



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

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

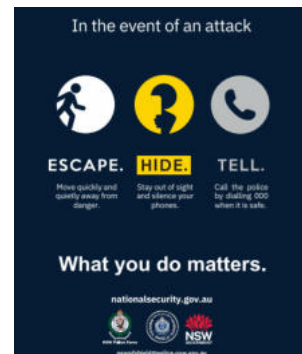
Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum sc@stmarthas.org.au

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



'During your life good things came your way just as bad things came the way of Lazarus...' - Luke 16

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 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.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): A major theme in the Gospel of Luke is the importance of the care of the poor in the life of discipleship. In the parable found in today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts the life of a rich man and the poor man, Lazarus, who lives in the shadow of the rich man and his wealth. Both die. Lazarus finds himself in heaven; the rich man in the netherworld. The rich man asks for assistance from Lazarus in his torment. But Abraham reminds the rich man of the good things he had in his life and describes the current situation as a reversal of fortunes. The rich man then asks that Lazarus be sent to warn his family, but this is denied with the reminder that Moses and the prophets have warned of judgment for those who neglect the care of the poor. In the context of Luke's Gospel, this parable, delivered in the presence of a crowd of listeners, is part of Jesus' response to some Pharisees. These Pharisees are described in Luke's Gospel as "loving money." (Note: The Pharisees were followers of a sect of Judaism active before, during, and after Jesus' lifetime. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for popular Jewish piety. They put less emphasis on Temple worship and more on applying the law to everyday life. Though they are often portrayed negatively in the Gospels, they shared many of Jesus' and the early Church's concerns about the law.) Jesus observed that the actions of some Pharisees betrayed misplaced priorities: they spoke one way, but acted in another. The story of the rich man and Lazarus demonstrates the importance of the care of the poor and is a reminder to those who would follow Jesus of the unimportance of wealth in the eyes of God.

Family Connection: Talk with your children about some of the things that they have that can be shared with others. Ask your children to describe a time when they had to share something that they had. Ask if this was easy or difficult and why. Talk about some of ways in which your family shares your possessions. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 16:19-31. Consider together some reasons why the rich man may not have shared his riches with the poor man, Lazarus. Identify some reasons why we might share our possessions with others. Make a commitment as a family to do something this week in which you will choose to share your possessions with someone in need.



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



2026 GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS BIBLE DIARIES – LIMITED STOCK IS 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.**

PRE-ORDERS ARE READY FOR COLLECTION IN THE SACRISTY AFTER MASS



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.

TAX RECEIPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE

October is the month of the Rosary. A prayer full of blessings as we contemplate the mysteries of our salvation. Let us make use of this beautiful prayer as we continue to grow together in faith and love.

We extend our sincerest thanks to the Quan Family, formerly from the Solomon Islands and Founders of the Rosary Mission Group, for generously donating a variety of colourful hand-made and beautifully beaded Rosaries to St Martha's. The Rosary can be a source of hope and comfort, especially during challenging times.



Praying the Holy Rosary is a great opportunity for each of us to strengthen our relationship with Our Lady. The Blessed Rosaries are available in the Church foyer and are free, however an offering into the LIFELINE DONATION BOX would be appreciated.



THE DONATION BOX IS LOCATED IN THE CHURCH FOYER

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

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

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

Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

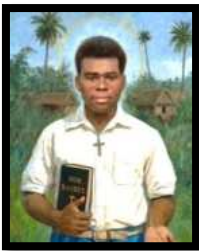
Season of Creation ~ Laudato Si' 2025
1st September – 4th October
THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION.

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/



The Canonisation of Papua New Guinea's first saint, Blessed Peter ToRot will be on 19th October 2025. Peter ToRot was a lay catechist who was martyred in 1945 for continuing his apostolate despite a ban imposed by the Japanese. His case is special for several reasons: he will be the first native Papuan saint, a fervent defender of marriage and the family, a catechist committed to the mission of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. His sanctity is the fruit of the close collaboration of priests and laity in evangelisation. Prayer cards will be available in the Church foyer.

4 th & 5 th October				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Georgette Sahyoun	Elias Family	Mary L'Estrange
	Marian McCluskey	Peter Yamin	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Paulina Roncevic	Elias Family	Helen W.
	Patricia Saad	Robert Smith	Mark Soares	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Archie S.	Alysha N.	Volunteer Needed
	Thomas S.	Henry L.	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff C.	Amy L.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Matthew Z.	Volunteer Needed	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Anton De Almaida	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Brother Bob Wallace, Salvatore Corelli, Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Georgette Tannous, 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, Salvatore La Cava, Marie Mastan, Illuminata Raspa.
Anniversaries:	Gerald Wilson, Campbell Farrell, Dorothea Starr, Frank & Kathelnn Moynihan, Joseph Manning, Khalil Herro, Eric Sidoti, 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.
Sick Intentions:	Paul Moynihan, 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 Corelli, Howell, Mazzaferro & Coluccio Families, Nelly Galano, Dareth Flavell, Henry Quan & Willie Quan, Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society.

Carrying Tension by Ron Rolheiser

One of the things we're asked to do as Christians is to help "take away the sins of the world" as Jesus did. How? Jesus "took away the sins of the world" by holding, carrying, purifying, and transforming tension, that is, by taking in the bitterness, anger, jealousy, hatred, slander, and every other kind of thing that's cancerous within human community, and not giving it back in kind. In essence, Jesus did this by acting like a purifier, a water filter of sorts: He took in hatred, held it, transformed it, and gave back love; he took in bitterness, held it, transformed it, and gave back graciousness; he took in curses, held them transformed them, and gave back blessing; and he took in murder, held it, transformed it, and gave back forgiveness. Jesus resisted the instinct to give back in kind, hatred for hatred, curses for curses, jealousy for jealousy, murder for murder. He held and transformed these things rather than simply re-transmit them. And, in this, he wants imitation, not admiration. Christian discipleship invites us, like Jesus, to become a "lamb of God", a purifier, that helps take tension out of our families, communities, friendship circles, churches, and work-places by holding and transforming it rather than simply give it back in kind. But that's not easy. Jesus did this, but the gospels say that he had to "sweat blood" to achieve it. To carry tension is to fill with tension ourselves and, as we know, this can be unbearable. We don't have God's strength and we aren't made of steel. As we try to carry tension for others, what do we do with our own tensions? How do we carry tension without becoming resentful and bitter? How do we carry another's cross without, however subtly, sending him or her the bill? This isn't easy, as every health professional can tell you. Tension wreaks havoc inside us, physically and emotionally. You can die of high blood pressure or of disappointment. But there are some rules that can help. First, carrying tension for others does not mean putting up with abuse or not confronting pathologically or clinical dysfunction. To love someone, as we now know, does not mean accepting abuse in the name of love. Second, we need to find healthy outlets to release our own tensions. However we should never download them on the same people for whom we are trying to carry them. For example, parents carry tension for their children, but, when frustrations build up, they should not angrily vent those frustrations back on the kids themselves. Rather they should deal with their own tensions away from the children, with each other and with friends, when the kids are in bed, over a bottle of wine. The same holds true for everyone: We should never vent our frustrations on the very person or persons for whom we are trying to carry tension. Finally, in order to deal with the frustrations that build up in us, we need, in the midst of the tensions, to be connected to something (a person, a friendship, a hand, a God, a creed, a perspective) beyond ourselves and the situation we're in. Scripture offers some wonderful images for this. It tells us, for example, that as Steven was being stoned to death out of hatred and jealousy, he kept his "eyes raised to heaven". That's not so much a physical description of things, as every artist knows, but a commentary on how Steven kept himself from drowning in the spinning chaos that was assaulting him. He stayed connected to a person, a hand, a friendship, an affirmation, a perspective, and a divine power outside of the madness. We see the same thing, just a different metaphor, in the story of the three young men who are thrown into the blazing furnace in the Book of Daniel. We're told that they walked around, right in the midst of the flames, untouched by the fire because they were singing sacred songs. Like Steven, they sustained their love and faith amidst bitter jealousy and hatred by staying connected to something outside of the fiery forces that were consuming everyone else. We need to contemplate that lesson. Like Jesus, and like everyone else who's ever walked this planet, we all find ourselves forever inside families, communities, churches, friendships, and work-circles that are filled with tension of every kind. Our natural temptation, always, is to simply give back in kind, jealousy for jealousy, gossip for gossip, anger for anger. But what our world really needs is for some women and men, adults, to step forward and help carry and purify this tension, to help take it away by transforming it inside themselves. But that's not easy. Like Jesus, it will involve "sweating blood". So, as we volunteer to step into the fire, it's wise not to go in alone, but to stay connected to some hand, some friend, some creed, and some God who will help sustain us in love and faith, right inside the madness and fire.