



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

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry



'Let them grow together until the harvest' ... Matthew 13

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

**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 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.



**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.

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.

We warmly welcome the Priests and Seminarians of the Good Shepherd Seminary in Homebush who are joining us at the 10am Mass whilst their Seminary chapel is under renovation. (They will sing psalms of the Divine Office for morning prayer at 9am also)



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 a form in the Church Foyer which can be returned via any collection plate or directly to the parish office.

2025/2026 TAX RECEIPTS, ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO COLLECT IN THE CHURCH FOYER

CATECHESIS TO REDISCOVER AND GROW IN BAPTISMAL FAITH WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY 27TH JULY AT 7.00PM IN THE PARISH HALL. THESE TALKS WILL CONTINUE ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAY. ALL ARE WELCOME (BABYSITTING IS PROVIDED IF NEEDED)

UPCOMING ALTAR SERVER TRAINING SESSIONS — Children who have received their First Holy Communion (approximately 8 year olds and over) are eligible to train for altar serving at St Martha's. The next round of training will be on 2 consecutive Thursdays 23rd July and 30th July at 3.30pm in the Church. The sign-up sheets are located in the church foyer. Parental consent and support is required so please take home and complete the consent form. Once trained, the children will be included on the weekend Mass roster so please nominate your preferred Mass time.

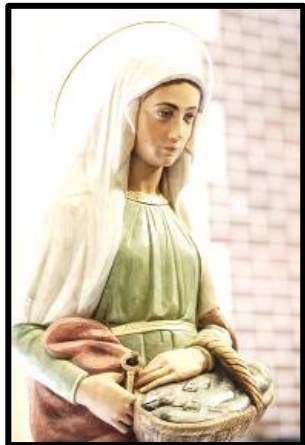
Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday. All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward. The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the "weeds" prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Family Connection: Taken together, the parables found in today's Gospel offer both a sobering reminder about the Kingdom of God and words of encouragement. As the wheat and the weeds must grow together until the harvest, so we may not know whether our actions contribute to God's Kingdom until God's final judgment. With this word of caution in mind, we act always in prayer that our actions will be consistent with God's plans. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we hear words of encouragement. God can bring the Kingdom of Heaven from even the smallest of beginnings. Thus, we ask God to work through us for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Set aside some time this week to make bread with your family. Show the amount of yeast that is required to raise an entire batch of bread. Observe that little things can go a long way. After the bread has been baked, gather together as a family. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 13:24-43. Reflect together on what Jesus means when he teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed and like yeast. In these parables, Jesus is teaching us that God can work wonders from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of God. This means that even the little things that we do can make a big difference in the lives of others. What are some of the little things that we can do in our family that help to make things better for others? Decide on one action to take together. Pray that God will use your action to make a difference in the world. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

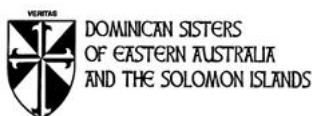
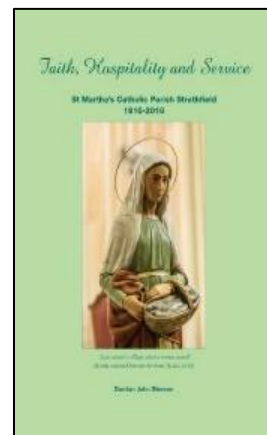


The Church is preparing to celebrate the 6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, on Sunday, 26th July 2026. The theme chosen for this year's celebration by Pope Leo XIV is: "I will never forget you" (Is 49:15) which aims to emphasise how God's love for each person never fails, even in the fragility of old age. Taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah, the chosen verse is intended to be a message of consolation and hope for all grandparents and the elderly, especially those who live in solitude or feel forgotten. At the same time, it is a call to families and ecclesial communities not to forget them, recognising them as a precious presence and a blessing. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, established by Pope Francis in 2021, is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July and is an opportunity to bring the Church closer to the elderly and to value their contribution to families and communities. This year, the date coincides with the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Sunday 26 July, and the Holy Father invites everyone to celebrate the Day with a Eucharistic liturgy in the Cathedral Church of each diocese.



The Parish Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of St Martha, our patron saint, will be at 9.10am on Wednesday 29th July

The parish is offering copies of the Parish History Book, written by Dr Damian John Gleeson, at a reduced rate of \$10. The Book was published to commemorate the Parish Centenary in 2016. Discover the history of St Martha's Parish Strathfield in this skilfully written, carefully researched book that includes a large number of historic photographs, illustrations and documents. Find out the story of the Parish, the evolution of its identity as a unique Catholic community, its beliefs, relationships and challenges. Copies will be available in the Church Foyer for the next few weeks. Payment can be placed in the secure box.



We are seeking a dedicated Community Coordinator to foster connection, engagement, and operational support for the Dominican sisters based in Strathfield. You will design, implement, and oversee community programs in alignment with the ethos and mission of the Congregation and the Catholic Church and enrich the social and communal lives of the sisters. This position

offers flexibility, with final hours (part-time or full-time) to be negotiated based on the successful applicant's availability and experience. Please email your resume and covering letter to: csorbello@opeast.org.au

25th & 26th July

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Yvonne Martins	Anne Marrins	Andrew Bova
	Tandiono Family	Lilly Ravi	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Baini	Daniel Martins	Rachel Suriano	Andrew Chasle
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Hayden M.	Jacob M.	Beatrice L.	Volunteer Needed
	Zachary A.	Christian C.	Holly C.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Ryan W.	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Dylan W.	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Abboud Baladi	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk
Acolytes	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe
Wardens		Vince Blefari	Paula Abela	Trudie Rogers
				Theresa Kuk

Recently Deceased:	Ruth Walker, Sunil Swaris, Margaret Bouffler, Justin Mahoro, Father John Thomas Hayes, Ron Weaver, Marion Li, Dilki Peiris.
Repose of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Margaret & Kevin Bouffler, Anne Burton, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco & Sarina Campanale, Peter Cranny, Daniel Lucich, Stefano, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Pat (Ivy) Killalea, Matteo & Caterina Genova, 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, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Gerald Wilson, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Gladstone & Noel Jebanasam, Olga Chidiac, Joseph & Charbel Mannah, Pauline Gibson, Joseph Long Tiem Pham.
Anniversaries:	Roland George Peters, John Harrington, Mary Anne Harrington, Reg Jones, Henry O'Hara, Samir Hakim, Elie Sahyoun, John McNamara, William (Bill) Starr, Gladstone Jebanasam, Lachlan Graves, Antonio Truscello, Frank Hickey, Charlie Isaac, Margaret Hetherton.
Sick Intentions:	Ajith Antony, Simon Alam, Amy Scott, Dareth Flavell, Dan Deehan, Patrick Connolly, Paul Woodbury, Geoff Sims, Cameron Stacy, Helen McAlister, Elliot Leahy, Norma Habib, Joe Everitt, Ann Cincotta-Tangey, Mark Samaha, John Weitering, John Hay, 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, Rosanne Sukkar, Henry D'Souza, Danielle Fabien, Maroun Moussa, Stephen Chase (snr), Ajay Babu Avirneni & Baby Mia Valente, Helene Hussein.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society. Roger O'Neill.

Please visit the Church Notice-Boards for upcoming events.

Reflection: Unleashing Influence *(Young Catholics)*

The Gospel for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A also speaks about yeast mixed into flour. Though the yeast is small, it spreads through the entire dough, changing it completely. This parable teaches that faith and love, even in small amounts, can have a big effect.

Every person has the ability to influence others. A kind word, a patient response, or a small act of generosity can spread goodness far beyond what we see. Just like yeast affects the whole dough, one person's faith can inspire others. We may not always see the results of our actions right away. But this parable encourages us to keep living our faith, even when it feels small. Over time, those little moments of goodness add up and make a difference. The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that even the smallest acts of faith and love can bring change. God works through simple, everyday moments, and each of us has the chance to be part of that. The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches that even small acts of goodness and faith matter. God is patient with us, and He invites us to be patient with ourselves and others. His kingdom is growing, even when we cannot see it. By trusting in His plan and living our faith in small ways, we take part in His work.

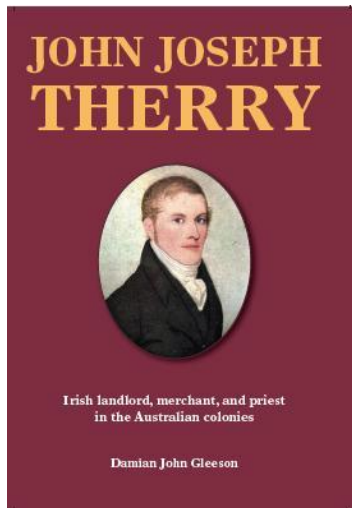
New Biography challenges century-long clerical interpretations of Irish Australian pioneer

By Damian John Gleeson, PhD

A4 Format • 265 pages

Comprehensive indexing and referencing

John Joseph Therry: Irish landlord, merchant and priest in the Australian colonies offers the most comprehensive assessment to date of Fr Therry's religious, commercial, and personal affairs. New research drawing on thousands of previously unpublished Irish and Australian manuscripts reveals that **Fr John Joseph Therry** — long celebrated as the saintly founder of Australian Catholicism — accumulated a vast property portfolio and regularly engaged in unethical commercial dealings in the penal colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. Written by award winning historian Dr Damian John Gleeson, this first lay-authored biography of Therry overturns more than a century of traditional inaccurate hero-style narratives. Orders: colonialpressorders@gmail.com



THROW ME. SOW ME

By Bishop Anthony G Percy

Matthew has five great discourses. Chapter 13 is number three. It is 'chock-a-block' with parables. In my opinion, the 'Parable of all Parables' is the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-9), with its allegorical interpretation in Matthew 13:18-23. Brendan Byrne, *Lifting the Burden* (2004), wants us to be more perceptive and receptive: **Where does the seed fall? What is the reception and response to the seed? What are the three failures and the three gains?** The evil one ensures infertility. Trials and persecution disrupt. Worries and the lure of riches choke the seed to death. It is true. We are not always fruitful and faithful. But, prodigious yields are a reality: **The gains are hundredfold, sixtyfold, thirtyfold. Who cares about the losses? The seed is widely thrown around precisely because the sower knows the gains far outweigh the losses (Byrne).** The seed, which is the Word of God, has grace, truth and power. It cries out with persistence: **Throw me. Sow me.** So many people are living in loneliness, with no coherent meaning. **Who will scatter the seed that yields a rich harvest?** Let's bring people the good news.

What a beautiful thing to do. **AMEN.**

Support The Scaffolding Newsletter

By Anthony G Percy * Body, Soul, Spirit

Santa Sabina College invites you to our

Threads of Connection Gala Dinner

Friday 7 August 2026 | 6:30pm – 11:30pm
Le Montage, Lilyfield

Cost \$160 | Dress Cocktail
RSVP trybooking.com/DLQNV

An evening celebrating the threads that connect us — past, present and future