



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



'Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt' - Matthew 2

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.

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13)

A Family Led by Faith (Young Catholics)

The Feast of the Holy Family Year A reminds us that Jesus lived in a real family. He had a mother and a father who cared for Him and protected Him. Mary and Joseph did not have easy lives, but they trusted God and followed His plan. Their home was simple, but it was full of love. This feast helps us think about our own families. Every home has struggles. But like the Holy Family, we are called to listen to God and care for each other with patience. Love grows in quiet moments, hard choices, and daily kindness. The readings for the Feast of the Holy Family Year A show how God works through family life. They speak about honouring parents, caring for others, and choosing peace. These small acts shape a strong and faithful home.

This day is not only about Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. It is about how we can live with love and trust in our families today. God is with us in family life, no matter how ordinary it may seem.

Reflection Questions for the Feast of the Holy Family Year A

1. **What is the main message of the Feast of the Holy Family Year A?**
The Feast of the Holy Family Year A celebrates Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a model for all families. It reminds us of the importance of love, respect, and faith in family life.
2. **Why is honouring parents important in the first reading?**
The first reading emphasizes honouring parents as a way to show gratitude and respect. It teaches that caring for parents brings blessings and reflects God’s love.
3. **How can we honour difficult family members?**
Honouring someone does not mean ignoring harm or pain. It means treating them with respect, setting healthy boundaries, and choosing forgiveness.
4. **What does mutual submission mean in marriage?**
Mutual submission means spouses support each other with love and respect. It is about serving each other selflessly, just as Christ served others.
5. **How does the second reading relate to family life?**
The second reading encourages compassion, kindness, and patience, which are essential in family relationships. It teaches that forgiveness and love create harmony in the home.
6. **What can we learn from Joseph’s obedience in the Gospel?**
Joseph listened to God and protected his family without hesitation. His example shows us the importance of trusting God and taking action to care for loved ones.
7. **Why did the Holy Family flee to Egypt?**
They fled to Egypt to escape King Herod’s threat. This shows that even holy families face challenges and must rely on faith and courage.
8. **What role does faith play in the Feast of the Holy Family Year A?**
Faith is central, guiding the Holy Family’s actions and decisions. It reminds us to trust God’s plan, even in difficult times.
9. **How can we apply the lessons of the Feast of the Holy Family Year A to our lives?**
We can practice love, respect, and forgiveness in our families. We can also follow Joseph’s example of protecting and guiding our loved ones with faith.
10. **Why is the Holy Family a model for us?**
The Holy Family shows us how to live with faith, love, and obedience to God. Their example helps us build stronger, faith-filled families.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

In a dream, God tells Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus from King Herod (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)

The new 2026 Columban Art Calendar is still available for \$10.

A message from Father John:

Together with Fr Liem, I'd like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who made the Christmas Masses so prayerful and full of joy! Our gratitude goes to all the volunteers across all the different ministries who do such a wonderful job throughout the year - Acolytes, Altar Servers, Catechists, Children's Liturgy, Choir & Musicians, Counters, Readers, Sacristan & Altar ladies, Safeguarding Officers, Special Ministers & Wardens. We thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so. This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus. It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28. These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

Family Connection: In the midst of the Christmas season, it is quite appropriate that our liturgy asks us to pause to consider the Holy Family. In today's Gospel, we hear about how Joseph protected Jesus from danger by relocating the family to Egypt in obedience to God. Following the model of the Holy Family, we might use this feast to recall the responsibility that each family member has to contribute to the good of the family and recommit ourselves to one another. Gather together as a family to work on a common project. You might prepare a meal together, prepare a special dessert, or perhaps do a craft together. When you finish, talk about how each family member contributed to the common project. Remind one another that each member of the family contributes to the good of the whole family. Recall that Jesus was also part of a family and that this Sunday we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23. Pray together that your family will continue to protect and care for one another as Mary and Joseph protected and cared for Jesus.



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

3 rd & 4 th January				
IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joanne Touma	Yvonne Martins	Rachel Suriano	Andrew Bova
	Volunteer Needed	Lilly Ravi	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Julie Erskine	Daniel Martins	Mark Soares	Andrew Chasle
	Camille Kafka	Volunteer Needed	Merlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Jacob M.	Marcus V.	Zachary A.
	Peter T.	Christian C.	Elijah M.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Ryan W.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Dylan W.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Paul Abela	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk

Please continue to support the St Vincent De Paul Society through the Church Poor Boxes



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



Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.
Lifeline
P: 13 11 14
W: www.lifeline.org.au



1800RESPECT
P: 1800 737 732
W: www.1800respect.org.au

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.

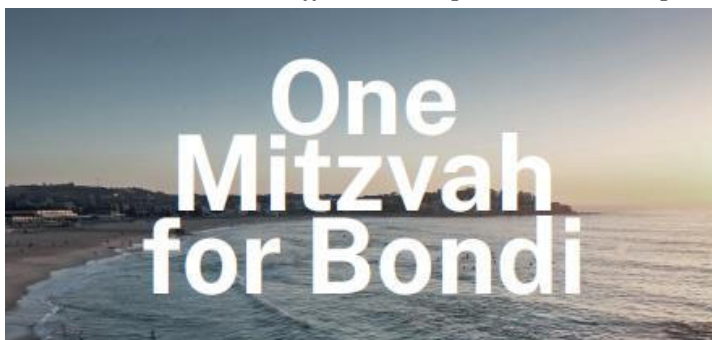
St Martha's Piety Stall

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.

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:	Michael D' Cunha, Alice Herro, Des McNamara, Dorothea Starr, Warren Stephens, Norma McMillan, Gerald Gleeson, 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, Baby Mia Valente, 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.

Remembering someone with a Mass Intention honours them in a unique way – surrounding them with the warmth of God's love. A Mass may be offered for the living or deceased, for a Birthday, Anniversary, for somebody who is ill, or for a special intention. Mass Intention envelopes are available at the Church Entrance. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this.



How do I get involved? #OneMitzvahforBondi

You're invited to share your act of kindness online, creating a visible record of collective acts of kindness.

Choose an act of kindness you can do to honour the Bondi community.

By sharing your actions, individuals, families, community groups, and organisations contribute to a ripple effect of goodness.

The ultimate aim is to see millions of kind acts shared across humanity, demonstrating the power of everyday acts of kindness to build connection, compassion, and a shared future.

You can contribute by visiting
www.nsw.gov.au/onemitzvah
and registering your deed

Every small act of goodness makes our world a better place.
#OneMitzvahforBondi

What else can I do to help?

Donate Blood

Visit lifeblood.com.au, call 13 14 95 or download the free Donate Blood app.

The closest blood banks to Martin Place are at Town Hall, St Andrews Place and 1 York Street.

What mental health support is available?

If you need support, there are a number of helplines available to you.

The Transcultural Mental Health Line (1800 648 911) is available for people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

If you, or someone in your care, needs crisis support, please call Lifeline on 13 1114. Children and young people can call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800 or chat online at kidshelpline.com.au.



"One Mitzvah for Bondi is an initiative of the NSW Faith Affairs Council."



We are calling on people of all faiths and all communities across NSW, to come together in the wake of the terrorist attack at Bondi on Sunday, 14 December 2025, and help unite our state.

There has been a flood from the community, asking what we can do to help.

In collaboration with Faith Leaders across NSW, we are launching "One Mitzvah for Bondi" and we are encouraging everyone to participate. Young and old, from any faith, across our state, and to do it in remembrance of the victims and a reminder to each other, to lead with love and kindness.

What is a "Mitzvah"?

In Jewish tradition, a Mitzvah is an act of kindness, compassion, and a moral responsibility. It is about taking practical action to help others, through simple, everyday acts of kindness that together create a powerful wave of goodwill. When these acts are carried out collectively, they strengthen the community and bring light in moments of darkness.

This can be as simple as checking in on a neighbour, volunteering time, offering support to a local business, or donating to those in need.

What can I do to help?

We are calling on community members to take part, as individuals, families, schools, community groups or organisations to undertake an act of kindness in honour of the Bondi victims.

You can do this through actions like:

- » giving blood
- » volunteering
- » calling someone you haven't spoken to in a while
- » donating
- » buying a neighbour a coffee
- » supporting those in need.

At a time of grief, choosing kindness and connection is a powerful way to help shape a better future.

