



# 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



***'We have come from the east to worship the king' - Matthew 2***

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**

## **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

**1<sup>st</sup> 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:**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday** during the **school term only**.

Contact: [elena.razzoli@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto: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.***

**WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY, SAFE AND PEACE-FILLED NEW YEAR. MAY THE BLESSINGS OF GOD BE SHOWERED OVER YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

MONDAY 5 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	TUESDAY 6 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	WEDNESDAY 7 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	THURSDAY 8 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	FRIDAY 9 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY
CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

## *Following the Star*

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord celebrates the visit of the magi, or wise men, to the newborn Jesus. These visitors travelled from the East, guided by a unique star, to honour Jesus as King of the Jews. Their journey represents the wider world's recognition of Jesus and His mission. The gifts they brought—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—each hold symbolic meaning. Gold honours Jesus as King, frankincense as a sign of worship, and myrrh as a symbol of His coming sacrifice. The readings for Epiphany highlight the theme of God's light reaching out to all nations. Isaiah's words in the first reading invite Jerusalem to rejoice, as people and wealth from around the world come to honour God's light. St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians emphasizes that all people, not just the Jewish people, are invited into God's family through Christ. This unity is central to the message of Epiphany, showing that the gift of Jesus is for everyone. In Matthew's Gospel, we hear the full story of the magi's visit. After following the star to Jerusalem, they spoke with King Herod, who pretended to support their search for Jesus. However, Herod's real intent was to find and destroy the child. Warned by God in a dream, the magi chose a different route home, avoiding Herod. This journey and change of direction remind us to remain faithful to God's guidance. Epiphany marks a special moment when Jesus is revealed as a light for the whole world. Through the magi's visit, we see that Jesus came to be known and loved by people from all walks of life. Epiphany encourages us to follow Jesus as our guide and to let His light shine in our own lives.

*Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage. (Matthew 2:2)*

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we are reminded that Jesus' light shines for everyone. His humble kingship calls us to live with love and service. Let us follow the example of the Magi, seeking Jesus and sharing His light with the world.

## *Reflection for the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord*

The Feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of light and revelation. It marks the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus, highlighting that His coming is for all nations. Through reflections on Isaiah's prophecy, Paul's letter to the Ephesians, and the Gospel of Matthew, we explore how Jesus' light shines for all, guiding and inviting us to follow Him.

## *The Light That Shines for All*

The Feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of light. Isaiah's prophecy speaks of a great light shining upon Jerusalem. This light attracts nations and kings. It shows the presence of God and marks the beginning of a new time. This prophecy points to the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. He is the light for all people. Isaiah mentions gifts of gold and frankincense. These gifts are the same as those the Magi brought to Jesus. This connection ties the Old Testament to the New Testament. It shows how the prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus. The gifts of the Magi honour Jesus as king and God. The Epiphany is not just about an event long ago. It reminds us that Jesus' mission is for everyone. He came for all nations and all people. The light of Jesus shines on us today, guiding us and showing us the way. This light invites us to follow Jesus and to share His light with others.

## *Prayer*

*Lord Jesus, light of the world, guide us to You. Help us to see Your light in our lives.*

*May we follow Your example of humility and love.*

*Teach us to share Your light with others, showing them the way to Your truth and grace.*

*Amen.*

**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three

Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

**Family Connection:** The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you? Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Saviour. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

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

10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> January				
IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Gina Surjadinata	Relyn Aguinaldo	Theresa Kuk
	Rick Herro	Andri Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Maria Yu	Emmanuel Nathan	Owen Loney
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Michael Quinlan	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Mary Louise I.	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed
	Collin A.	Archie 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
	Edith Pun	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

If you are an Acolyte; Reader; Eucharistic minister or in the Music Ministry you are required to sign in – (red folders are kept in the sacristy). The altar servers sign in folder is located in the side corridor.

**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.



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

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





## Mass Intentions

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Carmel Nelson, Milagros Manapis, Olga Chidiac, Charbel Mannah, Martha Lynch, Emged Rizkalla.
<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, 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, Pauline, John & Katherine Murphy.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	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 Juuan Lim, Yang Sa Wong, Gloria Abrahams, John St George, Veronica & Margaret Riordan, John Harrington.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Dareth Flavell, Micah Kim, 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.
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	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.*

# EVERLASTING LOVE

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A God-centred program empowering engaged couples to future proof their relationship and make marriage last.

### 2026 DATES

**13 - 14 FEBRUARY 2026**  
ST CATHERINE LABOURE PARISH | GYMEA  
6PM TO 10PM FRIDAY - 9AM-5PM SATURDAY

**5 - 6 JUNE 2026**  
ST JOACHIM'S PARISH | LIDCOMBE  
6PM TO 10PM FRIDAY - 9AM-5PM SATURDAY

**20 - 21 NOVEMBER 2026**  
ST JOSEPH'S PARISH | MOOREBANK  
6PM TO 10PM FRIDAY - 9AM-5PM SATURDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
[LIFEMARRIAGEFAMILY@SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG](mailto:LIFEMARRIAGEFAMILY@SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG)

# LOVE IN THE FLESH

How Christianity Illuminates Marriage and How Marriage Illuminates Christianity

By Christopher West

Sat, 17 January 2026, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

St Kevin Catholic Parish  
36 Hillview Road, Eastwood

Beyond Blue  
P: 1300 22 4636  
W: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney  
P: 13 18 19  
W: [www.catholiccare.org](http://www.catholiccare.org)

**Call 1800 55 1800**

Lifeline  
Saving Lives  
Crisis Support, Suicide Prevention.  
Lifeline  
P: 13 11 14  
W: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

1800RESPECT  
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE  
1800RESPECT  
P: 1800 737 732  
W: [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)