

# 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



**'I am the gate of the sheepfold' ... John 10**


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**Phone:** 9746 6131 **Fax:** 9764 3040  
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**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**

  
**Please continue to support the St Vincent De Paul Society through the Church Poor Boxes.**

**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)



## 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](mailto: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.**

**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)** This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd. Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees. Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow. The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd. Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.

**Family Connection:** Even though we have less experience with sheep and shepherds today in our society, we can still identify strongly with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. Psalm 23 remains a popular and favourite psalm for prayer. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God. As your family gathers, ask what each person knows about sheep and shepherds. Recall that shepherds and sheep have a close relationship. Sheep will only follow their own shepherd; they recognize his voice and will not follow a stranger. The shepherd's job is to protect his sheep. In some ways, the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is like that of a parent and child. Read together this Sunday's Gospel, John 10:1-10. Talk about how Jesus tells us that he is the gate for the sheep. The sheep enter the protection of the sheepfold through the gate. In Jesus we find protection and abundant life. Conclude by thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and by praying today's psalm, Psalm 23.

## *Understanding Scripture (Liturgia)*

### The Good Shepherd

Perhaps more than in the other gospels, the glory of the risen Christ shines throughout the entire Gospel of John. This reminds us that the gospels are not 'on the scene' reports of Jesus' life. The gospels were written forty to seventy years after his resurrection. This means that the Evangelists wrote their gospels from the conviction that the risen Jesus is present to them and their communities. More than simply recording the past words and deeds of Jesus, the Evangelists write prophetically: through them, the voice of Jesus addresses Christians in the last third of the first century. It is possible, then, to see in the gospels clues that inform us about the community for which the Evangelist is writing and which Jesus is addressing. John's community is coping with 'strangers' (10:5) and 'thieves and robbers' (10:8) who 'steal and slaughter and destroy' (10:10). These words are addressed to the Pharisees who 'did not realise what [Jesus] was trying to tell them' (10:6). In the story immediately before this 'Good Shepherd' narrative, the Pharisees behaved in exactly the way Jesus here criticises. In chapter 9 the Pharisees harassed and tried the man born blind and expelled him from the synagogue (9:24-34/Lent 4). As religious leaders they should have cared for the weak and led them to fuller life (see responsorial psalm). Their failure to hold the flock of God together and, indeed, their scattering the flock (9:34) reveals them as enemies of the flock. Though they quoted Moses to the blind man (9:16, 28-29), he did not recognise their voice as authentically teaching as Moses taught, for Moses had witnessed to Jesus (5:45). As religious teachers, the Pharisees should have recognised Jesus; instead, they 'agreed that if anyone acknowledged [Jesus] as the Messiah, he would be expelled from the synagogue' (9:22). By contrast, Jesus sought out the blind man and brought him to fuller life (9:35-38). The Evangelist, then, is addressing his own community; through him Jesus speaks to believers in every age. The Evangelist reveals Jesus as the true Shepherd and the gate that leads to life.

The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal** will be held on the weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The CWF funds six agencies: Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, CatholicCare, Chaplaincies, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), Ephpheta Centre and The Seminary of the Good Shepherd. The generosity of those who contribute financially to the CWF, means that these agencies are able to assist thousands of people each year.





*As the sun rises on Saturday, 25 April 2026, marking 111 years since the landing at Gallipoli, we pause to reflect on the enduring ANZAC spirit. It is a day that transcends time, connecting the original ANZACs to the brave men and women who continue to serve our nation today.*



*Every person who takes part in ANZAC Day helps to carry the ANZAC legacy forward – hand to hand, heart to heart.*



Australians commemorate Anzac Day on 25 April every year. This is the anniversary of the day when Australian and New Zealand soldiers landed on Gallipoli in 1915 as part of the Allies' invasion. Anzac Day draws large crowds of people to the dawn services, and marches are held around the country. Anzac Day is a time for all Australians to recognise the more than 2 million people who have served our country in all conflicts, wars and peace operations since 1914. It's also a time to remember the over 103,000 Australians who sacrificed their lives in our country's name. In towns and cities across Australia and around the world, Australians attend services to: salute the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have worn our country's uniform recognise the men and women who are currently serving overseas acknowledge the impact this has on them and their family and friends who remain at home. Anzac Day, on 25 April, is gazetted as a national day of commemoration in Australia. It was declared in the Anzac Day Act 1995 (Cth). The day recognises and commemorates the contribution of all people who have served Australia in times of war and in war-like conflicts. Since its origins in 1916, Anzac Day has continued to be an important day for Australians. By the 1920s, Anzac Day ceremonies were held throughout Australia. During the 1930s, the RSL called for greater acknowledgement of living veterans. The focus of the Anzac Day ceremony began to shift from a day of mourning to a day on which veterans commemorated their own war service and sacrifices. In the 1940s, World War II veterans joined parades around the country. In later decades, veterans from the conflicts in Korea, Malaya and Indonesia joined in. In the 1960s and '70s, some Australians returning from the Vietnam War felt their service was not appreciated by the public. Some veterans felt excluded from the Anzac tradition, and they chose not to march on Anzac Day ceremonies for many years. A special Welcome Home parade held on 3 October 1987 helped to change those attitudes.

### Prayer

*God of love and liberty,*

*we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy,  
which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives  
in time of war.*

*We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain,  
but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come.*

*That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve  
may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth.*

*This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*On this day, we move beyond ceremony to quiet gratitude,  
ensuring their stories of bravery and compassion are never forgotten.  
Lest We Forget.*

## Mass Intentions

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Madeleine O'Rourke, Pat (Ivy) Killalea, Peter Cranny, Ana Adaman, Anne Burton, Matthew Quan, Nancy Au, Grace Maria Rumore, Andre Miguel Marquez, Swady Anne Hanna, Fr Glynn.
<b>Rest of The Soul:</b>	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, Jim Bradbury, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Olga Chidiac, Joseph & Charbel Mannah.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Najah Najjah, Benito Lavapie, Milagros Manipis, Deborah & Olivia Dahdah, Harry Doumit, Damia Bains, James Webb & Wajih Saliba, Mary Colletta Saverimuthu, Padma Rajah & Teresa Sittampalam, Patrick Marrins, Monica Connolly, Maud Soares, Francesco & Mary Sorbello.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Amy Scott, Dareth Flavell, Paul Woodbury, 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.
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society and the Khoury Family.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Yvonne Martins	Relyn Aguinaldo	Andrew Bova
	Rick Herro	Lilly Ravi	Maria Soares	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Julie Ersline	Daniel Martins	Emmanuel Nathan	Andrew Chasle
	Camille Kafka	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Michael Quinlan	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Jacob M.	Emilio A.	Zachary A.
	Collin A.	Christian C.	Emilia T.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Ryan W.	Charlotte L.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Dylan W.	Ryan L.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk



**St Martha's Catholic Church, Strathfield**  
 70 Homebush Road, Strathfield NSW 2133  
 Telephone: (02) 9746 6131  
 Parish Priest: Father John Hayes  
 Sacramental Email: [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

## 2026

### Sacrament Preparation Schedule

#### Welcome Families

We come together as a Parish Community to support and prepare your child as they walk with Jesus!

To participate, complete an Enrolment form available in the foyer of our church or from our parish website: <https://stmarthas.org.au/sacraments/>

*All candidates are required to be baptised in the Catholic faith. Arrangements can be made if your child has not been baptised.*



### Term 2

### CONFIRMATION 2026

*For children in year 6 or older and have received First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation*

**Parent information Session: 6pm Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

1st lesson: 3:30pm Sat 13<sup>th</sup> June  
 2nd lesson: 3:30pm Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June  
 3rd lesson: 3:30pm Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June  
 4th lesson + Rehearsal: 3:30pm Sat 25<sup>th</sup> July

Sacrament date:  
**12:30pm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026 - St Mary's Cathedral**