



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



'The blind man went off & washed himself & came away with his sight restored' - John 9

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.

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

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.

Welcome Home Father John

Dear Parishioners, I am grateful for your thoughts and prayers whilst I was away on pilgrimage in the region of the current conflict. By God's grace, we were safe and felt safe during our journey. I am grateful also that we were able to complete two thirds of the planned tour. Unfortunately, we couldn't do the last five days in Israel as planned. Our journey traced that of the Hebrew people in their liberation from Egypt, the desert crossing in the Sinai Peninsula and Southern Jordan. It was amazing to visit sites of many biblical events, to read the story there and meditate on its meaning for our lives. Whilst there is not enough space here to describe everything, some special highlights included climbing Mount Sinai, visiting the place of refuge in Egypt where Joseph and Mary protected Jesus from Herod's evil plot, and visiting the actual Baptismal site of Jesus, currently in Jordanian territory.



The Sphinx, half man half lion – man's desire to rule with power.



Mass at sunrise atop Mount Sinai.



Pharaoh enslaved the Hebrews for his building projects.



The glitter of Gold!
Symbol of all earthly desires.



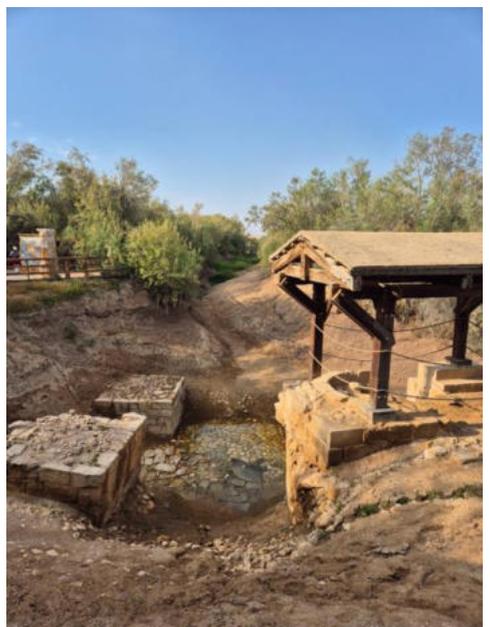
The well in Egypt that Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus used.



The cave in Egypt where the Holy Family lived.



The Burning Bush of Moses.



The Place of the Baptism of Jesus.

Understanding Scripture (Liturgia)

SIGHT, FAITH, AND WORSHIP

As did last Sunday's gospel, this Sunday's gospel tracks the coming-to-faith of an unnamed individual: like the Samaritan woman, the blind man comes to faith in stages. He begins by seeing only 'the man called Jesus' (9:11), then 'a prophet' (9:17), a man 'from God' (9:33), 'the Son of Man' (9:35), and finally the 'Lord' whom he worships (9:38). Both gospels involve water imagery: the Samaritan woman was promised 'living water'; the blind man must 'wash in the Pool of Siloam' - a name meaning 'one who has been sent' (9:7). Jesus is the one who has been sent by God (9:4). To wash in these waters is to be baptized. Baptism is a spiritual enlightenment by which one comes to 'see' that Jesus is 'Lord' and to 'worship him.' These two gospels are appropriate for the final weeks of the catechumenate: they are a reminder that faith grows gradually, is expressed in baptism, and leads to worship. The blind man's journey of faith is difficult. The man starts in a darkness that is absolute: blind from birth (9:1), he has never seen the light. The end of the journey is Jesus who is 'the light of the world' (9:5). While the physical cure is instantaneous - 'he went and washed and came back able to see' (9:7) - his vision of Jesus grows only gradually (described above). There are two features of this growth in faith. First, the man faces repeated questioning, harassment, and judgment; yet, the harder he is pressed, the stronger grows his faith. The evangelist is addressing his community which is locked in struggle with the religious authorities (notice the 'we' vs. 'you' language in 9:24-34). Faith is hard work. Second, Jesus is absent for most of the man's struggle: from verses 8-34, the man is on his own. This, too, addresses the experience of the evangelist's community after the resurrection-ascension of Jesus. Only faith can 'see' Jesus who has returned to the Father. Recovery of physical sight was easily accomplished; spiritual insight is more difficult. But only spiritual insight attains the goal of faith: worship.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man. The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment. The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind. As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

Family Connection: When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows. Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person's relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Then read together today's Gospel, John 9:1-41. Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

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 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.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 14–15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



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.*

The Feast Day of St Patrick - Tuesday 17th March – Mass will be celebrated at 7.30am

An Old Irish Blessing for St. Patrick's Day

May your days be many and your troubles be few.
 May all God's blessings descend upon you.
 May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.
 May you find what you're seeking, wherever you roam.
 May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.
 May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.
 May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore. Amen.

The Feast Day of St Joseph - Thursday 19th March - Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am

Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary, be with us this day.
 You protected and cherished the Virgin;
 loving the Child Jesus as your Son,
 you rescued Him from the danger of death.
 Defend the Church, the household of God, purchased by the Blood of Christ.
 Guardian of the Holy Family, be with us in our trials.
 May your prayers obtain for us the strength to flee from error
 and wrestle with the powers of corruption so that in life we may grow in holiness
 and in death rejoice in the crown of victory. Amen.

21st & 22nd March

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

	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Special Ministers	Grace Herro	Georgette Sahyoun	Relyn Aguinaldo	Mary L'Estrange
	Rick Herro	Volunteer Needed	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Readers	Maria Soo	Maria Yu	Emmanuel Nathan	Melanie John
	Lisa Dennis	Volunteer Needed	Michael Quinlan	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Altar Servers	Beatrix A.	Mary Louise I.	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed
	Collin A.	Archie S.	Emilia T.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Charlotte L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Ryan L.	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Wardens	Joy Li	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Matthew Quan, Nancy Au, Grace Maria Rumore, Andre Miguel Marquez, Swady Anne Hanna, Fr Glynn, Brother Julian (Maurice) Quinlan, Frank Burriss, Trudie O'Neil, Pierantonio Deidda.
Repose 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 & 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, Pauline Gibson, Robert Rumore, Elize Castelino, Phillip, Hind, Siham Azar, Emile & Foula Moubarak.
Anniversaries:	Monica Connolly, Maud Soares, Mary Sorbello, Judith Mueller, Elias Aslan, Mark Kelly, John Tandiono, Sagaya Sargunam, James Henness, Grace Hunt, Maureen Sarks, Maureen & Edmund Duggan, Eliana Barnes, Minter Antoun, Frances Bot, Harry Russo, Jim Bradbury, Julian & Mabel Doyle.
Sick Intentions:	Amy Scott, Dareth Flavell, Baby Mia Valente, Geoff Sims, Cameron Stacy, Helen McAlister, Elliot Leahy, Norma Habib, Joe Everitt, Alf Buda, Ann Cincotta-Tangey, Mark Samaha, John Weitering, John Hay, Ajith Antony, 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.



Lenten Devotion: Stations of the Cross Every Friday of Lent at 7pm.
Easter Cards \$10 (box of 10) available from the piety stall

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

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

kidshelpline
 Anytime Any Reason
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