



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 publican returned to his home justified; the Pharisee did not' - Luke 18

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 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: WHEN PARKING IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE ONTO THE GRASSED AREA. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.



During the month of October, we have been raising funds for Lifeline via your donations. We sincerely thank Janice & Willie Quan, Founders of the Rosary Mission Group, for generously donating the

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 IN THE CHURCH FOYER would be appreciated.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): The second parable that Jesus tells in Luke 18 addresses attitude in prayer. In contrasting the prayer of the Pharisee with the prayer of the tax collector, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray in humility before God. Jesus again surprises his listeners by showing the tax collector as the example of faith, rather than the Pharisee. Remember that Pharisees were members of a sect of Judaism active in Jesus' time. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for Jewish piety. If anyone would be a model for prayer, a Pharisee was a likely candidate. In contrast, Jesus offers the tax collector as a model for prayer. Tax collectors were collaborators with the Roman authorities in a system that allowed the tax collectors to line their own pockets by charging in excess of the defined taxes. Yet, in this parable, Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a model for the prayer of a disciple. The parable reminds us that when we pray, we must remember our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of ourselves, there is too little room for God's grace to work in us.

Family Connection: In the family, one sometimes observes a level of competition between children for parent attention, for acknowledgement of their abilities. Somehow, children seem to internalize that the attention given to one member of the family diminishes the attention given to another. In this way, children can often sound like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. Parents who provide continual reminders to their children that they are loved for who they are, not for what they do, help children develop a healthy spirituality. As a family, talk about what it means to compare oneself to another. Discuss whether it is helpful to compare oneself to another. In what ways might this be positive? (when it motivates one to use one's talents) In what circumstances might this be unhelpful? (when it proves discouraging, when it prevents one from valuing the abilities of another). As a family, read today's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14. Discuss: What was wrong about the prayer of the Pharisee? How can we emulate the prayer of the tax collector? Pray together as a family in thanksgiving for the blessing that is each member of your family. Pray that your family will be free from unhealthy competition. Pray in thanksgiving that God's love for us is unconditional.



Sydney Synod 2026 - Formal Online Submissions

Can you give Archbishop Fisher positive, practical, and faithful ideas to address the three longings of Sydney Catholics: that our liturgies be more prayerful, our communities more Christ-centred, and our Church in Sydney more mission-oriented?

Formal online submissions are now open. Submit your ideas

at <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/sydney-synod/>. The submissions portal will close at 11.59 pm on Friday, 31 October 2025.

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

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.

*During the month of November,
we remember those who have returned to the Father*

FROM THIS WEEK WE INVITE ALL FAMILIES TO WRITE THE NAMES OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES IN THE BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE. THESE BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTENTIONS WILL BE SET UP ON A SPECIAL MEMORIAL ON THE SANCTUARY DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE. (NAMES CANNOT BE PRINTED IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN DUE TO THE LARGE VOLUME).

**All Saints Day Saturday 1st November - Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am. (5pm All Souls)
All Souls Day Sunday 2nd November - Masses will be celebrated at 8.00am, 10.00am & 6.00pm**



Pope Leo XIV: St. Peter To Rot: Faithful Unto Death **(Bishop Tony Percy – Scaffolding Newsletter)**

Born in 1912, died in 1945, canonised by 19 October 2025. It is a first for Papua New Guinea. Pope Leo XIII sent the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart to Papua in the late 19th Century. Peter's father and mother were converted to Christ and received baptism. Peter received good faith formation from his father and mother, showing interest in the priesthood. However, his father thought it inopportune and encouraged him to become a catechist. To Rot was an excellent teacher of faith, highly regarded by the people. He



married Paula la Varpit and they received the gift of three children. During World War II, the Japanese occupied the nation in 1942, and tried valiantly to suppress religious practice and reinstitute polygamy among the people. Peter To Rot was having none of it. For his trouble he was captured and imprisoned in a concentration camp. In 1945 he was poisoned, but it acted slowly. His murderers were vicious, stuffing his ears and nose with cotton, landing a furious blow to the back of his head. He died and has been deeply revered since. Catechists have another model-martyr to aid in their proclamation of the Gospel. Amen.

St Martha's Piety Stall located in the Church foyer has a wide variety of sacramental and religious goods such as candles, statues, rosaries, cards, and other devotional items. Please see the warden after Mass if you would like to purchase an item.

Let us keep the HSC students and their families in our prayers.

Prayer for HSC Students

Dear Lord, we ask for your blessing on our students that are undertaking HSC Examinations.

Grant them the confidence they deserve from their years of diligent study.

Grant them the ability to comprehend questions and effectively plan and articulate their responses.

May they be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit Wisdom, Understanding, Fortitude and Knowledge.

May their faith and piety give them the strength to face these examinations and the satisfaction of achieving their personal best.

We ask these things though Christ Our Lord, Amen.



CWF November Parish Appeal

The next Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal will be held across the weekend 1st & 2nd November. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney. Appeal envelopes are available in the Church Foyer. You can also make a donation and find out more at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf

1st & 2nd November				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Georgette Sahyoun	Relyn Aguinaldo	Mary L'Estrange
	Rick Herro	Peter Yamin	Helen Williamson	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Paulina Roncevic	Emmanuel Nathan	Melanie John
	Maria Soo	Robert Smith	Michael Quinlan	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Archie S.	Emilio A.	Zachary A.
	Collin A.	Austin S.	Emilia T.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Charlotte L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Ryan L.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Abboud Baladi	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

THE NEW ROSTER TO COMMENCE IN JANUARY 2026 IS CURRENTLY BEING COMPILED. IF YOU WISH TO JOIN THESE MINISTRIES OR IF YOU WISH TO CHANGE YOUR CURRENT MASS TIME PLEASE WRITE YOUR DETAILS ON THE ROSTER SHEETS PROVIDED. FOR ANY NEW MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT A WWC CLEARANCE MUST BE COMPLETED IF YOU WISH TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT ROSTER. THE DEADLINE IS MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER. THANK YOU.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Alan Cuthbert, Kazimiera Kotulski, Paul Moynihan, Maree O'Hara, Brother Bob Wallace
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, Giuseppe Mazzaferro & Salvatore Corelli, 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, Rex Fernandes. Frances Doumit, Tina Doumit, Margaret McGannon, Don Khoury, Vito Iannella, Paul Albert Sarks, Michael Issa, Saad Saad, Alfred, Charlotte & Juliette Alam, Ken & Patricia Miller, Maria Giovanna Frino..
Anniversaries:	
Sick Intentions:	Cameron Stacy, Helen McAlister, Sr Marilyn Farley, Elliot Leahy, 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:	Nelly Galano, Dareth Flavell, Henry Quan & Willie Quan, Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society.

Garden Shop

By Garden Club

Wednesday 29th October
Term 4 Week 3 After school (3:10pm)

1. 90% of items sold are less than \$3.
2. All funds will help Garden Club.
3. All items sold can be returned for reuse or recycled.

St Martha's Primary School



Reflection for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The two Sundays together offer a balanced approach to prayer: on the one hand, be persistent; on the other hand, be humble. The hope the gospel offers is that justification comes not to the perfect but to those who acknowledge their need for God's mercy.

Humility and prayer: - Once again Luke's introduction tells the reader how to interpret the parable. Last Sunday's parable of the widow and the unjust judge was about the need to 'pray always' (18:1). Similarly, the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is addressed to 'those who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else' (18:9). Though it is traditional to interpret this as a parable about prayer, Luke offers it as a teaching about humility. Thus the moral is stated explicitly: 'everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted' (18:14; also 14:11, Sunday 22). Again, Luke uses a parable to illustrate a theme: 'He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly' (1:52). The Pharisee is humbled, the tax collector is exalted. The reading from Sirach, together with the responsorial psalm, invites the interpreter of the parable to consider humility as an essential aspect of prayer, thus combining the two themes. Chapter 35 of Sirach (from which this Sunday's first reading is taken) compares moral life and worship in the Temple: 'To keep the law is a great oblation, and he who observes the commandments sacrifices a peace offering' (35:1). In other words, religious practice cannot be separated from one's way of life. In this, at least, the Pharisee is correct in avoiding greed, dishonesty, and adultery (Luke 18:11). But this self-made man needs nothing from God; there is nothing asked, nothing for God to grant. But when the needy call out (especially for what God alone can grant: mercy) then God 'will not delay' (Sirach 35:18). God attends to 'the weak ... the oppressed ... the orphan ... the widow ... the lowly'. God responds to their 'cry ... wail ... complaint ... petition ... prayer'. Indeed, God 'judges justly and affirms the right'. In many ways this passage eloquently summarises last Sunday's gospel as well. Taken together the two parables highlight a particularly Lukan theme: God's care for the 'poor'; Their need - expressed simply and poignantly by the prayer of the tax collector - moves the compassionate God of justice to 'lift up the lowly'.



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
P: 13 11 14

W: www.lifeline.org.au



1800RESPECT

P: 1800 737 732

W: www.1800respect.org.au