



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 teaching of scripture is that He must rise from the dead' ... John 20

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**



*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

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

safeguardinginqueries@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. It has a spiritual responsibility to ensure the physical, mental, moral and spiritual well-being of Children and Adults.



Office of the
Children's Guardian

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.

CELIAC PARISHIONERS, IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE IN THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.



“MAY JESUS RISE IN OUR HEARTS, MAY WE BEAR EASTER LIGHT TO ALL”

AS WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER THE LORD’S RESURRECTION, WE WISH YOU ALL A SAFE, JOYFUL AND PEACE FILLED EASTER!

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who have helped prepare and serve in our Holy Week Liturgies, including Acolytes, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Members of the Music Ministry and Wardens.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU also to those who do so much behind the scenes, in many different ways in preparation of the Easter Ceremonies especially Julie Ryan, Theresa Kuk & Helen Williamson.

We are very grateful to everyone that brought along Palms and Olive branches for the Palm Sunday Masses. There was an abundance which ensured that no one missed out and we were able to decorate the Church so beautifully.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today we begin the Easter Season. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection. Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead. Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body). The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

Family Connection: In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God. Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

MASS ON EASTER MONDAY WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 9.10AM

Easter Sunday Reflection

Last night we celebrated the most holy night of the year, the most important feast in the Christian calendar. We kept watch together as the Lord passed over from death to life, and we celebrated the fact that as his followers we too pass over from death to life in baptism. We thanked God for all the signs of new life and new hope in our world and we committed ourselves once again to bring that promise into the lives of others. Last night we heard Matthew's story of the womb at the empty tomb. Today we hear John's story not only of Mary Magdalene at the tomb, who sees the stone moved away, but of Peter and the other disciple going there for themselves, seeing the burial sheets still there but the body gone. It is the Beloved Disciple who sees and believes. Today we have the opportunity of singing one of only four sequences left in the modern liturgy, the eleventh-century *Victimae paschali laudes*. In it the empty tomb is the sign of the victory of life over death, the victory of forgiveness over sin, the victory of hope over despair, the victory of joy over sorrow. The great stone that sealed the tomb shut was meant to keep the body of the dead Jesus out of sight and to keep him inside forever. In our own lives we have many great stones that trap us where we do not want to be. We all have relationships that have broken down—with a family member, a neighbour, a work colleague—where it seems that nothing can be done to fix things. The glory of the resurrection has pushed that boulder aside and life has burst forth from its jail. The linen cloths used for burial were meant to keep the body wrapped up tightly. In our own lives we have many linen cloths that tie us down, that keep us trapped in an old way of life, unable to move, unable to let go. The glory of the resurrection has loosened the bonds of sin and freed us from the clutches of the living death that it brings. Easter is our most holy day of the year. Yet, every Sunday is a little Easter; indeed, every day, as the sun rises to extinguish the darkness of the night, is also a little Easter. Preaching to his community in North Africa in the fifth century, St Augustine of Hippo reflected on the fact that the joy and hope of the new life of Easter is meant to be a daily reality for us. He said: Christ suffered, let us die to sin; Christ rose again, let us live for God. Christ passed over from this world to the Father; don't let our hearts stick here below, but rather follow to the realms above. Our head hung on the tree, let us crucify the lust of the flesh. He lay in the tomb; buried with him, let us forget the past. He is seated in heaven, let us transfer our desires to sublime realities. He is going to come as judge, let us not bear the yoke with unbelievers. He is also going to resuscitate the corpses of the dead; let us deserve this transfiguration of the body by a transformation of our minds. He is going to set the bad on his left, the good on his right; let us choose our place with good works. His kingdom will have no end; let us fear the end of this life not a whit ... Therefore, dearly beloved, let us make constant reflection on all these things our daily celebration of the Pasch, of Easter. What I mean is that we shouldn't treat these days as extra specially important, in such a way that we neglect the memory of the Lord's passion and resurrection at other times, while we have his body and blood as our daily banquet; this festival, rather, is intended to remind us more vividly of them, to stir us up to greater fervour, to renew our faith more joyfully, since in the course of the annual round of the seasons, it somehow or other sets the memory of what happened before our very eyes. Keep the passing feast in this way, and think about the coming kingdom that will abide forever. (Sermo 229D) As we thank our God today for a life that breaks free from the tomb of death and the bonds of sin, let us rejoice and be glad, for this day, today, is the day the Lord has made for us. We are an Easter people, and alleluia is our song. **(Geoffrey D Dunn)**

Reflection (Young Catholics)

God Is Always at Work

Easter is the most important feast in the Catholic liturgical calendar, as it celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus has triumphed over sin and death, and offers us the hope of new life and salvation. The readings for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday remind us of God's goodness, power, and saving work throughout history. From the Creation Story to the Exodus from Egypt, God has been at work, leading his people to freedom and new life. In the Epistle reading, St. Paul exhorts us to die to sin and live for God, emphasizing the importance of baptism and faith in Jesus. And in the Gospel reading, we hear the amazing news of Jesus' Resurrection, which brings hope and new life to all who believe.

A Message of Hope

This message of hope is especially important in our world today, where there is so much suffering, pain, and despair. We are all touched by the effects of sin and death, whether in our own lives or in the lives of those around us. But the Resurrection of Jesus offers us a way out of this darkness. It reminds us that death is not the final word, and that God never abandons us, even in our darkest moments. As we celebrate Easter, we are called to let go of sin and selfishness, and to embrace the new life and hope that Jesus offers. We are called to let Easter change our hearts and transform our lives, so that we may become more fully the people that God created us to be. We are called to be bearers of hope and agents of new life, bringing the light of Christ to a world that is so often shrouded in darkness.

Meaning through Faith

Luke's writings in the Bible remind us that God sent his Son to free us from sin and death and to live without fear. This message is just as important today as it was in the time of the early Christians. Sometimes, religion can become focused on ceremony and lose its true meaning. The Resurrection of Jesus is a powerful reminder of the transformative power of our faith. The message of the empty tomb was initially confusing to the disciples. They couldn't understand where the body had gone and what had happened. However, when they were reminded of Jesus' words, the message began to make sense to them. Similarly, the experiences of our lives can sometimes be confusing and difficult to interpret without faith. We need to remember that, through the Resurrection, God has the power to transform our lives. The early disciples were so energized by the shock of the Resurrection that nothing, not even death or persecution, could stop them from spreading the Good News. We too, as Christians, must be willing to hear the message of transformation and then spread it to others. We should not keep the Good News to ourselves, but share it with others so that they too can experience the joy and hope that comes from knowing Jesus. So let us rejoice and be glad this Easter, as we celebrate the triumph of Jesus over sin and death. Let us give thanks to God for the gift of new life, and let us renew our commitment to follow Jesus, the risen Lord, wherever he may lead us. May the hope and joy of Easter fill our hearts and our lives, now and always.

Reflection Questions for Easter

1. In what ways does the risen Christ appear in your life?
2. What does the Resurrection mean to you personally?
3. How has the message of Easter transformed your life?
4. What areas of your life need transformation through the Resurrection?
5. How can you share the message of the Resurrection with others effectively?
6. How has the Resurrection brought you hope during difficult times?
7. What steps can you take to deepen your faith in the Resurrection?
8. In what ways can you live without fear, trusting in God's presence in your life?
9. How can you be a source of new life and hope for those around you?
10. How can you keep the joy of Easter alive in your heart all year round?
11. Where do you turn for guidance and clarity when life becomes confusing?
12. What practical ways can you spread the Good News of the Resurrection in your daily life?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of Jesus' Resurrection. Help us to leave behind sin and embrace the new life You offer. Fill our hearts with hope and joy. Guide us to share Your light with others, so they may know Your love and goodness. We praise You, now and always. Amen.

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA
PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Project Compassion Boxes and envelopes can be returned to the Sacristy or the Parish Office.



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

Easter
OFFERING

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Pat (Ivy) Killalea, Peter Cranny, 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.
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, Jim Bradbury, Julian & Mabel Doyle.
Anniversaries:	Damia Bains, James Webb & Wajih Saliba, Mary Colletta Saverimuthu, 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.
Sick Intentions:	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.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society.

11th & 12th April

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Gina Surjadinata	Anne Marrins	Theresa Kuk
	Tandiono Family	Andri Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Bains	Maria Yu	Maria Battikha	Owen Loney
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Hayden M.	Mary Louise I.	Beatrice L.	Volunteer Needed
	Zachary A.	Archie S.	Holly C.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Abboud Baladi	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

Nicolle will be away from the Parish Office from Monday 6th April to Monday 13th April.



Beyond Blue
P: 1300 22 4636

W: www.beyondblue.org.au



CatholicCare - Archdiocese of Sydney

P: 13 18 19

W: www.catholiccare.org



Call 1800 55 1800



Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

Lifeline

P: 13 11 14

W: www.lifeline.org.au



NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

1800RESPECT

P: 1800 737 732

W: www.1800respect.org.au