



# ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

**Parish Priest:** Father John Hayes

**Assistant Priest:** Father Liem Duong

**Administration Coordinator:** Nicolle Mazzaferro [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 [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



**'All who exalt themselves shall be humbled, and all who humble themselves shall be exalted'... Luke 14**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

**Phone:** 9746 6131 **Fax:** 9764 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**

## **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)

## **Mission:**

**Alive with the Spirit**

**Inspired by St Martha**

**We Celebrate & Witness**

**God's love**

**Using our Gifts & Talents**

## **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.**

# JUBILEE HOPE

*"...reawaken in us, pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of Heaven." (Jubilee Prayer)*

You are invited to a series of talks to help awaken our Baptismal Faith and Hope. Commencing Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in the Parish hall (the old Church) and continuing on Thursdays and Sunday.

**First Holy Communion** - Please continue to pray for the candidates who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September during special Masses at 12.00 noon. May our Lord watch over them on their faith journey. A special thanks to Linda Praum our Sacramental Coordinator who has been preparing the children.

## **CWF AUGUST PARISH APPEAL**



Thank you for supporting the Charitable Works Fund (CWF). The Appeal will continue running until the end of 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](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf)



## **PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION**

The Priests' Retirement Foundation will be held across **weekend 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September**. Also known as the Father's Day Appeal, each year our Archdiocese hosts this annually to support retired priests and thank our Fathers for their wonderful service to our community. Your gift is a 'thank you' to our priests who've contributed in many ways in your life. They are friends who've counselled, comforted and provided spiritual nourishment through their wisdom and willingness to teach. Give generously. Your tax-deductible gift will make a big difference to our retired Fathers who need our care. Envelopes are available in the Church Foyer.

**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** Meals played an important role in the society in which Jesus lived. More than a time for sharing nourishment, they were a time to share ideas and to model different aspects of social relationships. In Luke's Gospel, the places that a person ate (at the home of a tax collector, 5:29), the people with whom a person ate (sinners, 5:30), whether a person washed before eating (11:38), and, as is the case here, the place that a person sits while eating are all important. The narrator says Jesus tells a parable, but it is really wise advice to both guests and hosts about finding true happiness at the heavenly banquet. Jesus warns guests to wait before taking their places at the table lest they be asked to move if someone more important arrives. This is more than just a lesson about dinner etiquette. It is advice on how to find your true place in the Kingdom of God. Jesus advises hosts not to invite people who would be expected to repay them to dinner but to invite those who could not repay: the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. This is where real blessings can be found. In these sayings, Luke gives us not only advice on how to approach the end times but also on how to live according to Jesus' vision of a good society. Luke's Gospel also advises us how the Church must be part of bringing about this society. It is yet another example in Luke's Gospel of the reversal the kingdom brings about.

**Family Connection:** Parents and children often enter into "negotiations" over how much allowance is to be earned at certain ages. Typically, when a child seeks an increase in allowance, parents will attach an increase in chores and responsibilities for them to better earn the increase. Talk about what kind of allowance you received as a child and what kind of responsibilities your parents expected of you to earn your allowance. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about doing good deeds for others and expecting nothing in return. Read aloud Luke 14:1,7-14. Ask your children how they would feel if you told them to take on more chores without ever expecting another raise in allowance. Emphasize that Jesus teaches us that it is our duty as his followers to take care of the needs of others and to do so without expecting repayment. Discuss what other types of rewards we can find when doing good things for others. Point out that we sometimes fall into the trap of wanting too many things and that, in the Our Father, we pray for "our daily bread," meaning that we pray for only that which we really need in life. Conclude this time together by praying aloud the Our Father.

## **The Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis and**

the Canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will be on 7 September. The canonizations of the two young saints—one from the early twentieth century, the other the first twenty-first-century saint—have been greatly anticipated due to the great devotion among the faithful. Pope Leo made the choice to enrol among the number of the saints two young men from different eras who led completely different lives, but who are nonetheless united in their love for Christ and their ability to impart that love to those whose lives they touched. Prayer cards, Novenas & mini posters are available in the Church foyer.

**TAX RECEIPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE**

## Season of Creation

### Laudato Si' 2025

1<sup>st</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION.

Welcome to this year's Season of Creation where communities come together for this special season of ecumenical solidarity. Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is "Peace with Creation". Let us join in praise and celebrate the gifts and wonders that God bestows on us.

Resources are available in the Church Foyer.

### *Reflection - The Healing Embrace of the Eucharist by Ron Rolheiser*

There are different kinds of loneliness and different kinds of intimacy. We ache in many places. When I was a young priest, newly ordained and barely beyond the loneliness of adolescence, certain words at the Eucharist touched me deeply. I was a young and lonely and words about being drawn together inside one body and one spirit would incite feelings in me to do with my own loneliness. To become one body in Christ triggered, in me, an image of an embrace that would put an end to my personal loneliness, my endless aching, and my sexual separateness. Unity in Christ, as I fantasized it then, meant overcoming my own loneliness. And that is a valid understanding. The Eucharist is an embrace meant to take away personal loneliness, but, as we get older, a deeper kind of loneliness can and should begin to obsess us. This deeper loneliness makes us aware how torn and divided is our world and everything and everyone in it. There is a global loneliness that dwarfs private pain. How separate and divided is our world! We look around us, watch the world news, watch the local news, look at our places of work, our social circles, and even our churches, and we see tension and division everywhere. We are far from being one body and one spirit. So many things, it seems, work to divide us: history, circumstance, background, temperament, ideology, geography, creed, color, and gender. And then there are our personal wounds, jealousies, self-interest, and sin. The world, like a lonely adolescent, aches too in its separateness. We live in a world deeply, deeply divided. And the older I get, the more I despair that there can be a simple solution, or perhaps even a human solution at all, to our divisions. Life slowly teaches us that it is naive to believe that all we need is simple optimism, good-will, and an unfailing belief that love will conquer. Love can and will conquer, but it doesn't happen like in a Hollywood picture, where two people who really have no business ever being together fall in love and despite having nothing in common, despite being deeply wounded, despite being immature and selfish, and despite having no shared faith or values, are able to rise above all their differences to sustained embrace and ecstasy, simply because love conquers all. At a certain point, we know that real life doesn't work like that, unless we die in that initial embrace as did Romeo and Juliet. Our differences eventually have their say, both inside of our personal relationships and inside the relationships between countries, cultures, ethnic groups, and religions. At a certain point our differences, like a cancer that cannot be stopped, begin to make themselves felt and we feel helpless to overcome that. But this isn't despair. It's health. As anyone who has ever fought an addiction knows, the beginning of a return to health lies in the admission of helplessness. It's only when we admit that we can't help ourselves that we can be helped. We see in the gospels where so many times, immediately after finally grasping a teaching of Jesus, the apostles react with the words: "If that's true, then it's impossible for us, then there's nothing we can do!" Jesus welcomes that response (because in that admission we open ourselves to help) and replies: "It is impossible for you, but nothing is impossible for God!" Our prayers for unity and intimacy become effective precisely when they issue from this feeling of helplessness, when we ask God to do something for us that we have despaired of doing for ourselves. We see an example of this within Quaker communities when people gather and simply sit with each other in silence, asking God to do for them what they cannot do for themselves, namely, give themselves harmony and unity. The silence is an admission of helplessness, of having given up on the naïve notion that we, as human beings, will ever finally find the right words and the right actions to bring about a unity that has forever evaded us. The Eucharist is such a prayer of helplessness, a prayer for God to give us a unity we cannot give to ourselves. It is not incidental that Jesus instituted it in the hour of his most intense loneliness, when he realized that all the words he had spoken hadn't been enough and that he had no more words to give. When he felt most helpless, he gave us the prayer of helplessness, the Eucharist. Our generation, like every generation before it, senses its helplessness and intuitively its need for a messiah from beyond. We cannot heal ourselves and we cannot find the key to overcome our wounds and divisions all on our own. So we must turn our helplessness into a Quaker-silence, a Eucharistic prayer, that asks God to come and do for us what we cannot do for ourselves, namely, create community. And we must go to Eucharist for this same reason.



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  
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.  
P: 13 11 14  
W: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)



1800RESPECT  
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE  
P: 1800 737 732  
W: [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)



# Ask R U OK? ANY DAY

A conversation could change a life.

National R U OK DAY.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>  
September 2025.  
Resources will be  
available in the  
Church Foyer

## ASK R U OK? ANY DAY BECAUSE LIFE HAPPENS EVERY DAY.

Thursday 11 September is R U OK? Day but we know that whether it's a friend, family member, partner, or colleague, the people around us go through life's ups and downs every day. That's why we want everyone to feel confident to check in with the people they care about and Ask R U OK? Any Day. Our research found that those who are regularly asked, 'are you OK?' report increased feelings of wellbeing, and we've learned that a third of Australians say they've been asking others more often over the past year. That means many of us are already showing up for others in meaningful ways, but when it comes to conversations about how we're really going, some people are less confident than others. It's natural to feel a little hesitant, but the good news is nine in ten Australians report feeling grateful, supported and cared for when someone genuinely asks them if they're OK - and that's a good reason to give it a go. You might even be having these conversations already without realising. If you need tips to build your confidence, we're here to help with plenty of free resources to help you feel more confident to check in with someone you care about. You've got this, and we've got your back.

Ask R U OK? Any Day of the year because a conversation could change a life. Visit <https://www.ruok.org.au/r-u-ok-day>

## 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Georgette Sahyoun	Anne Marrins	Mary L'Estrange
	Tandiono Family	Peter Yamin	Rita Piras	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Bains	Paulina Roncevic	Helen Williamson	Melanie John
	Maria Soo	Robert Smith	Rachel Suriano	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lincoln M.	Archie S.	Beatrice L.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Hayden M.	Henry L.	Holly C.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Zachary A.	Amy L.	Bonett Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Bonett Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk

## Mass Intentions

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart. Monsignor Kerry Bayada, Scarlett Dahdah, Terry McCarthy, Tommy Partch, Dr Chantal Bardella, Pepito Awayan, Raymond Jung, Joseph Sarkis Bains, Vimla Hilton, Francesco Torresan, Emile Habib, Catherine Tolme, Percy Karunatileka, William Terence McWilliams, Joseph Ramanathan.
<b>Repose of The Soul:</b>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Fr Mark Beard, Elias & Julia Georges, Luke Manassa, Alfredo Pjanic, Kevin Bouffler, Br Ray Dowding, 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, Bridie McWilliams, Rex Fernandes, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Jim Bradbury & Greg Doyle.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Francesco Natale, Maria Rostirolla, Netta O'Hara, Bernard & Mark Kelly, Beverley Graves, Raymond Castolino, Joseph Michael Nathan, Selome Seseikene, Roland George Peters, Simon Ban, Francesco Campanale, Giuseppina & Lorenzo Tati, Josephine & Habib Khoury, Roslyn & Francis Sinnadurrai, Carmelina Truscillo, Stella Cusack, Eric Leahy, Joseph Tabbakh, Stephen Bonett, Salvatore Bonett, Annie Bonett, Patrick Duggan, Lawrie Soares, John & Doreen McNamara, William (Bill) Starr, Antonio Truscillo.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Sr Marilyn Farley, Elliot Leahy, Jason Gereis, 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,
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Teresa Rosso, Naomi & Maher Watson, Reg O'Neill, Madanu Anthony & Sundari Family, Saleem Chatti & Kulathil & Family.

**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. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this. Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the Church Entrances.**