



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

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

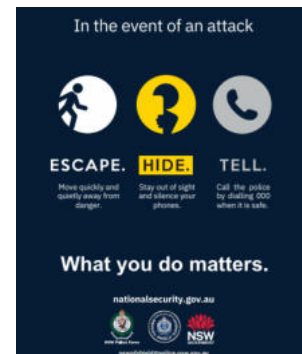
Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum sc@stmarthas.org.au

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



'Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?' - Matthew 11

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.

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:

Resumes 9th February 2026

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.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be held at 6.00pm on Monday 22nd December.

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, Wardens & Altar Servers

To assist with the preparation of rosters for the Christmas Masses would any parishioners who are on the regular rosters please volunteer if available. The Sign Up Sheets are now located in the Church Foyer.

The 6.00pm Christmas Eve Children's Mass - Plans are underway for school aged children to take part and participate in this Mass by coming along dressed as either an Angel or a Shepherd. Children will need to supply their own costume. The specific roles of Mary, Joseph, the Three Wise Men, Readers and Offertory Procession will be allocated by Fr John. More information will be made available over the coming weeks.

Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

Third Candle - The Candle of Joy

Leader: Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

(A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Joy here)

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near. This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God. The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater. Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

Family Connection: It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God's salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled. Read together today's Gospel. Think about John's question to Jesus: Are you the One? Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst. Together as a family, look through the newspaper for signs of hope that God is at work in our world. Pray that the world will know God's salvation by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

BECOME A CATECHIST in 2026 - DURING THE SCHOOL TERM ONLY.

We are in urgent need of **3 additional Catechists in 2026** to teach scripture in our local public schools. **Homebush Public & Marie Bashir on Wednesday mornings.** All training and teacher resources & support will be provided.

Please contact Lorraine Kazzi on 0400 505 205.

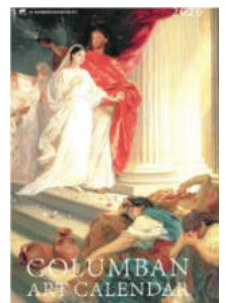


St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Weekend 13th & 14th December

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Annual Christmas Appeal is running this weekend, 13th & 14th December 2025. Envelopes on the seats can be placed in either collection. You can also give by QR Code to the Appeal's Fundraising Website which will issue you with a receipt in real time. The focus of this year's Appeal is the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis resulting in housing insecurity, homelessness, food stress and hunger, family

breakdown, and increased physical and mental illness as people must choose between food or medical treatment. We frequently assist whole families living in crisis accommodation. St. Martha's Conference of Vinnies and those we serve would be most grateful for anything you can give to help. **Anthony Thurn, President Strathfield Conference.**



St Vincent de Paul 2026 Columban Calendars & Christmas Card packs are now available for \$10.00.



The Jubilee Society Ball at Sydney Town Hall - Everyone is welcome at this Black-Tie Christmas Ball where 500+ people will gather for a truly memorable evening to mark the Christmas Season. This fantastic evening will also mark the 25th Anniversary of the University Chaplaincy, established by Cardinal Pell. Hear Bagpipes playing Carols down George St upon arrival, enjoy canapes & drinks whilst a String Quartet plays in the Vestibule. Dance to an incredible 18 Piece BIG BAND on the massive dance floor in the Town

Hall itself. Saturday 20th December (6.30pm). Dress: Black Tie / Evening Wear. All Welcome (18+) Bookings Essential: www.societyball.org.au

The new Ministries Roster commencing January 2026 is now available from the church side entrance or via the parish website.

20 th & 21 st December				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Gian Surjadinata	Anne Marrins	Kynetha Torcato
	Tandiono Family	Artha Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Bains	Greg Glass	Helen Williamson	Andrew Chasle
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lincoln M.	Ryan W.	Beatrice L.	Volunteer Needed
	Hayden M.	Dylan W.	Holly C.	Volunteer Needed
	Zachary A.	Matthew C.	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Martha Lynch, Emged Rizkalla, Michelle Hugonnet, Sr Pauline Riley OP, Sr Mary Raphael rsm, Alan Cuthbert.
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, Pauline Gibson, Novak Victor Cujic, Caterina Severino, Narcisa Saya, Tom Antony & Dr Dexter Ekanayake.
Anniversaries:	Phil Robinson, Peter Khoury, Rose Russo, Beryl Erskine, Stella Yih Jiu Lim, Yang Sa Wong, Gloria Abrahams, John St George, Veronica & Margaret Riordan, John Harrington, Michael & Nollaig Donegan, Ilham (Helen) Matta, Anthony Menino D'Costa, Mary Dinhvu & John Hao Vu, Padma Rajah Sittampalam, John & Clare Musso, Dorothy & Carl Butler, Frank & Marie Monaghan, Maud Soares & Blanche Saldanha.
Sick Intentions:	Dareth Flavell, Geoff Sims, Corrina Abraham, Cameron Stacy, Helen McAlister, Sr Marilyn Farley, Elliot Leahy, Toni N, Norma Habib, Joe Everitt, Alf Budu, Ann Cincotta-Tangey, Mark Samaha, John Weiringer, , 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:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society.

2026 GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS

PRE ORDERED COPIES ARE READY TO COLLECT IN THE SACRISTY AFTER MASS.

St Martha's Piety Stall

NEW CHRISTMAS ITEMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

located in the Church foyer has a wide variety of sacramental and religious goods such as devotional candles, statues, rosaries, cards, and other devotional items.


Please see the warden after Mass if you would like to purchase an item.

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent by Mary M. McGlone (NCR)

Christmas lights are shining all over the world. We set up luminarias, burn candles and put lights on trees, creating an atmosphere of cheer wherever we look. Yet no matter the display, compared to what Scripture tells us about the time of Emmanuel, even our most lavish decor seems paltry. Isaiah tells us that with God's coming, deserts will sparkle and the land itself will seem to sing. In "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis said something similar: "The destiny of all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ. ... The creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them towards fullness as their end ... The very flowers of the field and the birds ... are now imbued with his radiant presence." Francis calls all of creation a sacrament of Emmanuel, God with us. And God keeps saying, "I am doing something new! Do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). What are we to perceive? That was John the Baptist's question about Jesus. Just imagine, he was in prison and wondering if his work had been in vain. Jesus was not throwing tyrants from their thrones, or overwhelming people with the fear of God. He preached far more mildly — and with more humour — than John. So, John sent his disciples to ask, "Are you really the one? Is this how it will be after all that I said?" When we face what seems to be indomitable evil, we ask the same. What do we expect when we pray, "Lord, come and save us?" Today's psalm proclaims that the Lord keeps faith and secures justice for the oppressed. We look at tyranny, wars and starvation and ask, "When? Where?" It's a beautiful thing to repeat Francis' words that the Risen One is directing all toward fullness in God. These days we enjoy Christmas trees, foods and gifts. We chant, inviting Emmanuel to be with us. We sing "Joy to the World," and savour the gentle harmonies of "O Holy Night," but what does all of this say to the six o'clock news? Paul calls us to the patience of farmers. What we may not realize is that we need that patience with ourselves more than with God. What are we doing to make the necessary difference, to increase the realm of love in our world, to risk our comfort like prophets do? Do we have the patience to continue on when we don't see dramatic signs? Today's Gospel suggests that, rather than look for Jesus in the crib or even the tabernacle, we should listen to what he told John's disciples. Where do we find Christ active today? Certainly, in the work of physicians who remove cataracts, prescribe antibiotics, vaccines, reading glasses and implant cochlear implants for people who cannot hear. We see Christ's saving work where the people of Uganda have the means to purify their water, where World Central Kitchen is providing food in Gaza and Ukraine, where teachers sacrifice material gain to help others develop their potential. We see it where missionaries leave their homes and security to serve their neediest neighbours. We see it in peaceful protests for justice for immigrants and on behalf of democracy. We see it wherever one person reaches out to help or comfort another. Each of these scenes depicts the ongoing nativity of Christ among us. God has given birth to a creation capable of participating in divine life. Jesus gave a replicable witness to that truth. Like him, we need to pray without ceasing to open ourselves to grace. We need to consecrate time to pondering our Scriptures to better understand God's ways among us. We need to reflect and pray with others who hear the same call. Then, with the boldness of the Word become flesh, we must speak out in truth and integrity and act with the audacity of Jesus and the prophets to continue the life-giving, risky work of Christ in our world — any and everywhere. Francis taught that God is drawing the entire creation toward the fullness of all we can become. That fullness is dynamic, growing as we rejoice in our limitless and loving union with one another, God and all of creation. In this season, and always, we are called to be the lights that manifest the presence of Christ among us.

THE JUBILEE
Society Ball
2025

SYDNEY'S BIGGEST CATHOLIC BALL. 25 years IN THE MAKING.



DRESS: BLACK TIE OPTIONAL.
CANAPES • DRINKS • LIVE MUSIC • BAND & DJ
CONCLUDING WITH CAROLS WITH THE TOWN HALL ORGAN & BAGPIPES.

6:30 PM SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER 2025
SYDNEY TOWN HALL

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. WWW.SOCIETYBALL.ORG.AU

**SUPPORTING
AID TO
THE CHURCH
IN NEED**

Carols for Peace

Full Orchestra
and Choir
of over 60
musicians

BISHOP
TONY PERCY
DANNY & LEILA
ABDALLAH
GARY PINTO



Supporting
the suffering
Church in Nigeria
the Holy Land
& Ukraine

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ENTRY BY DONATION
Bookings Essential - Tickets Strictly Limited
www.carolsforpeace.org


FRI 19 DEC | 6.30PM
SYDNEY TOWN HALL

Hosted by: CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
Sponsored by: CAROLINE CHURCH
Sydney Catholic Schools
CAMPION
ACU
Catholic Communities
Proudly Supporting: Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program

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

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

 **kidshelpline**
Anytime Any Reason
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