something, either as individuals or as a family. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about how important it is for us to be aware and alert, otherwise, we will miss something. Read aloud Luke 12:32-48. Talk about the parable that Jesus told and discuss how the master will feel if he arrives to find his servant doing his job. Discuss what our job is as disciples of Jesus. Explain that, just as we need to be aware of the time so that we don't miss anything important, we also need to be alert and focused on our jobs, our responsibilities as followers of Jesus. Encourage each family member to place a sacred symbol near the clock that they use most in the house and to use the symbol and the clock as a reminder that it is always "time" for us to be acting like disciples of Christ.

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.

16 th & 17 th August				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Yvonne Martins	Rachel Suriano	Andrew Bova
	Joanne Touma	Volunteer Needed	Maria Soares	Kynetha Torcato
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Daniel Martins	Mark Soares	Paulina Roncevic
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Merlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Jacob M.	Marcus V.	Volunteer Needed
	Peter T.	Christian C.	Elijah M.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Ryan W.	Christian C.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Dylan W.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

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

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Joseph Sarkis Baini, Vimla Hilton, Francesco Torresan, Emile Habib, Catherine Tolme, Percy Karunatileka, William Terence McWilliams, Joseph Ramanathan, 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 Guarina, 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, Bridie McWilliams, Rex Fernandes.
Anniversaries:	Colin Soleiman, Simon Ban, Francesco Campanale, Giuseppina & Lorenzo Tati, Josephine & Habib Khoury, Roslyn & Francis Sinnadurrai, Carmelina Truscello, Stella Cusack, Eric Leahy, John Ferguson, Reginald Glass, Ruth Hayes, Alicia Herny Lim, Joseph Tabbakh, Stephen Bonett, Salvatore' Bonett, Annie Bonett, Patrick Duggan, Lawrie Soares, Giuseppe & Maria Andreacchio, John McNamara, William (Bill) Starr, Antonio Truscello, Samir Hakin, Mary Anne Harrington, 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), Ajay Babu Avirneni,
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Deceased members of the Georges & Sassine Families. Naomi & Maher Watson, Reg O'Neill, Madanu Anthony & Sundari Family, Saleem Chatti & Kulathil & Family.

Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the Church Entrances.



Teresa's CENTRE
invites you to our inaugural

Ladies Luncheon

WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025

11:30am - 2:30pm at Ecco Ristorante
2 St Georges Cres, Drummoyne

\$150pp
includes 3 course lunch, guest speakers and entertainment

to purchase tickets contact
Stephanie 0450 783 820 | Rebecca 0404 009 980





Teresa's CENTRE

RAFFLE 2025

Moments With Carolyn Photography Package
valued at \$1500

MOMENTS WITH CAROLYN

Teeth Whitening Kit & Visit with Dr. Chantelle
from Lattouf Dental valued at \$700

LATTOUF DENTAL

Ann Hassarti Make Up Brush Set
valued at \$300

Endota Spa Voucher
valued at \$200

endota spa

Larissa Daher Hair Voucher
valued at \$100

LARISSA DAHER HAIR

Our Lady of Grace A1 Framed Print by artist Almaza Caracoglia
valued at \$1200

TP-Link Tapo RV20 MAX Robot Vacuum and Mop
valued at \$499

Joanne Barakat Make Up & Brows Voucher
valued at \$300

Knife and Barrel Voucher
valued at \$100

Bar Biscotti Voucher
valued at \$50

BAR BISCONTI

Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 @ the Ladies Luncheon Fundraiser

to purchase tickets transfer total amount for raffle tickets to the following account:
ACC NAME: MARONITE CARE - TERESA'S CENTRE
BSB: 942207 ACC NO: 1009754

then add your name and raffle to the description (e.g. Melissa Raffle)
send a screenshot to Stephanie 0450 783 820 or Rebecca 0404 009 980



Beyond Blue
Beyond Blue
P: 1300 22 4636
W: www.beyondblue.org.au

CatholicCare
CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney
P: 13 18 19
W: www.catholiccare.org

kidshelpline
Anytime | Any Reason
Call 1800 55 1800

Lifeline
Saving Lives
Crisis Support, Suicide Prevention.
Lifeline
P: 13 11 14
W: www.lifeline.org.au

1800RESPECT
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE
1800RESPECT
P: 1800 737 732
W: www.1800respect.org.au