



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

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

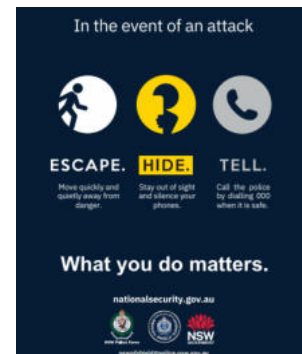
Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum sc@stmarthas.org.au

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



'The Son of Man must be lifted up'.... John 3

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.

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

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 safeguardinginquiries@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.**

TAX RECEIPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE



Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice. Resources are available in the Church foyer.

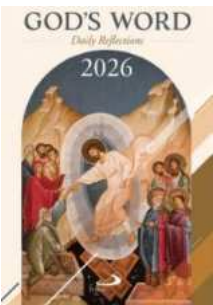


SEEKING PARTICIPANTS FOR THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR THE SYNOD OF SYDNEY 2026

His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher is encouraging participants from parishes throughout Sydney to register for a Regional Consultation in preparation for the Synod of Sydney next year. The next consultation will be held at St Mary's Cathedral on **Tuesday 14th October from 6pm-9pm**. Registration can be done online at [Trybooking.com/DAVZE](https://trybooking.com/DAVZE). I encourage parishioners to participate in this event. Any queries may be directed to Father John at the parish office admin@stmarthas.org.au

May God bless the children coming forward this Sunday to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. On this special day, we congratulate you on taking this big step in your faith journey and we hope that you experience the joy of God's presence in your lives always. Thank you to Linda Praum, our Sacramental Coordinator and her team of helpers for preparing the children.

A variety of First Holy Communion gifts are available from the Church Piety Stall.



PRE-ORDERS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR THE 2026 GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS BIBLE DIARIES – LIMITED STOCK WILL BE AVAILABLE SO RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW. These Bible Diaries are designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God make these an ideal Christmas gift. Please write your name and contact details on a payment envelope in the Church Foyer. **\$20 each (rrp \$21.95) Cash payments only.**

IN THIS JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

Come and hear a word of Hope

You are invited to a series of talks to help reawaken Faith and Hope

"...a hope which will not let us down, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us." (RM 5:5)

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

Sundays and Thursdays at 7.00pm in the Parish hall (the old Church). Child minding provided. Enquiries: Domenico 0419 536 536.

Dominican Sisters Meditation Group - Parishioners are invited to come to the Meditation Group in the Dominican Convent off Jersey Road Strathfield (behind Santa Sabina College). The group meets on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am for half an hour. All are welcome. Please contact Sr Philomena on 9744 9560.



Marriage Week

AUSTRALIA

Family Prayers are available in the Foyer

14-20 September 2025

<https://marriageaustralia.org>



Build Healthy Communication with One Another

Communication ... is a foundational part of life, whether in relationships, business or play.

There are many forms or parts to communication:

- The word spoken or written
- Listening or reading
- Understanding
- Body language, including eye contact and touch
- And on occasions patience and keeping silent

Holy scripture is sufficient for us to lead lives that glorify God, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

and see also Psalms 9:7-14. Scripture is our rock where we can find inspiration, hope, and faith at any stage of life, in good times and bad. Remembering "Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love

your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40 Within scripture there are many verses relating to how we should communicate to others in our lives – marriages, families, other relationships whether work or friends. Within marriage these verses show the way for healthy, open hearted communication between husband and wife. We are shown the power of words with God speaking out creation and then in Proverbs 18:21. For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the LORD turns his face against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:10-12 (NLT)



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

Season of Creation ~ Laudato Si' 2025

1st September – 4th October

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

The Catholic agency
for international aid
and development

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.

The Season of Creation's call for Peace with Creation aligns powerfully with the Turn Debt into Hope campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges. Caritas Australia is inviting parishes to stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal by:

- signing the Turn Debt into Hope petition – caritas.org.au/debt
- committing to practical, everyday actions that promote ecological sustainability and care for creation by registering to become a Catholic Earthcare Household - caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): In John's Gospel, Jesus' death on the cross as well as his resurrection and return to the Father are one event. For him, the cross is a sign of exaltation. The serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert to offer healing to those injured by snake bites prefigures Jesus' being lifted up on the cross, bringing salvation.

The eternal life God offers through Jesus is not life without end but life lived in the unending presence of God. That is why it can begin now in this life. The world to which God sends the Son is not a place but those people who are at odds with Jesus and God. Jesus is sent to this world as a gift. Only believers accept the gift. Finally, God's judgment on the world is not a future cosmic event but a present reality. God sent the Son out of love for the world. However, the world has to decide to accept him. Those who accept him have eternal life at the moment of the decision. Those who reject him don't.

Family Connection: As a family, sit down together and brainstorm a list of family highlights, moments in the lives of family members that are to be celebrated, such as achievements, accomplishments, and awards. Spend some time reminiscing about these various events or moments. Remind your children of how proud you are of them. Point out that often achievements and accomplishments are signified by the presentation of trophies, medals, ribbons, or certificates. Show some examples of such awards in your family's possession. Say, We have one other symbol in our home that celebrates a victory that we all can share in. Show a cross or crucifix that you keep on display in your home. Say: This is a symbol of God's victory over death. Jesus died on the cross, but because of his Resurrection, the cross has become for us, not a symbol of defeat, but a symbol of victory. Explain that the following Gospel is from the Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Have a family member read aloud John 3:13-17. Talk about what the word exaltation means—to raise high, to lift up, to sing praise to. Remind your family that whenever they see the cross displayed in your home, it is a reminder to exalt, to praise, God for loving us so much that he gave us his only Son, Jesus. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross, a prayer that exalts God's love.

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Gina Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Kynetha Torcato
	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.	
	Peter T.	Archie S.	Elijah M.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Shannon D.	Christian C.	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Wardens	Linda Praum	Abboud Baladi	Trudie Rogers	Paulina Roncevic

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Greg Whitby, Dr Dexter Ekanayake, John Wright, Monsignor Kerry Bayada, Terry McCarthy, Tommy Partch, Pepito Awayan, Raymond Jung.
Repose of The Soul:	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 & Harry 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, 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.
Anniversaries:	Wajih Saliba & James Webb, Wahib & Chemoui Bechara, Raymond & Natasha Bechara, Emile & Foula Moubarak, Narcissa Milano Saya, Charlotte O'Brien, Patrick McGannon, Teresa Sittampalam, Mary Anne Harrington, Eric Leahy, Joy Quinlan, Kevin Quinlan, Marie Leahy, Francesco Natale, Maria Rostirolla, Netta O'Hara, Bernard & Mark Kelly, Beverley Graves.
Sick Intentions:	Helen McAlister, Sr Marilyn Farley, Elliot Leahy, Jason Gereis, Toni N, Norma Habib, Joe Everitt, Alf Buda, Ann Cincotta-Tangey, Mark Samaha, John Weitering, , 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:	The Mazzaferro & Coluccio Families, Nelly Galano, Dareth Flavell, Henry Quan & Willie Quan, Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society.

Starting a conversation

1. Ask R U OK?

- Pick the right time and place to start the conversation.
- Mention specific things that have made you concerned for them, like "You seem less chatty than usual. How are you going?"

2. Listen

- Take what they say seriously and don't interrupt or rush the conversation.
- Encourage them to explain: "How are you feeling about that?" or "How long have you felt that way?"
- Show that you're listening by repeating back what you've heard (in your own words) and ask if you've understood them properly.

3. Encourage action

- Help them think of next steps they could take to help them manage their situation.
- If they've been down for more than two weeks, encourage them to see a health professional.
- Be positive about the role of professionals in getting through tough times.

4. Check in

- Schedule a reminder to call them in a couple of weeks. If they're really struggling, follow up with them sooner.
- Stay in touch and be there for them. Genuine care and concern can make a real difference.

Can you spot the changes?

Find the 6 differences between these two illustrations.

Useful contacts for someone who's not OK

Encourage them to connect with a trusted health professional, like their GP, or these Australian crisis lines and professionals:

Lifeline (24/7)
13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Beyond Blue (24/7)
1300 224 636
beyondblue.org.au

SANE Australia
1800 18 SANE (7263)
sane.org

Suicide Call Back Service (24/7)
1300 657 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Kids Helpline (24/7)
1800 551 800
kids.help.com.au

More contacts
ruok.org.au/findhelp

R U OK?

A conversation could change a life.

ruok.org.au

TRUST THE SIGNS

ASK R U OK?

Trust the Signs, Trust your Gut & Ask R U OK?

It's time to ask R U OK? if you notice a change, no matter how small.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?	WHAT ARE THEY DOING?	WHAT'S GOING ON IN THEIR LIFE?
<p>Do they seem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confused or irrational Mood Unable to switch off Concerned about the future Concerned they're a burden Lonely or lacking self-esteem Concerned they're trapped or in pain 	<p>Are they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiencing mood swings Becoming withdrawn Changing their online behaviour Losing interest in what they used to love Unable to concentrate Less interested in their appearance and personal hygiene Behaving recklessly Changing their sleep patterns 	<p>Are they experiencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship issues Major health issues Work pressure or constant stress Financial difficulty Loss of someone or something they care about

R U OK?