



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



'They all ate and were satisfied' ... Matthew 14

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.



A Reminder to those that are required to complete the S.A.L.T. Refresher training online. Please notify the Parish Office once you have completed the course by sending across your certificate. Should anyone require assistance with the training you can make an appointment at the parish office and we will assist you through the course.

**CATECHESIS TO REDISCOVER AND GROW IN BAPTISMAL FAITH
MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 7.00PM
IN THE PARISH HALL.
ALL ARE WELCOME
(BABYSITTING IS PROVIDED IF NEEDED)**



CWF AUGUST PARISH APPEAL

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal starts this weekend. The Quota for our parish is \$7,610. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney. Appeal envelopes are available in the Church Foyer. You can also make a donation and find out more at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf

First Holy Communion (For Year 3 Students or older)

Enrol Now on our parish webpage

@ <https://stmarthas.org.au/sacraments/first-holy-communion/>

(Enrolments close Monday 10th August 2026 at our Information Session)

Parent Information Session will be on Monday 10th August 2026 @ 6pm

Compulsory for one parent to attend (Both are welcome. Children can attend, though session will be for parents)

In the Church of St Martha's Strathfield

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today we jump ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel to Chapter 14. Last week we heard Jesus conclude his discourse with the crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew's narrative, Jesus then leaves the crowds and returns to Nazareth, where he is rejected. Matthew then recounts the story of John the Baptist's arrest and execution at the hands of Herod. Today's Gospel reading begins at this point. Upon hearing the news of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus seeks to withdraw, but the crowds follow him. Jesus reaches out to them in compassion and heals the sick. At the end of a long day, the disciples encourage Jesus to send the crowds away so that they might find provisions for themselves. Jesus again responds with compassion for the crowd. Jesus tells his disciples to provide food for the crowd. The disciples reply with a report of the meagerness of their own provisions—five loaves and two fish. The result is the very familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Matthew's Gospel tells us that 5,000 men were fed, and this number does not even include the women and children. Jesus' blessing brought abundance from the meager provisions of the disciples. In this action, Jesus offers us a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has been teaching about in the parables. A feast results from the smallest of portions—remember the mustard seed and the yeast. In this miracle we witness an example for Christian life and ministry. Even the smallest of offerings can produce abundant results when placed in the service of the Kingdom of Heaven. We find the story of Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fish in each of the four Gospels. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus performs this same miracle on two separate occasions. The story of this miracle is an anticipation of the Eucharist in which we are fed by the abundant grace of God. The importance of the Eucharist has been a defining element of Christian life from the very beginning.

Family Connection: In our family life we can sometimes hear echoes of the disciples' excuses: "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Sometimes this echo is heard from children squabbling about the last piece of cake. Sometimes it is heard in our concern about the limits of the family's income or possessions. Sometimes this echo is heard in our complaints about the seemingly endless demands for our time and attention. Jesus understood these feelings and taught us to see beyond our limitations. Jesus modeled for us a compassion that reaches out to others, even when we would rather withdraw into ourselves. Jesus taught us that God blesses compassion offered to others with his grace. Today's Gospel reminds us that with God there is not only enough, there is an abundance! Talk together about some of the stresses and demands for time and attention that your family members might feel. Acknowledge that we sometimes have to make difficult choices about how to use our time, talents, and treasure. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 14:13-21. Notice how much Jesus cared for the crowds, healing the sick even though he wanted to withdraw to a quiet place. Notice how the disciples responded to Jesus' instruction to feed the crowd; they noted their limited supply of food. Jesus blessed this limited supply of food, and it was enough to feed the entire crowd, more than 5,000 people, and there were leftovers! Pray together that Jesus will grant us compassion like his so that we will offer whatever we have to others with compassion and generosity. Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 145, or the Lord's Prayer.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Feast of the Assumption of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 15th August at 9.10am.

There will also be an evening Vigil Mass on Friday 14th August at 6.00pm



IMPORTANT NOTICE EPISCOPAL VISITATION

Archbishop Anthony Fisher will conduct an official “Visitation” of St Martha’s Parish on Thursday 20th, Friday 21st and Sunday 23rd August. This is a canonically prescribed obligation for Bishops to visit each of their parishes at least once in five years, as part of their pastoral solicitude for their flock. Apart from meetings with priest, parish staff, volunteers and school staff, the main event in the Archbishop’s visit will be 10am Mass on Sunday 23rd August, followed by morning tea. Further details will follow.

8th & 9th August

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joanne Touma	Gian Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Kynetha Torcato
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Artha Surjadinata	Maria Soares	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Julie Erskine	Robert Smith	Mark Soares	Andrew Chasle
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Camille Kafka	Volunteer Needed	Merlyn D’Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Ryan W.	Marcus V.	Volunteer Needed
	Peter T.	Dylan W.	Elijah M.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Matthew C.	Harrison S.	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Linda Praum	Paul Abela	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tyrone Peters	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe

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.

REFLECTION: A Sign of the Eucharist (Young Catholics)

The feeding of the five thousand in the Gospel for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A is more than just a miracle. It also points to the Eucharist. Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, and gives it to the people. This foreshadows what He will do at the Last Supper and what happens at every Mass. The people in the crowd came hungry, and Jesus gave them food. But He did not just care for their physical hunger. He was also showing them that He would provide for their spiritual needs. Just as He fed them with bread, He gives us Himself in the Eucharist. Isaiah’s reading also connects to this. God invites everyone to come and receive. He offers food and drink without cost. The Eucharist is a free gift, given to us out of love. We do not earn it. We simply receive it with faith. This reminds us how much God wants to be close to us. He gives Himself completely in the Eucharist so that we can be united with Him. The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls us to see the Eucharist as a gift and to come to Jesus with open hearts.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Baby Madison Aubrey Faner, Wadih Habib Chidiac, Carminella Tiberio, Shiranee De Silva, Zenaida Red Gaité, Ruth Walker, Sunil Swaris, Margaret Bouffler, Justin Mahoro.
Repose of The Soul:	<i>Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Aldo & Fiorella Amarino, Margaret & Kevin Bouffler, James Brady, Anne Burton, Francesco & Sarina Campanale, Michael & Mary Cassar, Stefano, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Peter Cranny, Frances & Harry Doumit, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Dorothy Harris, Faado, Alice & Slaiman Herro, Gladstone & Noel Jebanasam, Elizabeth Keating, Pat (Ivy) Killalea, Daniel Lucich, Giuseppe Mazzaferro & Salvatore Corelli, Frederick McDowell, Filomena & Giuseppe Pagano, Salvatore Puglisi, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Elie Sahyoun, Christopher John Stewart, Stephen Maxwell Stewart, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Joseph Tannous, Nejia Tannous, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Gerald Wilson, Olga Chidiac, Joseph & Charbel Mannah, Pauline Gibson, Joseph Long Tiem Pham, Alfredo Pjanic, Julia & Elias Georges, Laurice Sassine, Joseph, Xavier, Josephine & Anthony Seltathamboo & Christy & Teresa Moses.</i>
Anniversaries:	Joseph Sarkis Baini, Kamal Salameh, Josephine Khoury, Marion Li, Nicolaas Schoenmaker, Peter Lam, Clare Kenny, Joseph Tabbakh, Roland George Peters, John Harrington, Mary Anne Harrington, Reg Jones, Henry O'Hara, Samir Hakim, Elie Sahyoun, William (Bill) Starr.
Sick Intentions:	Ajith Antony, Simon Alam, Amy Scott, Hind Hakeem, 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, 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 Avirmeni & Baby Mia Valente, Helene Hussein.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society. Roger O'Neill.

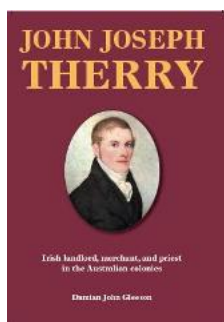
Saturday 5 September 10am - 12pm

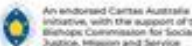
Liverpool City Library (Yellamundie)

History Week Talk - John Joseph Therry: Irish Landlord, Merchant and Priest in the Australian Colonies. This History Week, discover the remarkable and often contentious life of John Joseph Therry, one of the most influential Catholic priests in colonial Australia. Drawing on thousands of previously unpublished letters and documents from archives and libraries across Australia and Ireland, *John Joseph Therry: Irish landlord, merchant and priest in the Australian colonies* offers the most comprehensive study of Therry's life and legacy. Copies of the book will

be on sale for \$40. Exact cash on the day or through order form. For direct EFT enquiries, email colonialpressorders@gmail.com. Light refreshments will be provided. Free parking (for the first 3 hours) is available at the library via Terminus St.

Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/history-week-talk-john-joseph-therry-irish-landlord-merchant-and-priest-in-the-australian-colonies>



   SEASON OF CREATION GATHERING 2026 Listen • Reflect • Act Event Details 3-4 September 2026 • Online 10 – 4:30 pm (AEST) • Registration: \$20 per person / \$100 per parish www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering	
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 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 P: 13 11 14 W: www.lifeline.org.au	 1800RESPECT P: 1800 737 732 W: www.1800respect.org.au
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ASK RU OK?™ ANY DAY

A conversation could change a life.

Resources are available in the Church Foyer