



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

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

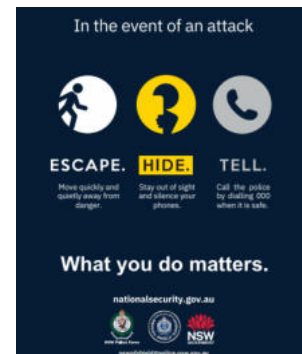
Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum sc@stmarthas.org.au

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



'Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David' - Matthew 1

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

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wednesday 24 th December	9.10am	Morning Mass
Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Children's Christmas Vigil Mass
	11.30pm	Carols
	12.00am	Christmas Midnight Mass
Thursday 25 th December	8.00am	Christmas Mass
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Mass (there will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day)
Friday 26 th December	9.10am	Mass - Feast of St Stephen / Boxing Day
Monday 29 th December	9.10am	Christmas Octave Mass
Thursday 1 st January	9.10am	Mass - The Solemnity of Mary / New Year's Day

The city of Sydney, Australia and the world over are reeling after the tragic events which unfolded at Bondi Beach last Saturday. Both Chanukah and Christmas celebrate the miracle of God's care and provision for people. They are joyful holidays, about receiving light and love in unexpected places. Our shock and horror at what has happened must become the source of a determination to turn our backs on all acts of violence and blind hatred. Our heartfelt sorrow and condolences to the victims and families caught in the Bondi terrorist attack of unfathomable evil. We express our profound gratitude to the police, first responders and courageous bystanders whose actions prevented even greater loss of life. We pray for those who have been killed or injured and the many who were forced to run for their lives. Even if you weren't there, there is a strong chance the non-stop rolling news coverage has caused residual trauma to you, your children and your loved ones. If that is the case in your household, Lifeline said it is important to reassure them they are safe right now and any questions they have are welcome. Try to keep explanations calm, factual, and age appropriate because even though these reactions are normal, they can still feel isolating and overwhelming. If a child appears very distressed, unsafe, or their behaviour changes significantly, consider seeking additional support from a GP, school counsellor, or mental health professional.

May Our Lady, Queen of Peace, intercede for all affected, and for our beloved city of Sydney at this time.

Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

Fourth Candle - The Candle of Love

Leader: Today we light the fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(A person lights the Fourth Candle, the Candle of Love here)

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Altar Servers

More Volunteers are **URGENTLY NEEDED FOR THE 10.00AM MASS**— if you are attending the Christmas Masses and are already on the regular roster could you please consider assisting by writing your details on the sheets in the Church foyer or contact Helen Williamson on 0408 970 120.

PRACTICE for the 6.00pm Christmas Eve Children's Mass – on **Tuesday 23rd December at 10.00am** there will be a practice for children's to prepare for the Vigil Mass. They will practice two action songs which were sung at the school concert. The specific roles of Mary, Joseph, the Three Wise Men, Readers and Offertory Procession will be allocated by Fr John. All children may participate in this Mass by coming along dressed as either an Angel or a Shepherd. Children will need to supply their own costume.

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

	6PM VIGIL	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
Special Ministers	Grace Herro	Maria Soares	Marian McCluskey	Helen Williamson
	Rick Herro	Kynetha Torcato	Artha Surjadinata	Volunteer Needed
	Relyn Aguinaldo	Volunteer Needed	Gian Surjadinata	Volunteer Needed
	Georgia Elias	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	6PM VIGIL	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
Readers	Claudia Elias	Maria Battikha	Paulina Roncevic	Volunteer Needed
	Aiden Elias	Maria Soo	Robert Smith	Volunteer Needed
	6PM VIGIL	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
Altar Servers	Dylan W.	Ryan W.	Archie S.	Volunteer Needed
	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed	Austin S.	Volunteer Needed
	Christian B.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	6PM	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
Wardens	Paulina Roncevic	Theresa Kuk	Paul Abela	Trudie Rogers

This Christmas Week

let's reflect on the core message of hope, peace, and love, recognizing that God's presence (Emmanuel) isn't just a past event but a living reality, inviting us to bring light to a fractured world through simple acts of kindness, deeper connection, and renewed faith, moving beyond mere tradition to truly embody the spirit of giving and divine love in our daily lives. As the lights twinkle and carols fill the air, Christmas week offers a sacred pause to remember the greatest gift: God's presence with us in Jesus. This isn't just a historical story; it's an invitation to experience Immanuel—God with us—today, right now, in our personal lives and challenging world. This week, let's look beyond the presents and parties to the profound meaning of this birth. May we embody the values of this season:

Hope: Finding light in darkness and believing in a better future.

Peace: Cultivating goodwill and inner calm amidst chaos.

Love: Sharing God's boundless love through acts of service and presence for others, especially those struggling.

Connection: Deepening our faith, our family bonds, and our connection to community, remembering we are never alone.

Let this Christmas week be a time to slow down, give thanks, and allow the spirit of Christ to be born anew in our hearts, guiding us to be a reflection of His light in the world.

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

2026 GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS

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

On Tuesday we celebrated the closing school Mass and farewelled our Year 6 Students who are heading off to high school along with some of our Year 4 Boys who are moving to other schools to finish their primary education next year. Although they are moving on, may they always feel welcome at St Martha's. We extend our congratulations and best wishes and ask everyone to keep them in your prayers over the holiday period. May God continue to guide them on their faith journey.

Congratulations to ALYSHA NGUYEN

on receiving the St Martha's Parish Award for 2025, in recognition of her outstanding service to our Church and Parish Community.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18). The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke). We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes. The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]." Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Family Connection: Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another. Spend some time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God. Pray together that your family life will be built on trust, as was the family life of Joseph and Mary. Pray and sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."



St Martha's School Centenary tea towels.

Ideal Christmas Gift!

Available in the Church Foyer.

Cash payments only.

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

**Limited Stock
Ideal
Christmas Gift**

\$20

Christmas Offering Envelopes are now Available at the Church Entrances

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS & JANUARY

MONDAY 22 nd DECEMBER	TUESDAY 23 rd DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 24 th DECEMBER	THURSDAY 25 th DECEMBER	FRIDAY 26 th DECEMBER
9.00 – 5.00PM	9.00am – 5.00pm	CHRISTMAS EVE CLOSED	CHRISTMAS DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	BOXING DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
MONDAY 29 th DECEMBER	TUESDAY 30 th DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 31 st DECEMBER	THURSDAY 1 st JANUARY	FRIDAY 2 nd JANUARY
9.00 – 5.00PM	9.00 – 5.00PM	NEW YEAR'S EVE CLOSED	NEW YEAR'S DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	CLOSED
MONDAY 5 th JANUARY	TUESDAY 6 th JANUARY	WEDNESDAY 7 th JANUARY	THURSDAY 8 th JANUARY	FRIDAY 9 th JANUARY
CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED



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

27th & 28th December

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrice Bonett	Georgette Sahyoun	Jackie Romanous	Mary L'Estrange
	Lisa Dennis	Volunteer Needed	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Paulina Roncevic	Anne Marrins	Melanie John
	Volunteer Needed	Robert Smith	Steven Doumit	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marissa B.	Archie S.	Courtney O.	Zachary A.
	Olivia B.	Volunteer Needed	Charlize O.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Volunteer Needed	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Carmel Nelson, Milagros Manipis, Olga Chidiac, Charbel Mannah, Martha Lynch, Emged Rizkalla.
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:	Warren Stephens, Norma McMillan, Gerald Gleeson Snr, George Bugeja, Des McNamara, Emily Mattar, Ethan Yan, Phil Robinson, Peter Khoury, Rose Russo, Beryl Erskine, Stella Yih Juan Lim, Yang Sa Wong, Gloria Abrahams, John St George, Veronica & Margaret Riordan, John Harrington.
Sick Intentions:	Dareth Flavell, Geoff Sims, Corrina Abraham, 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:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society.