



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



'My eyes have seen your saving power' - Luke 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.



This week we welcomed back our School Community. We extend a very warm welcome to the new children, parents & teachers. Please keep the Kindergarten students in your prayers as they settle in.

WORD OF GOD & CATECHIST SUNDAY

This Sunday, the 1st of February 2026 we celebrate Catechist Sunday where we thank past & current Catechists in our parish. The ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of living our faith through all its stages, because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God. The work of a Catechist is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, "Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the life of the Church - her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis". This ministry of teaching in the name of the Church has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church. It is only fitting that we set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others. We especially thank Lorraine Kazzi, Catechist Coordinator for her many years of service to St Martha's.

O Lord, you who have called and equipped the catechists in our community, we pray for them today. Watch over them, provide for them, guide them, sustain them. May you be their sun and shield, so that they might do the work that you have entrusted to them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God. We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness. "Blessed" is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favored. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day. The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

Family Connection: Today's Gospel offers a contrast to many of the messages we hear in our society today. If we were to accept uncritically the "get ahead" messages of our culture, we would think that happiness means having money, being successful, having many possessions, and so on. When we think this way, we are not unlike the people who heard Jesus teach on the day that he taught the Beatitudes. The crowd that day also associated happiness with material possessions and status. Talk as a family about what it means to be happy or to be blessed. Make a list of traits that you would associate with a happy person. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12a. Reflect on Jesus' description of happiness. Think about what each of the Beatitudes might have in common and write a family summary of the Beatitudes. Post the summary in a special place as a reminder of what your family will consider "true happiness." Conclude by praying together prayers of petition based on the Beatitudes, e.g., "We pray that we will be peacemakers who seek to get along with other people even when this is difficult. We pray to the Lord." All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer."



i4give Sunday
1st February 2026



i4give Sunday serves to engage all Christian Churches in a shared embrace of the Christ-centred call to forgiveness. i4give Sunday presents the opportunity to engage in conversation around forgiveness and its power to heal and restore broken relationships, starting within and among churches and going out from there into the wider community. In an age that harbours resentment and vengeance, we are impelled to call society to return to the Face of forgiveness, Jesus Christ. By turning back and gazing at His merciful Face, we hold onto a firm hope for a transformative culture that practices the timeless truth of forgiveness. Therefore, let us return our gaze to the crucified Christ, who asks the Father to forgive those who were committing a grave injustice against Him. From the Cross, we are invited to take the difficult step of also praying for those who wrong us, who have injured us. We are repeatedly invited to live in our prayers this same attitude of mercy and love with which God treats us. On this national day, people are encouraged to "find someone you can forgive, or ask for forgiveness."

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you"
Ephesians 4:32

LENT 2026

**THE SEASON OF LENT COMMENCES ON
WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY.**

ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE.

Mass Times & the Distribution of Ashes

7.00am, 9.10am & 6.30pm

2026 LENTEN PROGRAM

(Wollongong Diocese Resource)

The program will commence on Monday 16th February in the Church from 10.30am to 11.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend (booklets are \$10).



7th & 8th February

IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joanne Touma	Gina Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Theresa Kuk
	Volunteer Needed	Andri Surjadinata	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Julie Erskine	Maria Yu	Mark Soares	Owen Loney
	Camille Kafka	Volunteer Needed	Marlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Mary Louise I.	Marcus V.	Volunteer Needed
	Peter T.	Archie S.	Elijah M.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Harrison S.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Paul Abela	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.

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

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Trudie O'Neil, Pierantonio Deidda, Laurice Touma Sassine, 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, Jenny Indriani.
Anniversaries:	Harry Thorpe, Dorothy Harris, Elizabeth Keating, Daniel Dillon, Sandor Toth, Maureen & Edmund Duggan, Antonio Iannella, Eliana Barnes, Anne Russo, Milagros Manipis, Michael D'Cunha, Dorothea Starr.
Sick Intentions:	Amy Scott, Dareth Flavell, Micah Kim, Baby Mia Valente, Geoff Sims, Cameron Stacy, Helen McAlister, Sr Marilyn Farley, Elliot Leahy, Toni N, Norma Habib, Joe Everitt, Alf Buda, Ann Cincotta-Tangay, 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. David Russell.

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.

Reflection for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A *(Young Catholics)*

Blessings for the Lowly Ones

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A shows us how God sees things differently than we do. In each reading, we hear about people the world may overlook—those who are weak, poor, or humble. But God lifts them up. He sees their faith and their trust. The Gospel reading gives us the Beatitudes. Jesus tells us who is truly blessed. It's not the rich or powerful. It's those who are gentle, those who show mercy, and those who suffer for doing what is right. These words are simple, but they show us how to live as followers of Christ. The other readings also remind us to stay humble. God saves a small group of people in Zephaniah. Paul tells the Corinthians that God chooses the weak on purpose. The psalm praises God for helping the poor and the needy. These are all reminders that God is close to the lowly. The message of the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A is clear. If we want to follow Jesus, we must be small in the eyes of the world. That is where God does great things.

God's Blessings Are for Everyone

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that God's blessings are not just for the powerful or successful. In the Beatitudes, Jesus shows that the promise made to Abraham is fulfilled in Him. God's kingdom is different from the world. He blesses those who are poor in spirit, meek, and merciful. This is not what people usually expect. The world values power, wealth, and status. But Jesus teaches that true happiness comes from humility and trust in God. Those who suffer, seek peace, and do what is right will receive God's blessings. The Beatitudes call us to live in a new way. They show that God's kingdom is for all who follow Him with a sincere heart. The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges us to let go of selfish ambition and embrace the way of Christ. God invites us to live with faith and humility. By following the Beatitudes, we find true joy in His kingdom.

Humility and Trust in God

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A highlights the importance of humility. In the first reading, Zephaniah calls people to be humble and do what is right. He reminds them that God watches over those who trust Him. Living humbly means letting go of pride and relying on God. Many people try to prove themselves through success and recognition. But true strength comes from trusting in God, not in our own power. Zephaniah's message is a call to live simply and faithfully. Those who seek justice and kindness will find refuge in the Lord. The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches that God's ways are not about gaining power but about serving others. When we live with humility, we open ourselves to God's grace. He lifts up those who rely on Him, and He blesses those who walk in His ways.

God Chooses the Lowly

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that God does not look at people the way the world does. Paul tells the Corinthians that God often chooses the weak and lowly to do His work. He does not pick people based on their status or achievements. This is a powerful message. Many people think they need to be strong, rich, or important to make a difference. But Paul shows that God works through those who seem unimportant. He lifts up the humble and makes them part of His plan. Jesus Himself lived this way. He was not born into power or wealth, yet He brought salvation to the world. The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls us to follow His example. God does not ask for perfection or greatness. He asks for faith and humility. When we trust in Him, He can use us in ways we never expected. The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges us to see success and happiness differently. God does not look at status or achievements but at the heart. Those who trust in Him, act with kindness, and seek righteousness will receive His blessings. As we reflect on these readings, may we ask for the grace to live humbly, serve others, and follow Jesus' path to true joy.

Prayer

Lord, help us to follow the path You have set before us. Teach us to trust in You, seek justice, and live humbly. Give us the strength to show mercy and work for peace. May we always remember that true happiness comes from walking in Your ways. Amen.

Reflection Questions for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

1. How do the Beatitudes challenge the way you think about success?
2. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit" in your daily life?
3. How can you practice humility in a world that values self-promotion?
4. In what ways do you seek refuge in God during difficult times?
5. How can you be more merciful to others?
6. What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
7. How do you respond when you face struggles for doing what is right?
8. Why do you think God chooses the weak and lowly for His work?
9. How can you bring peace into your relationships and community?
10. What is one way you can live out the teachings of the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A this week?