



# 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)

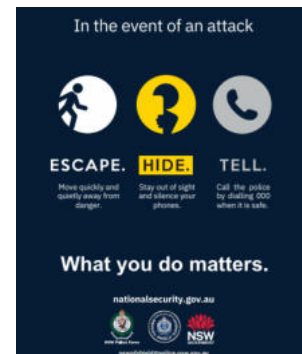
**Sacramental Coordinator:** Linda Praum [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

**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 do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples'.... 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**

## **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](mailto: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](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. It is our responsibility to ensure that the legal, moral and spiritual responsibilities of the Church are met 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.**

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS & FATHER LIKE FIGURES IN OUR LIVES WHO CONTINUE TO GIVE LOVE AND LIFE TO THEIR FAMILIES. MAY THE PEACE AND JOY OF THE LORD BE YOURS IN A SPECIAL WAY TODAY AND MAY HE BLESS YOU IN EVERY WAY. MAY WE ALWAYS BE THANKFUL FOR THE GIFT OF FATHERS.**

**We also remember our Parish Priests, Fr John & Fr Liem and thank them for their spiritual guidance and pastoral ministry to our St Martha's community.**

Father's Day is a special occasion to honour and appreciate the fathers and father figures in our lives. It is a time to recognize their sacrifices, love, and dedication. Through prayer, we can seek God's blessings, guidance, and strength for them. We ask God to pour His favour upon them and guide them in their important role.

A Father's Day Prayer by Maren Tirabassi (adapted)

God, I'm praying for fathers –  
fathers, up at night with newborns, fathers, bent under college debt,  
fathers who are good with one age of child and haven't a clue with another.  
I'm praying for fathers balancing self and home and work and parenting, especially when no one seems to notice.  
I'm praying for fathers of adolescents, and for those who are adolescents themselves,  
as well as many who prop up their elbows when their hands slip on the gift of accountability.  
I'm praying for grandfathers, godfathers and grieving fathers,  
foster fathers, adopting fathers, solo fathers and step-fathers,  
fathers-in-law and fathers-in-neighbor,  
and also teachers, pastors, coaches, counselors  
who mix a tiny bit of what they know from fathering into relationships with dozens of children.  
I'm praying for those living with their mistakes as fathers—  
small thoughtlessnesses that call for self-forgiveness,  
or deep damage needing repentance, transformation.  
I'm praying for those who want to be fathers,  
and those who have wanted, but it never happened.  
I'm praying for those who miss their fathers because of death or distance,  
deep difference or disappearance,  
and I'm praying those who miss their children because of death or distance,  
deep difference or disappearance.  
Be a parent to them, O God, on this day and all the days of the year.  
So on this annual day with its tangle of knotted emotions,  
draw out for each of us from your fathoms of tenderness, care, and strength,  
for our most intimate needs – named here. Amen.

Today, Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will be canonised by Pope Leo XIV who 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.  
The Holy Mass commences at 6pm Sydney time.

## 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.



The Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal is running this weekend. 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.

**PRIESTS'**  
**RETIREMENT**  
**FOUNDATION**

**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.**



### **NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 7 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2025**

National Child Protection Week will continue to embrace the overarching message that 'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go'. Children and young people thrive when they grow up safe, connected and supported in their family, community and culture. They have the right to grow up in environments that support them according to their needs, now and into the future. This year let's talk about how we create a supportive environment for every child. National Child Protection Week will be looking at what works to keep children safe and supported... what children are telling us... what families are telling us... what the evidence is telling us... and how to translate this knowledge into action. We know that too many children are not growing up safe and supported and that Child Protection systems are overloaded. There are many opportunities to change the trajectory for these children. We can stop child abuse and neglect – and reduce its impact – by working together to make sure every child in every community has a fair go. To build on last year's focus, our theme for 2025 will be: Every conversation matters: Shifting Conversation to Action. This year's theme highlights that while open discussions are crucial, words alone are not enough: we must turn dialogue into meaningful action. NAPCAN acknowledges that while conversations can raise awareness, challenge harmful norms, and spark new ideas, real change happens when we take steps to create safer environments for children that prevent them from harm. This year, we are focusing on moving beyond conversations to concrete actions that prevent harm and instead, focussing on strengthening support systems, and empowering communities to actively protect children. By shifting from conversation to action, we can ensure that every child not only feels heard but also experiences real safety, care, and protection.



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>



Garden of Peace  
Isaiah 32:14-18

### **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.

**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.**





**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** In chapter 14 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus is speaking to people gathered at the table about the difficulties of following him. This group of people is suspicious about Jesus, looking to catch him doing something wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables, emphasizing that although there is a right way to be a disciple and enter into the kingdom of his Father, it is a difficult path to follow. Many, even some of the guests at the table, reject the invitation. So Jesus turns to the crowds and speaks to them of discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing can get in the way. When Jesus describes "hating" one's father and mother, he is not talking about feelings. Rather, he is emphasizing very strongly that choosing to be a disciple means that everything else—family, money, your own life—must come second. In Matthew's version of this story (Matthew 10:37), Jesus refers not to "hating" father or mother, but to loving them more than Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that being a disciple is not easy. It means to bear one's own cross. These difficult sayings of Jesus are followed by two brief parables (a person constructing a tower and a king marching into battle) that make an obvious point—don't start what you cannot finish. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else.

**Family Connection:** Provide your children with a list of things that they are responsible for interspersed with things that they like to do—for example, make their beds, take out the garbage, go to the park, do homework, watch television, have a snack, feed the cat. The list should reflect their responsibilities and favorite recreations. Tell them to pretend that company is coming and ask which of the things listed should be done first. Explain that this is called setting priorities. Paraphrase the Gospel story for the children. Ask them what Jesus says is the most important thing for them to do. Jesus tells us that the number-one priority is to follow him. But just as it is not always easy to do the things we are supposed to do before doing the fun things, it is not always easy to be a follower of Jesus. Yet when we put Jesus first, we will be truly happy.

13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> September				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrice Bonett	Yvonne Martins	Jackie Romanous	Andrew Bova
	Lisa Dennis	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Rita Piras	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Daniel Martins	Anne Marrins	Paulina Roncevic
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Steven Doumit	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marissa B.	Jacob M.	Jay L.	Zachary A.
	Olivia B..	Christian C.	Jarvis L.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Ryan W.	Courtney O.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Dylan W.	Charlize O	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

### Mass Intentions

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Greg Whitby, Dr Dexter Ekanayake, John Wright, Monsignor Kerry Bayada, Terry McCarthy, Tommy Partch, Pepito Awayan, Raymond Jung.
<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 & 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.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Charlotte O'Brien, Joseph Sarkis Baini, 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, Raymond Castelino, Joseph Michael Nathan, Seliome Seseikiene, Roland George Peters, Simon Ban, Josephine & Habib Khoury, Roslyn & Francis Sinnadurrai.
<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>	Nelly Galano. Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society.
<b>Father's Day Blessings:</b>	Kevin Bouffler, Basil Hayes, John McNamara, Des McNamara, Gerald Wilson, Harry Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Reginald Glass, Norman Stanton, Maurice Romanos, John Lahood, Simon Stanton, Elias Khoury,



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