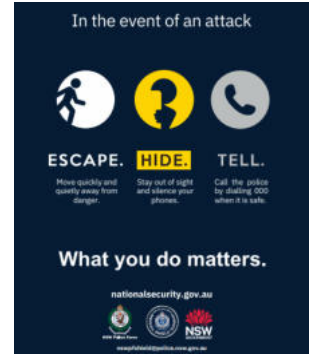




ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

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 Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ' - Matthew

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

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 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.

Reflection for Palm Sunday

By Sister Mary Agnes Paterson

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

In preparing this reflection for Palm Sunday, I watched the episode of *The Chosen* that shows the time before Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem. I also was reading a book by Henri J.M. Nouwen that explores the concepts earthly power, powerlessness, and power of God. Jesus is well aware of the current climate in which many people of power in the political, economic, and religious institutions are planning to oppress and even destroy him. The tensions have been simmering and now are at the boiling point. Jesus knows that the time has come. In *The Chosen* Jesus tells his mother that he is so sorry she will have to go through this and witness what will happen in the coming days. Jesus sets out on his journey knowing the danger ahead of him. In powerlessness, he enters Jerusalem on a lowly colt and allows his disciples and the great crowd of followers to glorify him as king and blessed of the Lord. When some of the Pharisees tell him to rebuke his disciples, Jesus replies that even if they were quiet the “stones will cry out.” His powerlessness disarms power with mercy and love. During the events of this Holy Week, Jesus chooses to act in powerlessness; and in his actions and words, he reveals the power and love of God. When Mary anoints Jesus with costly perfumed oil, Judas rebukes her. Jesus tells him to leave Mary alone; and Jesus affirms her acts of love and kindness toward him. At the last supper, Jesus knows that Peter will deny him and Judas will betray him. He knows the others apostles will run away. In an act of service and kindness Jesus washes their feet and shows God's healing love and mercy to them. In the garden as Jesus is arrested, Peter struck the high priest slave and cut off his ear. Jesus told Peter to put away the sword, and he heals the servant. In powerlessness, Jesus is led away to fulfill his mission to liberate and reconcile us to union with God. Jesus is filled with the power of God, and his response to Pilate disarms Pilate, who admits he finds no guilt in Jesus. On the cross, Jesus in mercy tells the man next to him that he will come into Paradise with him. Jesus ignores the taunts to come down from the cross and prays to the Father to forgive all who harm him. Before he dies, he reaches out in love to his beloved disciple asking him to be family for his mother. We know that in the end God's power of mercy, peace, joy and love calls Jesus and all of us to new life. Now we, pilgrims of hope, are called to “spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.” May God guide us and strengthen us on our journey.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press): Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy. In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus' prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father's will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father. Another theme of Matthew's Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament. Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: “. . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28) While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas's death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate's wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' death. Finally, Matthew's Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus' death. Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus' death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus' death. Throughout Matthew's Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today. There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven. The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

Family Connection: Palm, or Passion, Sunday begins the most sacred week of the Church year—Holy Week. During these days, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' Passion and death. You might display a crucifix in a prominent place this week, as reminder of the salvation Christ won for us. The crucifix can also be the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week. Because of the length and complexity of the Passion narrative, young children have difficulty remaining attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can choose to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a “way of the cross.” Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as the focal point. The Passion as found in Matthew's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:

Sunday:	Matthew 21:1-11 (Gospel at the Procession with Palms)
Monday:	Matthew 26:14-25
Tuesday:	Matthew 26:26-35
Wednesday:	Matthew 26:36-56
Thursday:	Matthew 26:57—27:14
Friday:	Matthew 27:15-54

After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer and/or singing an appropriate hymn, such as “Jesus, Jesus,” “Were You There?” or “What Wondrous Love Is This.”

URGENT: ALTAR SERVERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE 10AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY & VOLUNTEERS ACROSS ALL MINISTRIES ARE NEEDED FOR EASTER SUNDAY 6.00PM MASS.

Easter is the largest liturgical celebration throughout the year so if you are on the regular roster and attending these Easter Liturgies, could you please consider volunteering. Please contact Helen Williamson on 0408 970 120.



The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 3rd. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war it is a difficult time for the Church and people of the Holy Land with much reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world so we again ask Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday and please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ENVELOPES FOR THE HOLY LAND AND EASTER OFFERINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER.

During Holy Week, Project Compassion Boxes can be returned to the Sacristy or the Parish Office.






GOOD FRIDAY VENERATION OF THE CROSS

We must continue to show caution in the way we Venerate the Cross. Kissing of the Processional Cross WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

Bowing to the Cross is recommended, but touching with the hand is also allowed if hand sanitizer is used to cleanse hands BEFORE and AFTER doing so. Hand Sanitizers are located at both ends of every pew.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

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 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
Special Ministers:	Georgia Elias	Relyn Aguinaldo	O: Claudia Elias	
			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
Special Ministers:	Volunteer Needed	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed
	Gian Surjadinata	Reyln Aguinaldo	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers:	Artha Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
	Archie S.	Zachary A.	Volunteer Needed
	Austin s.	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed
	Ryan W.	Jay L.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens:	Dylan W.	Jarvis L.	Volunteer Needed
	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
Acolyte:	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Ana Adaman, 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, 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, Diana Alles & Mohan Thambyah.
Anniversaries:	Padma Rajah & Teresa Sittampalam, Bridie McWilliams, Patricia Gurney, Simon Zouki, Bridget Collits, Patrick Marrins, Monica Connolly, Maud Soares, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Paul Duggan, Peter Turpin, Andrew Coote, Judith Mueller, Elias Aslan, Mark Kelly, John Tandiono, Sagaya Sargunam.
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.