



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes
 Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong
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 Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson
 Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Marion Li
 Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry



'I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate' ... John 14


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 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:

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 **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@sydnecatholic.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.

To all the mothers, grandmothers & mother like figures in our lives who continue to give love and life to their families and our parish community! May the Lord bless you in a very special way today and may we always be thankful for the gift of mother's. May the example of Mary, mother of Jesus, inspire them, guide and protect them in challenging times.

"It is love that must triumph, not war!" "This is what the heart of Mary—the heart of the Mother of all—teaches us. Let us set out, then, from this shrine as 'messenger angels' of life, bringing Mary's tender embrace and God's blessing to everyone."

"The Mother of Heaven entrusts a great project to us: to build a better, welcoming world, where there is no more war, injustice, poverty or dishonesty, and where the principles of the Gospel increasingly inspire and shape hearts, structures and programs, for the good of all." POPE

LEO

Reflection

Mums suffer the greatest heartaches, the greatest of joys, and everything imaginable in between. This Mother's Day, let's give each other grace. Mums nowadays are inundated with information and opinions and media and choices and advice, and we're thrown into doing so much with very little help sometimes. Let's say a little prayer for each other for strength, courage, and patience. Mary, Jesus' mother and the greatest of all models to look up to when getting through our day-to-day life, is someone we can turn to and ask for intercession. Our Blessed Mother, even in her perfection, still somehow experienced similar feelings to those that we feel as mothers. Mary and so many other women were great mothers...we can be too.

Prayer

Loving Father,

We pray for those for whom Mother's Day is a time of heartache rather than celebration.

Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who have never known their mother or whose mothers have died.

Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who long to be mothers but as yet have not had their own children.

Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who struggle with the way their children have chosen to live their lives.

Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother.

Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

May they have the comfort of knowing that your love for them is constant, your understanding is perfect, your compassion is never-ending. Amen.



The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal is running this still running this weekend. 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>



We warmly welcome Father Paul Passant back to St Martha's. Father Paul is an Australian priest missionary in the Turks and Caicos Islands who is staying with us whilst on a break in Sydney.

NATIONAL COUNT OF MASS ATTENDANCE – will continue this weekend and over the following 2 weekends. 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.

HEARTFELT COMMUNITY LIMITED

Mother's Day Event

BECAUSE LOVE LIVES ON, THIS MOTHER'S DAY WE GATHER IN REMEMBRANCE.

JOIN US FOR A GENTLE AND SUPPORTIVE GATHERING FOR WOMEN NAVIGATING GRIEF – A SPACE FOR CONNECTION, REFLECTION, AND HONOURING THOSE WE HOLD CLOSE IN OUR HEARTS.

FRIDAY 15 MAY | 11AM-2PM
(ARRIVAL 10:30AM)

STRATHFIELD TOWN HALL - SUPPER ROOM

SCAN ME!

Because love lives on



An Important Reminder from NSW Police

While the chance of our Parish being caught up in a hostile act remain low, it remains important to be vigilant and aware. The Terrorism Protections Unit of the New South Wales Police Force as part of its on-going guidance in the event of a terrorism attack, has guidelines to follow. Flyers are available in the Church Foyer to take home.

A reminder also to be wary of scam emails, text messages and phone calls.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today's Gospel is a continuation of last week's Gospel: Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. In today's reading Jesus offers encouragement to his disciples, who will soon see him crucified. He reassures them that even though he will leave them, he will not abandon them. Instead he will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus. Jesus uses the term Advocate to describe the Holy Spirit, whom the disciples will receive. Another word used to describe the Holy Spirit is Paraclete, a legal term meaning "one who offers defense for another." Note that Jesus says that he will send "another Advocate." Jesus himself is the first advocate, interceding for his disciples with the Father. In today's reading Jesus contrasts his impending departure with the permanence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the disciples. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20). Today's reading is one example of the contrast that John's Gospel presents between the community of disciples, to whom God will reveal himself, and the unbelieving world, which will remain in darkness. The unbelieving world cannot accept the "Spirit of truth," whom the disciples will receive. Only through the Spirit will God's revelation and love be known.

Family Connection: The mystery of the Trinity can be difficult for us to grasp. Today's Gospel invites us to consider how the three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— work together so that God's salvation is made known to us. Jesus' mission is continued through the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his disciples. We have received this same Spirit through our Baptisms. The Spirit, living and working within us, reveals the mystery of God's love for us. Just as the first disciples were not left orphaned, we are not orphaned; we remain in God's embrace through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Gather your family and invite each family member to say what he or she knows about the Holy Spirit. Read aloud today's Gospel, John 14:15-21. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do for the disciples? Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we come to share in the love of God made known to us in Jesus. Pray together, thanking God for this gift of the Holy Spirit by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Understanding Scripture (Liturgia)

Orphans and children

Jesus begins talking about his imminent departure: 'In a short time the world will no longer see me' (14:19). In the gospel narrative Jesus is talking about his approaching death. But on this Sunday before ascension, we hear it as a reference to his ascension. In either case Jesus will soon be gone. He uses the image of 'orphans' to describe the fear his disciples have at being abandoned. To be an orphan was a dreaded fate for people throughout the Mediterranean world. Orphans, along with widows and the poor, are among the most vulnerable and easily exploited people in society. Without the legal protections and social services that contemporary society provides, children without parents or male protectors easily fall into slavery or are left to fend for themselves. Insecurity, homelessness, hunger, oppression, and fear characterise the life of those who are left on their own. With Jesus preparing to leave the world, the disciples would feel like orphans. As adult men they would not be subject to the same dangers that children would be, but the image succeeds in describing in emotional terms what the departure of Jesus signifies. There is also evidence from the ancient world that the term 'orphan' referred to disciples without their masters - an apt term in these circumstances. The reality, however, is that the disciples are not orphaned. First of all, as those who accepted Jesus, they became 'children of God' (John 1:12). Earlier in the course of the Last Supper Jesus was again talking of his departure: 'Little children,' he says to them, 'I am with you only a little longer' (13:33). Their status as children of God explains the familial imagery in this Sunday's gospel passage: God is 'Father' both to Jesus ('my Father,' 14:20, 21), and to the disciples: 'whoever loves me will be loved by my Father' (14:21). Though Jesus is departing, disciples still have God as their Father; moreover, the Spirit of Truth 'will be in you' (14:17). Disciples of Jesus are never orphans. They are children of God, who are loved by their 'Father.'

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

Recently Deceased:	Sister Patricia Bell, Peter Tohme, Marion Issa, Madeleine O'Rourke, Pat (Ivy) Killalea, Peter Cranny, Ana Adaman, Anne Burton, Matthew Quan, Nancy Au, Grace Maria Rumore, Andre Miguel Marquez.
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, Olga Chidiac, Joseph & Charbel Mannah.
Anniversaries:	Michael Leahy, Rex Fernandes, Joseph Lam, Carmel Josephine Jack, Maureen Marrins Allan, Anne Bechara, Henry D'Souza, 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, Jane Vale
Sick Intentions:	Simon Alam, Patrick Connolly, 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 and the Khoury Family.
Mother's Day Intentions:	Anne Burton, May Chapman, Susan Younes, Deborah Dahdah, Frances Doumit, Anne Cecilia Glass, Agnes Glass, Frances Gleeson, Pat Killalea & Judith Goodacre, Alice Herro, Carmel Jack, Madeleine O'Rourke, Elizabeth Keating, Ilham (Helen) Matta & Lorna Waters, Pauline Murphy, Doreen McNamara, Blanche Saldanha & Maud Soares, Maureen Sarks, Najla Stanton, Dorothy Starr, Estelle Thurn.

16th & 17th May

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Gian Surjadinata	Anne Marrins	Kynetha Torcato
	Tandiono Family	Artha Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Bains	Robert Smith	Maria Battikha	Andrew Chasle
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Hayden M.	Ryan W.	Beatrice L.	Volunteer Needed
	Zachary M.	Dylan W.	Holly C.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Matthew C.	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Linda Praum	Abboud Baladi	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.

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.