



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



'He sells everything he owns and buys the field' ... 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@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.



**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 Message from the Li Family as we remember Marion on the 2 month anniversary of her passing: We wanted to express our heartfelt thanks to the St Martha's parish community for the unwavering support shown to our family during our greatest sorrow. We are still taking things one day at a time but your cards and messages of condolence have been a tremendous source of strength for us as we navigate this unimaginable loss. We sincerely thank you for your sympathy, love, and support. Your kindness and prayers have been a great comfort to us during this difficult time. **Joy, Hendra & Thomas.**



Today the Church celebrates the 6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. 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.

*Holy Father
Who watches over every person
Watch over me too when I am elderly.
You have revealed your name to me in Christ,
And You were not discouraged by my frailties.
You hold me tenderly in your hands,
And You caress my lines.
You will never forget me! (see Is 49: 15).
Grant that I may not fear my weakness:
Help me learn to love it
Just as You love it.
Help me learn to listen to it
Just as You listen to it.
Help me embrace it
Just as You have chosen it -
You who, though all-powerful, clothed yourself in humility.
May growing old strip away all our pride and all division
So that we may live these years united in You.
You will never forget us! (see Is 49: 15) Amen.*

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)

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)

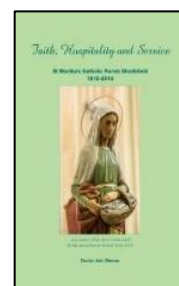
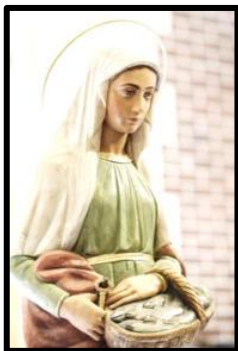
Parent Information Session will be on Monday 10th August 2026 @ 6pm

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

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.



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

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.

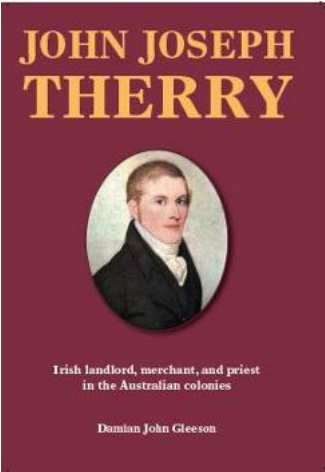
Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today’s Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew’s Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week’s Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables. The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried **treasure** that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. The third parable that Jesus proposes in today’s Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week’s Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated. Today’s Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who “brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.” The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus’ “new” teaching. Jesus’ teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.

Family Connection: Like the person who found the buried treasure and the merchant who acquired the pearl of great price, we seek to find the signs of the kingdom of heaven in our lives. In fact, we even work to bring about God’s kingdom in our actions and in our words. We pray that our family values reflect our pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. As Jesus’ disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

As you gather as a family, talk about what your family values. Make a list together of those things that your family considers most important, such as family, friends, faith, trust, and love. Place this list before you as you read today’s Gospel in its shorter form, Matthew 13:44-46. In these parables, Jesus teaches us that it is worth giving up even valuable things in order to possess the kingdom of heaven. Look at the list your family made and talk about how these things are important to the kingdom of heaven. What has your family given up to make these values important in your life? As Jesus’ disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. Pray together for God’s kingdom by praying the Lord’s Prayer.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING SESSIONS – Thank you to the Children who have signed up to be Altar servers. The second training session will be on Thursday 30th July at 3.30pm in the Church. Upon completion, the children will be included on the weekend Mass roster so please nominate your preferred Mass time. Or notify the parish office admin@stmarthas.org.au

1 st & 2 nd August				
IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrice Bonett	Gina Surjadinata	Jackie Romanous	Theresa Kuk
	Vince Blefari	Andri Surjadinata	Helen Williamson	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Maria Yu	Anne Marrins	Owen Loney
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Steve Doumit	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marissa B.	Mary Louise I.	Courtney O.	Zachary A.
	Olivia B.	Archie S.	Charlize O.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Acolytes	Peter McCluskey	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe



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

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	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.</i>
Anniversaries:	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, 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 Avirneni & Baby Mia Valente, Helene Hussein.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society. Roger O'Neill.



REALISTIC. FANTASTIC.
 By Bishop Anthony G Percy
Support The Scaffolding Newsletter
 By Anthony G Percy * Body, Soul, Spirit

You: 'I don't know how to pray.' **Me:** 'Of course you don't.'

You: 'Seriously, I can't pray.' **Me:** Relax. Let Paul direct you:

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words (Romans 8). We are good people, but weak. Take this magnificent passage from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense, but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession (CCC, 2843). On the one hand, this passage is entirely realistic: Life is full of offenses. Sometimes people intend to offend us, but mostly not. Either way, we feel the pain. It's hard to forget. On the other hand, the passage is entirely fantastic: We offer our hearts to the Holy Spirit and transformation occurs, surpassing human capacities. Injury becomes compassion. Hurt becomes intercession. What would our political, social, cultural and communal life look like if we took the Spirit seriously?

AMEN.



Santa Sabina College
 Parents and Friends' Association



Santa Sabina College
 Ex-Students' Association

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

"HOLY DAYS IS A TRIUMPH."

CATHOLIC'S REP

Holy Days, a comedy based on the novel by author Dame Joy Cowley, starring Oscar nominee and Emmy, Golden Globe and BAFTA winner Judy Davis, BAFTA winner Miriam Margolyes and two-time Oscar and Golden Globe nominee Jacki Weaver.



From the team behind the Kiwi hit Uproar, Holy Days is a hilarious, heartwarming 1970s dramedy with a star-studded cast. When young Brian discovers plans to close a convent of delightfully eccentric nuns, he sets off on a wild road trip across New Zealand to save them. Packed with laughs, quirky characters, and heart, this is a joyful adventure the young at heart will adore.



"A HOLY TRINITY OF ACTING ROYALTY."

THE SPINOFF

SCAN TO



FIND A SESSION

IN CINEMAS 6 AUGUST







KISMETMOVIES.COM
@KISMETMOVIES
