

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



'All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me' ... Matthew 28


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:

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@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 – will continue this weekend and over the following weekend.
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.

**** END OF FINANCIAL YEAR PROCESS ****

The last banking for the 2025/2026 financial year will be at 9.00am on Monday 22nd June.
Any donations received after this date will go into the next financial year.

New sets of 2026/27 Planned Giving Envelopes are now available for collection in the Church Foyer. We encourage all Parishioners to join the giving system by either Weekly Envelope or Monthly Credit Card as this is the main income of the parish, by means of which we run everyday expenses, funds projects and plan for the future. Tax deductibility is 30%. If you would like to join, please complete the slip below or completed a form in the Church Foyer which can be returned via any collection plate or directly to the parish office.



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>

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 taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, to Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples in today's Gospel. The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout Scripture, the most important events happen on the mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop (Matthew 17:1-8). Also in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount. Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf. Matthew 28:9-10). They see Jesus, and both worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to baptize and teach, "to make disciples of all nations." It is a task which Jesus had previously prepared his disciples for; recall that Jesus had sent the twelve apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal (cf. Matthew 10:1-15). However, earlier the Twelve were sent only to the House of Israel; in this Final Commission, the eleven are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to baptize and to teach. Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations found in Scripture for baptism in the name of the Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered "in the name of Jesus." The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to bring others into the community of disciples through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all eternity.

Family Connection: Just as Jesus sent his disciples to make disciples, our family, the domestic Church, is called to bear witness to the life of discipleship. That act of witnessing can take many forms. First and foremost our family should call people to discipleship by the example of our love for one another. That example is only the beginning; our love must extend beyond the family, reaching out to others and to the world. Together with your family, identify one or more ways in which your family lives the life of Christian discipleship. Thank God for the blessing of the opportunity to be able to show God's love. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20. Discuss what Jesus sends his disciples to do. Work together to identify one or more ways in which your family would like to do a better job bearing witness to the life of discipleship. Choose one of those ways and work together to make it happen. Pray as a family for the grace to be witnesses to the world of the life of discipleship. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Understanding Scripture (Liturgia)

Mountain in Galilee

"The mountain to which Jesus had ordered [the disciples]' (28:16) is not specified. But the choice of a mountain is significant in at least two ways. In Matthew's gospel mountains have been the scene of Jesus' teaching (Sermon on the Mount, ch. 5) and glory (transfiguration, ch. 17). Now, after his resurrection, the glorified Christ appears to his disciples: the glory that the transfiguration had anticipated is now realised. On the mountain Jesus teaches his disciples about their ministry in his name and commands them to continue his own teaching ministry. This mountaintop encounter highlights his authority and his glory. The mountaintop setting for this final scene in the life of Jesus recalls an earlier mountaintop scene. After his baptism by John, Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days where he was tempted by the devil. In the third and final temptation 'the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence' (4:8). He promises to give Jesus power over all those kingdoms if Jesus would worship and serve him. On that mountaintop the power the devil promises Jesus is over the kingdoms of the earth; but after his resurrection Jesus ascends a mountaintop once more and reveals that 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me' (28:18). His power comes from God; it is not limited to mere kingdoms but embraces the whole cosmos - 'heaven and earth.' The power the devil meant to be dazzling and enticing proves illusory and insignificant. On this undisclosed mountain in Galilee the glory of Jesus is revealed and his power and authority are confirmed. The location in Galilee is significant. Matthew had earlier identified Galilee as the land of the Gentiles (4:15) - a land of darkness into which the light of Christ was coming. Now that Jesus' mission in Jerusalem has been accomplished, he returns to Galilee. His command to 'make disciples of all nations' (29:18) is perfectly situated in the land of those people to whom the disciples are now sent.

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:	Graham Burland, 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, Mena Tarzia, 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, Nejja 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:	Joseph Mannah, Dionisio Parulan, 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 Manipsis, Deborah & Olivia Dahdah, Harry Doumit.
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.



23rd & 24th May

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrice Bonett	Georgette Sahyoun	Jackie Romanous	Mary L'Estrange
	Vince Blefari	Volunteer Needed	Helen Williamson	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Maria Yu	Anne Marrins	Theresa Kuk
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Steve Doumit	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marissa B.	Mary Louise I.	Jay L.	Volunteer Needed
	Olivia B.	Archie S.	Jarvis L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Courtney O.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Charlize O.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Peter Yamin	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



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

16 MAY — 19 JULY SYDNEY

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St Martha's Catholic Church, Strathfield
 70 Homebush Road, Strathfield NSW 2135
 Telephone: (02) 9746 6131
 Parish Priest: Father John Hayes
 Sacramental Email: zc@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 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



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



Lifeline Saving Lives
 Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.
 Lifeline
 P: 13 11 14
 W: www.lifeline.org.au



1800RESPECT
 NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE
 1800RESPECT
 P: 1800 737 732
 W: www.1800respect.org.au