



# ST MARTHAS 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 way, the truth, and the life' ... John 14***


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**

  
**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:

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am (during the school term only)

## 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.**

# NATIONAL COUNT OF MASS ATTENDANCE – commencing this weekend, and over the following 3 weekends there will be a count of numbers attending Mass. This information is requested by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to help gauge the present vitality of the Church in Australia and help plan for the future.



The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal** is running this 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. **Our parish quota for the May Appeal is \$7,395.**

Envelopes are available at the Church Entrances or you can give directly online by visiting <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/parishgiving/#donate>

**Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)** The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father. Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told his disciples, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what he has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more. The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks his name to his disciples: "I am the way and the truth and the life." The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

**Family Connection:** Members of the same family often bear close resemblances to one another. Sometimes physical resemblances are shared within a family, but often the similarities are behavioural characteristics and mannerisms. We hear this observation affirmed through a number of common phrases: "He's a chip off the old block" or "She's her mother's daughter." Today's Gospel points to a mystery of faith that might be examined in light of these familial relationships. In Jesus we see and know the Father. Likewise, the Father is known through the life and work of the Son, Jesus. Talk together as a family about whether people outside of your family recognize common traits of your family. Are there physical resemblances that people recognize and so know each individual as a member of your family? Are there mannerisms that are shared by members of your family? What are some common interests and work that people might associate with your family? As you read today's Gospel, John 14:1-12, keep in mind that members of the same family share many characteristics, even though each person in the family is an individual. What does Jesus tell his disciples about his relationship with the Father? The relationship between the Father and Jesus is so close that Jesus says that those who have seen and known Jesus have also seen and known the Father. Jesus promises his disciples that because of their faith in him and in the Father, they too will be able to do the work of the Father as Jesus did. End your discussion by praying together that others will recognize in your family the work of the Father. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

## *Understanding Scripture (Liturgia)*

### **Jesus as 'Torah': Way, Truth, and Life**

Throughout his gospel John demonstrates that Jesus fulfils and surpasses the key institutions, feasts, and teachings of Judaism. In this Sunday's gospel Jesus claims to be 'the way, the truth, and the life.' These attributes are used in Scripture to describe the Torah ('Law'; God's word). Psalm 119, the longest of the psalms, is a profound reflection on the Torah. While other passages in the OT refer to the Torah as either the way, truth, or life, these comments will be limited to Psalm 119 (NRSV).

#### **Torah as Way**

To 'walk in the law [Torah] of the Lord' is to 'walk in his ways' (vv. 1-3). Torah is referred to as 'the way of . . . your decrees' (v. 14); '. . . your precepts' (v. 27); '. . . your commands' (v. 32); and '. . . your laws' (v. 33). 'Way' is a metaphor for Torah; to walk in 'the way' is to live a life of Torah.

#### **Torah as Truth**

The Torah is 'the word of truth' (v. 43): 'your law [Torah] is truth' (v. 142). In John 17:17 Jesus, praying to God, says, 'your word is truth.' Because Jesus is the Word, he is, indeed, truth.

#### **Torah as Life**

Psalm 119:50 is explicit: God's promise (= word) 'gives me life' (v. 50). 'By [your precepts] you give me life' (v. 93). In John 11:25, Jesus claims to be the 'resurrection and the life' (Lent 5).

Thus, in Scripture 'way,' 'truth,' and 'life' are closely associated with Torah. This perspective persisted in early Jewish works, e.g., the Targum Pseudo-Jonathan teaches: "To serve the Torah is better than [to eat of] the fruit of the tree of life; the Torah, which the Word of the Lord prepared, that man in keeping it might continue, and walk in the paths of the way of life in the world to come." Note the equation of Torah and Word, and the 'way' which is 'life.' Thus, when Jesus claims to be 'the way, the truth, and the life,' he is saying that he embodies the Torah. Jesus is the Torah in human form (see 1:14).



# May is the Month of the Rosary

A prayer full of blessings as we contemplate the mysteries of our salvation. Let us make use of this beautiful prayer as we continue to grow together in faith and love. We can receive many benefits from praying the Rosary. We can have peace of mind, an increase in love for Jesus, unity with our Church, follow Mary's request, understand better the will of God in our lives, and a greater focus on God instead of ourselves. Before you pray the Rosary, take a moment to quiet yourself. Pray before you begin, asking God to be with you and lead you. As you pray, reflect on the mysteries with your intention in mind. Write down any messages, insights, or thoughts that came to you as you prayed that you want to remember. We extend our sincerest thanks to the Quan Family, formerly from the Solomon Islands and Founders of the Rosary Mission Group, for generously donating a variety of colourful hand-made and beautifully beaded Rosaries to St Martha's. The Rosary can be a source of hope and comfort, especially during challenging times. Praying the Holy Rosary is a great opportunity for each of us to strengthen our relationship with Our Lady. The Blessed Rosaries are now available in the Church foyer. An offering into the **LIFELINE DONATION BOX** would be appreciated.



## Mass Intentions

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Marion Issa, 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>	Carmel Josephine Jack, Maureen Marrins Allan, Anne Bechara, Henry D'Souza, Fr Adrian Horgan, Najah Najjah, Benito Lavapie, Milagros Manipsis, 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.

## 9th & 10th May

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Gina Surjadinata	Elias Family	Theresa Kuk
	Marian McCluskey	Andri Surjadinata	Ivanna Siu	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Maria Yu	Elias Family	Owen Loney
	Patricia Saad	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Chelsea Valentin	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Saad Family	Mary Louise I.	Alysha N.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Jeff C.	Archie S.	Aidan M.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Matthew Z.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Elias Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Rolon Z.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Elias Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn



**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** it is essential that we follow guidelines set out by the Archdiocese. If you are an Acolyte; Reader; Eucharistic minister or in the music ministry you are required to sign in – (red folders are kept in the sacristy). The altar servers sign in folder is located in the side corridor. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Please visit the Church Notice-Boards for upcoming events.**



## 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.

St Martha's Catholic Church, Strathfield  
70 Homebush Road, Strathfield NSW 2135  
Telephone: (02) 9746 6131  
Parish Priest: Father John Hayes  
Sacramental Email: [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)



### CONFIRMATION 2026

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

Parent information Session: 6pm Tuesday 9th June 2026

1st lesson: 3:30pm Sat 13th June

2nd lesson: 3:30pm Sat 20th June

3rd lesson: 3:30pm Sat 27th June

4th lesson + Rehearsal: 3:30pm Sat 25th July

Sacrament date:

12:30pm Sunday 2nd August 2026 - St Mary's Cathedral

Term 2

## the messy family project®

### AUSTRALIAN TOUR 2026

HOSTED BY THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>10 MAY</b> <b>GROWING OUR FAMILY CULTURE</b> SPIRITUAL + PRACTICAL FORMATION St Michael's Lane Cove		<b>12 MAY</b> <b>FOLLOWING MARY'S FOOTSTEPS</b> FOR MUMS AND BUBS St Joseph's Parramatta + <b>WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FATHER FOR DADS</b> St Luke's Newby		

**8-9 MAY**  
**FAMILY CULTURE COURSE**  
 Marriage + Parenting Renewal  
 St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Aerials

Mike and Alicia Herson, co-founders of the Messy Family Project, will empower parents, strengthen marriages and bring families to Christ through a number of formation evenings from 8-12 May 2026.



## St. Martha's & St. Anne's Vinnies Winter Appeal

This winter, we're calling on our community to help support locals doing it tough. By donating to Vinnies, you'll help provide warmth, practical support, and hope to families in our area who need it most during the colder months.

Every contribution makes a real difference.

SCAN TO DONATE



St Vincent de Paul Society NSW *ogni uomo*

16 MAY — 19 JULY SYDNEY

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St Martha's Piety Stall located in the Church foyer has a wide variety of sacramental and religious goods such as candles, statues, rosaries, cards, and other devotional items. Please see the warden after Mass if you would like to purchase an item.



Beyond Blue  
P: 1300 22 4636

W: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)



CatholicCare - Archdiocese of Sydney  
P: 13 18 19

W: [www.catholiccare.org](http://www.catholiccare.org)



Call 1800 55 1800



Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

Lifeline  
P: 13 11 14

W: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)



NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

1800RESPECT  
P: 1800 737 732

W: [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)