



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



'I am the Resurrection and the life' - John 11

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 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.

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

**It is with heavy hearts that we announce the death of
Mrs Anne Burton (aged 104) who died peacefully on Sunday 15th March.
A Requiem Mass in thanksgiving for her life will be at St Martha's
at 11.00am on Wednesday 25th March followed by interment at Rookwood
Catholic Cemetery.**



**Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon her.
May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace.**

Understanding Scripture (Liturgia)

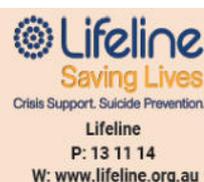
RESURRECTION AND LIFE

The central affirmation of this gospel narrative comes when Jesus tells Martha, 'I am the resurrection and the life' (11:25). This is the climax of a number of identity-statements Jesus makes about himself: 'I am the bread of life' (6:35); '... the light of the world' (9:5); '... the good shepherd' (10:11); '... the way, the truth, and the life' (14:6); '... the vine' (15:5). Jesus also asserts simply 'I AM' (8:58; 13:19), thus echoing God's self-revelation to Moses in the burning bush, 'I AM WHO AM' (Exodus 3:14); this reinforces Jesus' claim that 'The Father and I are one' (John 10:30). The statement 'I am the resurrection and the life' is especially significant in John's gospel. John is selective in reporting the miracles ('signs') of Jesus: he recounts only seven. In this carefully chosen series, the raising of Lazarus is the final and, therefore, climactic sign. Earlier in this gospel Jesus taught that he has power to give life: 'just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes' (5:21; see also 3:15-16; 5:24; 6:40; 10:10). In raising Lazarus Jesus demonstrates that he indeed raises the dead and gives life. The resurrection and the life' has a present and future focus. Jesus is the source of life now for believers; he means this in not only a spiritual sense, for Lazarus indeed finds actual life in Jesus. But as wondrous as is the raising of Lazarus, it is merely resuscitation for he will die again. For this reason Jesus makes the even more astounding claim: he is the resurrection. By this he signifies that he will raise all who believe from death to eternal life - a life that does not end. Yet life now and life to come are not easily distinguished: each is an aspect of the other, as is evident when Jesus tells disciples, 'Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day' (6:54). Jesus is both life and eternal life.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life. The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy. Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus. The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death. Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb. With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

Family Connection: Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life. Gather your family today and read today's Gospel in its shorter form, John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45. Write Jesus' promise from today's Gospel ("I am the resurrection and the life.") on a large sheet of white paper. As your family talks about what Jesus means by this promise, decorate Jesus' words with symbols that will remind you of his promise of eternal life. Display this reminder of Jesus' promise in a prominent place in your home and keep it there until Easter. Pray that you will always remain confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Conclude by praying together the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.

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.**



to the Church after the morning Mass on either Friday or Saturday.

We also ask those who can bring their own palm or olive branch with them to Mass to please do so.

PALM SUNDAY – 28th & 29th March

	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Special Ministers	Peter McCluskey	Yvonne Martins	Elias Family	Andrew Bova
	Marian McCluskey	Lilly Ravi	Ivanna Siu	Volunteer Needed
Readers	Maria Soo	Daniel Martins	Elias Family	Andrew Chasle
	Patricia Saad	Volunteer Needed	Chelsea Valentin	Volunteer Needed
Passion	N: Helen Blefari	N: Volunteer Needed	N: Julie Erskine	N: Helen Williamson
	O: Lisa Dennis	O: Volunteer Needed	O: Camille Kafka	O: Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	Celeste S.	Jacob M.	Alysha N.	Zachary A.
	Thomas S.	Christian C.	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff C.	Ryan W.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Matthew & Rolon Z.	Dylan W.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	Vince Blefari	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES:

Monday	30th March	9.10am	Mass
Monday	30th March	6.30pm	2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Tuesday	31st March	7.30am	Mass
Wednesday	1st April	9.10am	Mass
Thursday	2nd April	(no morning Mass) 7.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday	3rd April	10.00am 3.00pm	Stations of the Cross Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
Saturday	4th April	(no morning Mass) 6.00pm	Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday	5th April	8am, 10am & 6pm	Easter Sunday
Monday	6th April	9.10am	Easter Monday Mass

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

Easter Cards \$10 (box of 10) available from the piety stall

EASTER CEREMONIES PRACTICE

A practice for all the readers/lectors participating in Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday Vigil Mass and Easter Sunday Masses is being held on Saturday 28th March at 1.30pm. Your attendance is requested even if you have participated in previous years. Helen Williamson 0408 970 120

EASTER ROSTERS

HOLY THURSDAY – Mass of the Lord’s Supper

		1 ST READING		2 ND READING	
Readers:	Michael Quinlan		Maria Soo		
Special Ministers:	Anne Marrins	Claudia Elias	Kristen Elias	Kynetha Torcato	
Altar Servers:	Emilio A.	Archie S.	Ryan W.	Dylan W.	
Washing of the Feet	1. Maria Soo	2. Winnie Lee	3. Kynetha Torcato	4. Genaro Aguinaldo	
	5. Dallas Lee	6. Mary Kalavrytinou	7. Leonardo Lombardo	8. Elanos Lombardo	
	9. Anthony Thurn	10. Brigette Keenan	11. Jane Lam	12. Philip Shaji	
Warden:	Georgette Sahyoun				Acolyte: Volunteer Needed

GOOD FRIDAY– Stations of the Cross

Altar Servers:	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Warden:	Edith Pun			

GOOD FRIDAY - Passion

		1 ST READING	2 ND READING	PASSION	SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS
Readers:	Anne Marrins	John Edwards	Michael Quinlan	Elias Family	
			O: Claudia Elias		
Special Ministers:	Georgia Elias	Relyn Aguinaldo	Kynetha Torcato	Lisa Dennis	
Altar Servers:	Emilio A.	Ryan W.	Dylan W.	Archie S.	
Warden:	Georgette Sahyoun				Acolyte: Volunteer Needed

EASTER SATURDAY VIGIL

		1 ST OT READING	2 ND OT READING	3 RD OT READING	Epistle & Prayer of the Faithful
Readers:	Anne Marrins	Lisa Dennis	Rosie Torcato	Maria Soo	
Special Ministers:	Rick Herro	Grace Herro	Kynetha Torcato		
Altar Servers:	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed		
Warden:	Georgette Sahyoun				Acolyte: Volunteer Needed

EASTER SUNDAY

		8AM	10AM	6PM
Readers:	John Edwards	Michael Quinlan	Andrew Chasle	
	Volunteer Needed	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed	
Special Ministers:	Gian Surjadinata	Reyln Aguinaldo	Volunteer Needed	
	Artha Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed	
Altar Servers:	Archie S.	Zachary A.	Volunteer Needed	
	Austin s.	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed	
	Ryan W.	Jay L.	Volunteer Needed	
	Dylan W.	Jarvis L.	Volunteer Needed	
Wardens:	Volunteer Needed	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn	
Acolyte:	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Anne Burton, 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, Nejja 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, Diana Alles & Mohan Thambyah.
Anniversaries:	Simon Zouki, Bridget Collits, Patrick Marrins, 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 Harris, 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.

