



# 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



***'I have not come to call the just, but sinners' - Mark 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.***

*On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will  
baptize with the Holy Spirit. (John 1:33)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Young Catholics)*

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A focuses on Jesus as the Lamb of God. John the Baptist sees Jesus and tells others that he is the one sent by God. He also explains that the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus, showing that he is the Son of God. The first reading talks about God calling his people to bring others back to him. God wants his message to reach all nations. This connects with Jesus' mission to bring salvation to everyone, not just to Israel. In the second reading, Paul greets the church in Corinth and reminds them that they are called to follow Jesus. He prays for them to have grace and peace from God. These words encourage all believers to trust in God's help and to live as his people. The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds believers that Jesus is the one who takes away sin. It also shows that people are called to share their faith and bring others to God. It invites believers to reflect on who Jesus is and what his mission means. The readings show that Jesus is the Lamb of God, chosen by God and filled with the Spirit. They also remind people that God has a plan for each person from the very beginning. These themes encourage believers to trust in God's call and to follow Jesus more closely.

### **The Spirit Rests on Jesus**

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A continues the story of Jesus after his baptism. John the Baptist sees Jesus and tells the people that he is the Lamb of God. He also explains that he saw the Spirit come down on Jesus and remain with him. This was a sign that Jesus was the one sent by God. The Spirit resting on Jesus shows that he is chosen for a special mission. He has come to bring people back to God. John was sent to prepare the way, but now his role is to point people to Jesus. He tells them that Jesus is greater than him because Jesus is the one who will save them. John did not know who the Messiah would be at first. But God gave him a sign. The Spirit coming down on Jesus showed John that Jesus was the one. This moment confirmed everything John had been preaching. The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds believers that Jesus was chosen and sent by God. He is not just another teacher or prophet. He is the Son of God, filled with the Spirit, ready to lead people to salvation.

### **Called in the Womb**

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A includes a reading from Isaiah about God's servant. The passage says that the servant was called from the womb. This means God had a plan for him before he was even born. The same idea is found in the reading from Paul. We were all chosen by God before birth to do his work. This reminds people that life has meaning from the very beginning. Each person is known and loved by God before they are even born. No life is an accident. Everyone is part of God's plan. It can be hard to understand what God is calling someone to do. Even the prophets struggled at times. But the reading from Isaiah gives hope. It shows that God has a purpose for each person, even when life is difficult. The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites believers to think about their own call. God calls people in different ways, but he calls everyone to follow him. Like the servant in Isaiah, each person is meant to bring God's light to the world.

### **Jesus the Lamb of God**

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A focuses on John the Baptist's words about Jesus. He calls Jesus the Lamb of God. This is an important title. It connects Jesus to the sacrifices of the Old Testament. The lamb was offered to take away sin. John is telling people that Jesus will be the sacrifice for them. At Mass, the "Lamb of God" is prayed before Communion. This prayer is a reminder of what Jesus did. He gave his life so that people could be free from sin. He took on suffering so that others could have new life. His sacrifice shows how much God values each person. Because Jesus is the Lamb of God, every human life has dignity. If Jesus gave his life for all people, then every life is important. The sick, the poor, the unborn, the elderly—every person matters to God. The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls believers to remember what Jesus has done. His sacrifice is not just something from the past. It is something that continues to bring people closer to God. It is a time to think about what it means to be called by God. Jesus was sent to bring salvation, and believers are also called to share his light. Reflecting on these readings can help deepen faith and strengthen the desire to follow Jesus.

### *Prayer*

*Lord, you sent Jesus as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. Fill our hearts with your Spirit so we may follow him. Help us to listen to your call and trust in your plan. May we bring your light to others each day. Amen.*

### **What does it mean that Jesus is the Lamb of God?**

John the Baptist calls Jesus the Lamb of God to show that he is the sacrifice who takes away sin. Just as lambs were offered in the temple, Jesus gives his life to bring people back to God.

### **Why does John the Baptist point to Jesus?**

John was sent to prepare people for the Messiah. When he sees Jesus, he wants everyone to know that Jesus is the one sent by God to save them.

### **What is the mission of the servant in Isaiah?**

The servant is chosen by God to bring people back to him. His mission is not only for Israel but for all nations.

### **How does the first reading connect to Jesus?**

The reading speaks about someone called from the womb to bring salvation. This points to Jesus, who comes to gather all people to God.

**What does Paul mean when he talks about being sanctified?**

Paul reminds believers that they are set apart for God. They are called to live in holiness and share their faith with others.

**How do the readings for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A help us understand Jesus’ mission?**

They show that Jesus comes to bring people back to God. He is the Lamb of God, and his sacrifice opens the way for salvation.

**What does the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teach about following Jesus?**

It teaches that believers are called to recognize Jesus as the one who saves. They are also called to share his message with others.

**Why do we say Lamb of God at Mass?**

This prayer reminds believers of Jesus’ sacrifice. It connects them to his offering on the cross and prepares them to receive him in the Eucharist.

**How can we live out the message of the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A?**

Believers can follow Jesus by trusting in him, turning away from sin, and sharing their faith. They can also offer their struggles to God, uniting them with Jesus’ sacrifice.

**What does it mean to offer our lives as a sacrifice?**

It means living for God in daily life. This includes prayer, helping others, and choosing what is right even when it is hard.

**How does the Holy Spirit play a role in these readings?**

The Spirit comes down on Jesus to show that he is chosen by God. The Spirit also helps believers follow Jesus and live as God calls them to.

**What can we learn from John the Baptist’s example?**

John points others to Jesus instead of seeking attention for himself. This teaches believers to focus on Jesus and lead others to him.

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

| 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> January                          |                  |                   |                |                  |
|--|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT. |                  |                   |                |                  |
| Special Ministers  | 5PM              | 8AM               | 10AM           | 6PM              |
|  | Tandiono Family  | Georgette Sahyoun | Anne Marrins   | Mary L’Estrange  |
|  | Tandiono Family  | Volunteer Needed  | Rita Piras     | Volunteer Needed |
| Readers  | 5PM              | 8AM               | 10AM           | 6PM              |
|  | Natalie Bains    | Maria Yu          | Maria Battikha | Melanie John     |
|  | Maria Soo        | Volunteer Needed  | Rachel Suriano | Volunteer Needed |
| Altar Servers  | 5PM              | 8AM               | 10AM           | 6PM              |
|  | Hayden M.        | Mary Louise I.    | Beatrice L.    | Volunteer Needed |
|  | Zachary A.       | Archie S.         | Holly C.       | Volunteer Needed |
|  | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed  | Bonett Family  | Volunteer Needed |
|  | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed  | Bonett Family  | Volunteer Needed |
| Wardens  | 5PM              | 8AM               | 10AM           | 6PM              |
|  | Joy Li           | Abboud Baladi     | 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.

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.



Australia will hold a National Day of Mourning on Thursday 22 January 2026 to honour the victims of the anti-semitic Bondi terrorist attack. The day will have a theme of "light will win" and will be a gathering of unity and remembrance.



**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God. In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him. John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity. John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel. John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.



**Family Connection:** The ministry of John the Baptist prepared for and pointed to the ministry of Jesus. In a similar way, our lives are to offer testimony to who we know Jesus to be for us and for the world. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. How does the witness of our lives give testimony to the reconciling presence of Christ? As a family, identify as many titles for Jesus as possible, such as Lamb of God, Son of God, Prince of Peace, and so on. Talk together about what these different titles mean and what they tell you about Jesus. Then read together today's Gospel, John 1:29-34. Consider how John the Baptist gives testimony to who Jesus is. Talk about what people might come to know about Jesus by observing your family life. Pray together that your family life will show others that Jesus is the Son of God, the lamb who takes away the sins of the world. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

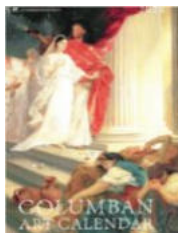
## Mass Intentions

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Recently Deceased:</b>  | Laurice Touma Sassine, 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>      | Eliana Barnes, Anne Russo, Milagros Manapis, 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 Jiu Lim, Yang Sa Wong, Gloria Abrahams, John St George, Veronica & Margaret Riordan, John Harrington.  |
| <b>Sick Intentions:</b>    | 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-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. 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.*



St. Martha's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank our benefactors for contributing \$4,402.90 to the 2025 Christmas Appeal. Thank you so much for your continuing generosity and for supporting those we serve! Anthony Thurn, President, St. Martha's Conference, St. Vincent de Paul Society



**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***



**Call 1800 55 1800**

