



# 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



**'You are the light of the world' - 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)  
**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



**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: [Info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au)

**Please support our Catholic Press**  
**Copies of the Catholic Weekly are in the**  
**Church Foyer \$2.**



## 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 [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@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.**

**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press):** Following upon the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavoring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives. Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden!

**Family Connection:** The widespread use of electricity in our society may make us less aware of the value and importance of light. To re-engage with the power of the metaphor that Jesus offers, gather your family in a darkened room. Bring only one flashlight. Sit together for a minute and consider what you are able to do and see in so little light. You might try opening the Bible to see whether you can read today's Gospel. Turn on the flashlight and experiment to see how one might use it to achieve the greatest amount of light. Then read today's Gospel by the light of the flashlight. Ask everyone to consider what it means to say that Christians are to be the light of the world. How might your family act in a way that is a light for others, a light that is worthy to put on a lamp stand? Choose one thing that your family will do this week to show that you are the light of the world. You might choose to participate in an activity that your parish sponsors, such as help with a food pantry. Pray together by singing "This Little Light of Mine."

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**We will sing in peace,**

**We will sing in harmony.**

**We will sing in peace,**

**We will sing in harmony.**

**We will sing in peace,**

**We will sing in harmony.**

**We will sing in peace,**

**We will sing in harmony.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Let it shine around the world, We're gonna let it shine.**

**Let it shine around the world, We're gonna let it shine.**

**Let it shine around the world!**

**Let it shine, We'll all shine, We'll all shine, We'll all shine!**

**Let shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

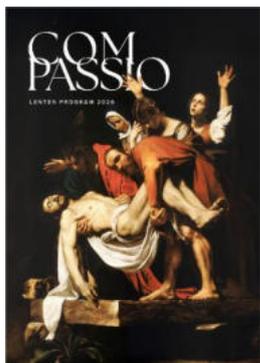
### *Understanding Scripture*

The analogies of salt and light would have been full of meaning for people in Jesus' time. Salt was universally important for its medicinal and preservative qualities, and for its value as a flavour enhancer. Similarly, the followers of Jesus are to heal divisions, preserve the world from injustice and oppression, and enhance the flavour of life by influencing the world in a positive way. The value of light is perhaps less appreciated in modern times with ready access to electricity, but in the time of Jesus, it was a far more precious commodity. Without a wick in a bowl of oil, there was no light in the darkness. Jesus' followers, likewise, according to the gospel, must illuminate the world through their good deeds which must be visible for all to see. This is not for their own personal esteem, however, but in order that others might give glory to God. Notice that Jesus does not say "You are like the salt of the earth" but rather "You are the salt of the earth." He does not say "You can be the light of the world" but rather "You are the light of the world". Jesus generously declares that all of his followers are in fact salt and light, that there is sanctity in the ordinariness of human life.

**THE SEASON OF LENT COMMENCES ON  
WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> February in  
the Church from 10.30am to 11.30am.  
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend  
(booklets are \$10).**

*How to Prepare for Lent*

**By Vinita Hampton Wright**

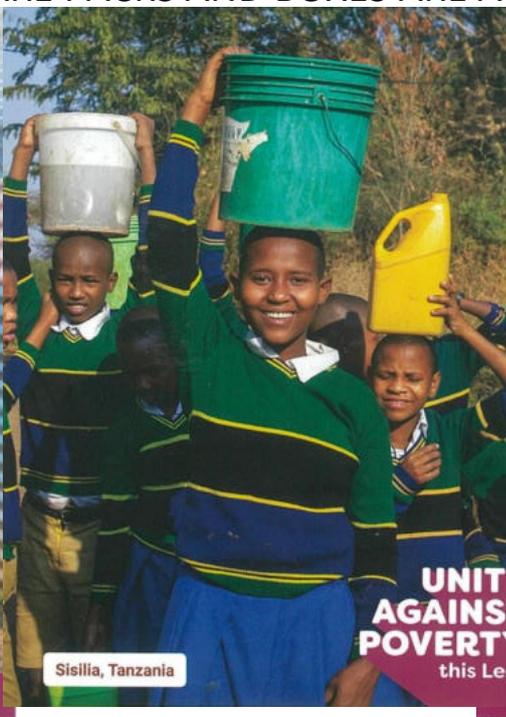
How do you prepare for Lent? How have you prepared in the past? What are your ideas about what should happen during Lent? We have the traditional Catholic practices of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. So, we pray more than usual, or we pray with different emphases. We eat smaller or fewer meals or give up a favourite food or drink group. We give more of our resources or give them specifically to special works of mercy during Lent. Prayer, fasting, and charitable giving continue to be quite good practices during Lent or at any time. But, you might think, how do I prepare myself for this season? What needs to happen within so that I can practice with more integrity and intention whatever I'm doing on the outside? There are plenty of ideas for actions and practices during Lent; coming up with ideas usually is not the problem. But we don't want to do anything simply to be doing it, even if it's a good thing. We don't want to make a list of merciful works so that we can place a checkmark beside each one as we accomplish it. It's good to have a plan for doing. It's also good to have a plan for being. How do I want to be during Lent this year? More quiet and thoughtful? More open to God's desires? Better able to sit with people who need me? More attentive to sacred readings, whether in church or in private? Do I need to be more compassionate toward my own fears and failings? Do I need to become more courageous about using the gifts God has given me?

In the days prior to Lent, try one or more of these suggestions.

1. Ask God, every day, "What does my soul need?" Just ask, and wait quietly. Because we're very good at fooling ourselves about how we're doing, it might take several days of praying this question before we're truly open and humble enough to know the answer.
2. Ask God, every day, "What about my life makes you happy?" Yes, when God looks at your life, some parts of it—perhaps many aspects of it—bring joy to God's heart. Think of how your children or grandchildren or other people close to you make you happy. God is in relationship with you, which means that your sins grieve God's heart, but also that your growth and love and freedom and kindness bring joy to God of the universe. Again, you will probably need to pray this a few times before you are willing to consider that you give God pleasure, that you make God happy in any way. Stick with this little prayer and keep listening.
3. Tell God, and yourself, every day, "I want to be open to the graces of this Lenten season." Maybe you're not open right now, or you're not as open and willing as you'd like to be or think you should be. What else is new? We can always open our lives a bit more, let go of more stuff, listen better, and do more quickly and passionately what we know helps nurture God's kingdom on earth.

This is a beginning: three short and simple prayer starters to ready yourself for the holy season.

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



### PROJECT COMPASSION LENTEN PRAYER

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**

Caritas AUSTRALIA End poverty Promote justice Uphold dignity

**14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February**

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Gian Surjadinata	Relyn Aguinaldo	Kynetha Torcato
	Rick Herro	Artha Surjadinata	Rita Piras	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Robert Smith	Emmanuel Nathan	Andrew Chasle
	Lisa Dennis	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Michael Quinlan	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Ryan W.	Emilio A.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Collin A.	Dylan W.	Emilia T.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Matthew C.	Charlotte L	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Ryan L.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Linda Praum	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

**Mass Intentions**

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Brother Julian ( Maurice) Quinlan, Frank Burriss, Trudie O'Neil, Pierantonio Deidda, Laurice Touma Sassine, Carmel Nelson, Milagros Manipis, 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, Jenny Indriani.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Maureen Sarks, Margaret McGannon, Richard Sullivan, John Tandiono, Grace Hunt, 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.
<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.

Beyond Blue  
 P: 1300 22 4636  
 W: www.beyondblue.org.au

CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney  
 P: 13 18 19  
 W: www.catholiccare.org

Call 1800 55 1800

Lifeline Saving Lives  
 Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.  
 Lifeline  
 P: 13 11 14  
 W: www.lifeline.org.au

1800RESPECT  
 NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE  
 1800RESPECT  
 P: 1800 737 732  
 W: www.1800respect.org.au