



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



'Such was said to your ancestor, but I am speaking to you' - Matthew 5

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.

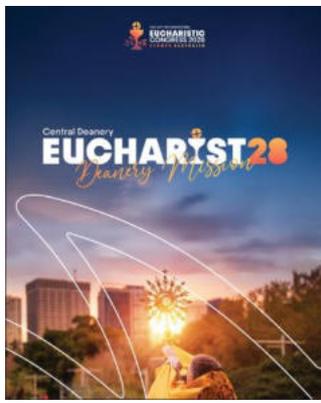
IMPORTANT NOTICE:

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.**



Dear Parishioners,



As part of preparations for the Eucharistic congress in 2028, at which Pope Leo XIV has now confirmed he will attend, our Deanery has been asked to host the First Eucharistic Mission. Fr Josh Miechels of Berala Parish has generously organised this event on behalf of the 16 parishes of our Deanery. It will take place from 27th February – 1st March 2026. We are encouraged to actively participate in this Eucharistic Mission, especially in the Procession at 3.00pm. Please see the flyers and posters in the Church foyer for more details. Everyone is welcome.

THE SEASON OF LENT COMMENCES ON WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2026.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE.

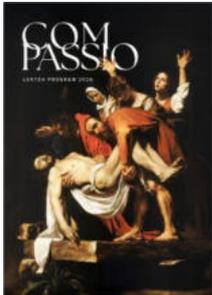
Mass Times & the Distribution of Ashes

7.00am, 9.10am & 6.30pm

Volunteers are needed to assist at these Masses.

The sign up sheets are available in the Church Foyer for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers (for the distribution of ashes, Altar Servers, Acolytes and Wardens.

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



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).



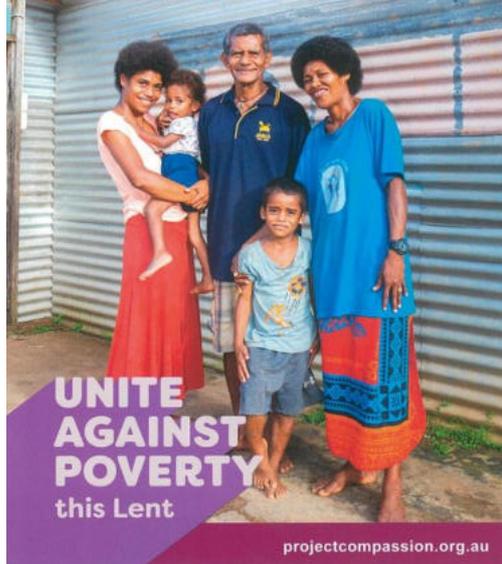
ST MARTHA'S WILL HOST A HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS COMMENCING AT 6.30PM ON FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY AND CONCLUDE AT THE END OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

Join us in a sacred hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament as we lift up vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life, and holy marriage asking the Lord to guide and inspire those He is calling. As a vocation is directed towards life with the Church, the same Church will also play a role in a vocational calling. The process of discerning one's vocation requires practice in the Christian life. A strong prayer and sacramental life, familiarity with the Scriptures, good habits in Christian virtue, etc. are all essential to help a person to discern well. Forming a good and holy disposition also provides an important foundation for discernment. Soon after his election, Pope Leo XIV offered words of encouragement to young people discerning a vocation in the heart of the Church - "Do not be afraid! Accept the invitation of the Church and of Christ the Lord!" A vocation is, therefore, not just a calling from God, but also an invitation of the Church. Jesus, asks all of us to pray "the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest" (Matt 9:38). Let us pray together for generous hearts and renewed vocations within our Archdiocese.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbor. When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires. The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

Family Connection: Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos. As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together. Think about rules for play time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on. Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of showing love and respect for one another. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law. Say: God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37. Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family. Conclude by praying for the grace to overcome anger and to show respect for one another as a family by following God's Law of love.

PROJECT COMPASSION SHARE PACKS AND BOXES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FOYER.



God of all love,

We remember that on the night before he died
Your son, Jesus, prayed
that his friends 'may all be one.'

Yet we see so much division in the world.
War, conflict, violence and hatred
must all distress you.

Millions of people suffer
when they don't have peace and respect.
They lack the necessities of life: food, water,
health, education and security.

We pray that we may all
Unite Against Poverty this Lent.
May our support for **Project Compassion**
be a sign to ourselves and others,
of our hope for a better world.

This Lent, we pray that our dedication
to prayer, fasting and almsgiving
will help restore your vision of justice and peace.

Guided by the Holy Spirit,
we pray in Jesus' name,

Amen



21st & 22nd February

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Georgette Sahyoun	Elias Family	Mary L'Estrange
	Marian McCluskey	Volunteer Needed	Ivenna Siu	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Maria Yu	Elias Family	Melanie John
	Patricia Saad	Volunteer Needed	Chelsea Valentin	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Mary Louise I.	Alysha N.	Volunteer Needed
	Thomas S.	Archie S.	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff C.	Volunteer Needed	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Matthew Z.	Volunteer Needed	Ryan L.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	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, 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:	John Tandiono, Sagaya Sargunam, James Henness, Grace Hunt, Maureen Sarks, Margaret McGannon, Richard Sullivan, John Tandiono, Mark Kelly, 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, 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. Harry Ama;n & David Russell.

Reflection for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Living God's Way Today (Young Catholics)

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites us to think about what it means to follow God's law. Jesus teaches that obeying rules is not enough. He wants his followers to understand the deeper meaning behind them. He calls for a righteousness that goes beyond the scribes and Pharisees. The readings challenge us to look at our hearts and consider how we live out our faith each day.

Laws on the Mountain - The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that Jesus did not come to erase the law but to fulfill it. In the Gospel, he goes up a mountain, just like Moses did when he received the Ten Commandments. But Jesus does not just repeat the law—he explains its deeper meaning. He shows that following God is not just about obeying rules but about having the right heart. Jesus speaks about important commandments, such as those against murder and adultery. He teaches that these laws go beyond actions. Anger can be just as harmful as violence, and impure thoughts can lead a person away from God. Jesus calls his followers to go deeper, to live with love and self-control. The Old Testament law was given to guide people toward holiness. But Jesus brings something greater. He completes the law by teaching that love is at its centre. The law is not just a set of rules—it is a path to a good and just life. Catholics believe that both the Old and New Testaments are part of God's plan. Jesus does not reject the old law but shows how it leads to something greater. The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges us to see the law in a new way. It is not just about following commands but about becoming the people God calls us to be.

Not Just Rule Followers - The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that faith is not just about following rules. Jesus tells his followers that their righteousness must be greater than that of the scribes and Pharisees. These religious leaders were strict about obeying the law, but they sometimes missed the bigger picture. Jesus wants more than just obedience—he wants people to live with love and sincerity. Jesus gives examples of how to go beyond the law. It is not enough to simply avoid murder; people must also avoid anger and hatred. It is not enough to avoid adultery; people must also have pure hearts. Jesus wants his followers to live in a way that reflects God's goodness, not just follow the minimum requirements. Rules are important, but they are not the goal. The goal is to live as children of God, treating others with kindness and honesty. When people focus only on rules, they can become judgmental or prideful. Jesus calls his followers to something higher—a life shaped by love. Following Jesus means looking beyond the surface. The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges everyone to ask: Am I just following the rules, or am I truly living the way Jesus teaches? Faith is not just about avoiding sin; it is about growing in love and goodness every day.

Justice and Love - The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that laws should lead to justice and love. Jesus does not reject the law, but he teaches that its purpose is to guide people toward what is right. The goal is not just obedience but a life shaped by goodness. Catholics believe that salvation is a gift from God, not something earned by good deeds. But that does not mean people can ignore God's law. Jesus calls his followers to live with righteousness and mercy. A faithful life is not just about avoiding sin but about bringing justice and kindness into the world. Jesus teaches that following the law is not enough. People must understand why the law exists—to protect, to guide, and to help people love one another. When laws are used only as strict rules, they can lose their true meaning. Jesus wants people to follow the spirit of the law, not just the letter of it. The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges us to go beyond the basics. It is not enough to do the minimum required by God. A true follower of Jesus asks, "How can I live with more love, more honesty, and more justice?" By focusing on these things, we live the way Jesus teaches. It reminds us that faith is not just about rules. It is about living with love, wisdom, and truth. Jesus teaches that righteousness is more than just obeying commands. It is about choosing what is good, avoiding what is evil, and seeking God with all our hearts.

Prayer

Lord, you call us to live with truth and love. Help us to follow your ways, not just in words but in our hearts. Teach us to choose what is right and to turn away from anger, dishonesty, and selfishness. Fill us with your wisdom so we may walk in your light. Amen.

Reflection Questions for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

- What does Jesus mean when he says he came to fulfill the law?
- Why does Jesus say our righteousness must go beyond the scribes and Pharisees?
- How can we go beyond just following rules and truly live our faith?
- What choices do you face where you must choose between good and evil?
- How does anger or hatred affect your relationships?
- Why is honesty so important in daily life?
- How can we bring more love and justice into the world?
- What does it mean to follow the spirit of the law and not just the letter of the law?
- How do the readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenge you?
- What steps can you take to grow in love, wisdom, and truth?

"Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven". Matthew 5:19