



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes
Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong
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Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson
Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Marion Li
Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry



'His face shone like the sun' - Matthew 17

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
Acting Principal: Steven Belcastro
Acting Assistant Principal: Chelsea McKeown
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

Mission:
Alive with the Spirit
Inspired by St Martha
We Celebrate & Witness
God's love
Using our Gifts & Talents

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: Info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au



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.

Fr John is away from the Parish until 12th March.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection. On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word. The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

Family Connection: As a family, talk about some of your times of highs and lows. How have you been able to use the good times and experiences to sustain you in the difficult ones? Jesus' Transfiguration may have been an event from which Peter, James, and John drew courage when they faced the difficult events of Jesus' Passion. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the good times and experiences that your family has had together. Pray that your family will use these experiences to sustain you during times of difficulty. Close by praying today's psalm, Psalm 33.

Easter is the largest liturgical celebration throughout the year and many volunteers are needed across all ministries. If you are on the regular roster and attending any of the Easter Liturgies, could you please consider volunteering. We are in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Lectors, Altar Servers, Acolytes & Wardens. Please write your name on the sheets on the rear table of the church or contact **Helen Williamson on 0408 970 120.**

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 'WASHING OF THE FEET' AT THE HOLY THURSDAY MASS. PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER.



Second Sunday of Lent 28 February – 1 March 2026

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



Project Compassion Donation Envelopes: How do I use them?

This Lent, like we did in 2025, there is a single Project Compassion donation envelope – rather than the six weekly envelopes used in previous years. This change was made to reduce waste and support our shared commitment to caring for our common home.

You can still give weekly by taking several envelopes at once or simply make your offering when you're ready. Thank you for *Uniting Against Poverty* with us this Lent.

UNITE 
AGAINST
POVERTY
this Lent

*Lenten Devotion: Stations of the Cross
Every Friday of Lent at 7pm*

7th & 8th March

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

	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Special Ministers	Beatrice Bonett	Gina Surjadinata	Jackie Romanous	Theresa Kuk
	Vince Blefari	Andri Surjadinata	Helen Williamson	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Readers	Helen Blefari	Maria Yu	Anne Marrins	Owen Loney
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Steve Doumit	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Altar Servers	Marissa B.	Mary Louise I.	Jay L.	Zachary A.
	Olivia B.	Archie S.	Jarvis L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Courtney O.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Charlize O.	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Wardens	Edith Puni	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Nancy Au, Grace Maria Rumore, Andre Miguel Marquez, Swady Anne Hanna, Fr Glynn, Brother Julian (Maurice) Quinlan, Frank Burriss, Trudie O'Neil, Pierantonio Deidda, Laurice Touma Sassine, Carmel Nelson, Milagros Manipis, Olga Chidiac.
Rest of the Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Kevin Bouffler, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco & Sarina Campanale, Daniel Lucich, Stefano, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, 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, Filomena & Giuseppe Pagano, Joseph Tannous, Nejia Tannous, Faado, Alice & Saiman 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, Pauline Gibson & Robert Rumore.
Anniversaries:	Judith Mueller, Elias Aslan, Mark Kelly, John Tandiono, Sagaya Sargunam, James Hennes, Grace Hunt, Maureen Sarks, Margaret McGannon, Richard Sullivan, John Tandiono, Dorothy Harris, Elizabeth Keating, Sandor Toth, Maureen & Edmund Duggan, Eliana Barnes, Minter Antoun, Frances Bot, Harry Russo, Jim Bradbury, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Harry Thorpe, Daniel Dillon, Antonio Iannella.
Sick Intentions:	Amy Scott, Dareth Flavell, 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, 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. Harry Amalan & David Russell.

Understanding Scripture (Liturgia)

Jesus, Moses, and Elijah

The appearance of Moses and Elijah has symbolic significance. Moses, who delivered the Ten Commandments to Israel, represents the Law; Elijah was esteemed as the greatest of prophets. The work of Moses and Elijah - the Law and the Prophets - was to testify to, and prepare for, the coming of the Messiah. This interpretation is found in this Sunday's Preface: '[Jesus] wanted to teach them [his disciples] through the Law and Prophets.' Now that Jesus has come and his glory is revealed, the work of Moses and Elijah is accomplished; so in the transfiguration they disappear and 'Jesus alone' remains. Yet, their appearance shows that Jesus stands in continuity with the saving and revealing work of God recorded in the Law and the Prophets. Their disappearance at the end of the vision does not suggest that the Law and Prophets have become obsolete, for as Jesus indicates, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfil' (Matthew 5:17; see also Sunday 3). Matthew is interested in both Moses and Elijah. He deals with Elijah in the verses following this Sunday's gospel (Matthew 17:10-13). Matthew's description of Jesus invites a comparison with Moses. In the Old Testament Moses is twice on a mountain when God speaks with him: first, on Mt. Horeb (= Sinai) when God appeared to him in a burning bush (Exodus 3:1-6) and again when God appeared in terrifying glory to give him the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:16-21). After forty days on the mountain Moses came down and 'his face had become radiant' (Exodus 34:29-35). In the transfiguration Jesus is on a mountain, his appearance becomes radiant, and God speaks with him. Moses was a 'servant' of the Lord (Numbers 12:7) to whom the Lord would speak 'as one speaks to a friend' (Exodus 33:11). Jesus is also the Servant of the Lord (Sunday 2), and more than a friend: God declares, 'This is my beloved Son.' The obedience required by the words of Moses is now directed to Jesus: 'listen to him.'



What's On at the Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre

4 March - 28 May
Exhibition | Give to Gain



11 March | 10:30am
International Women's Day | Morning Tea
Join us for morning tea as we celebrate International Women's Day and check out our new temporary exhibition.
Register by Monday 9 March, by calling (02) 9138 0835 or email heritagecentre@rscoffice.com



[@rscheritagecentreau](https://www.instagram.com/rscheritagecentreau) | [heritagecentre@rscoffice.com](https://www.facebook.com/heritagecentre@rscoffice.com)
socheritagecentre.org.au | (02) 9138 0835 | 1 Rockwall Crescent, Potts Point



Sydney Catholic Schools Week

OPEN DAY

Thursday 5 March
9.00-11.00am



World Day of Prayer 2026
Focus on **Nigeria**



Service date	Saturday 7 th March, 2026
Location	ST. THOMAS'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Address	60 CORONATION PARADE ENFIELD
Time	10.30 AM CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME AVAILABLE
Contact	Rev David Reynolds 0413 246 808 SHIRLEY GILBERT 0457909444

Reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A

(Young Catholics)

Walking in Faith

The 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A reminds us that faith is about trust. In the first reading, God calls Abram to leave his home and go to a land that God will show him. Abram does not have all the details, but he listens and obeys. His willingness to step into the unknown shows the kind of trust that faith requires. Faith is not always easy. Abram had to leave behind everything familiar—his land, his family, and his security. He had to believe that God would guide him. This journey was not just about moving to a new place but about learning to rely on God. Our own faith journey is similar. Sometimes, God calls us to let go of things that hold us back. We may not always see where He is leading us, but we are asked to trust. Like Abram, we are called to listen to God's voice and take the next step in faith. Lent is a time to reflect on how we trust God in our lives. Are we holding onto fears or doubts that keep us from following Him fully? Are we willing to step forward even when the path is unclear? The 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A encourages us to walk in faith, knowing that God is with us.

Seeing Jesus in Glory

The Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A tells the story of the Transfiguration. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain, and they see Him shining in glory. This moment is a glimpse of who He truly is. The disciples are amazed, but they are also afraid. God speaks from a cloud and tells them to listen to His Son. This moment confirms that Jesus is the one they must follow. The disciples may not fully understand what is happening, but they are given a sign of hope. In our own lives, we may have moments when we see God's presence more clearly. These moments strengthen our faith, just as the Transfiguration strengthened the disciples. But we cannot stay on the mountain forever. Jesus leads the disciples back down, reminding them that faith is lived out in daily life. The 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to listen to Jesus and trust in Him. Even when we do not fully understand, He is with us. We may not see His glory as clearly as the disciples did, but we can recognize His presence in prayer, in Scripture, and in the people around us.

A Glimpse of the Resurrection

The Transfiguration in the Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A points to something greater. When Jesus appears in shining glory, it is a sign of what is to come. His suffering and death are not the end. There is a future beyond the cross. The disciples do not yet understand the resurrection, but this moment gives them hope. Later, when they see Jesus suffer, they may remember this glimpse of His true glory. It prepares them for what is ahead. Our own faith journey is also filled with struggles. We may go through times of doubt, fear, or suffering. The Transfiguration reminds us that there is more to the story. Just as Jesus rose from the dead, we are called to a new life with Him.

The 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A encourages us to hold onto hope. Jesus leads us through suffering to something greater. Lent is a time to prepare our hearts for Easter, remembering that no matter what we face, God's plan leads to new life.

The 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A reminds us that God is always leading us forward. Whether we are stepping into the unknown like Abram, seeing glimpses of Jesus' glory like the disciples, or holding onto hope in difficult times, we are never alone. Lent is a time to grow in faith, to listen more closely to Jesus, and to trust in God's plan. May we continue this journey with open hearts, knowing that He is with us every step of the way.

Prayer

*Lord, help us to walk in faith, even when we do not see the way ahead.
Teach us to listen to Jesus and follow where He leads.
Give us strength in difficult times and remind us of the hope that lies ahead.
May this Lenten journey bring us closer to You. Amen.*

Reflection Questions

1. What does Abram's journey teach us about trusting God?
2. How can we listen to Jesus more in our daily lives?
3. What holds us back from stepping forward in faith?
4. How do we experience glimpses of God's presence?
5. Why did Jesus show His glory to Peter, James, and John?
6. How does the Transfiguration give us hope for the future?
7. What can we learn from Paul's encouragement to Timothy?
8. How can Lent help us grow in trust and faith?
9. What is one way we can respond to God's call this week?
10. How does the 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A help us prepare for Easter?
- 11.