

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



'I am gentle and humble of heart' ... Matthew 11


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@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.

**Father Liem will be away from the parish until 14th July.
We wish him safe and happy travelling.**



It is with much sadness that we announce the death of our long time parishioner Margaret Bouffler who died on Thursday 25th June. A Requiem Mass will be at St Martha's at 11.00am on Friday 10th July followed by interment at Rookwood Catholic Cemetery.

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon her.
May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in Peace.*

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.

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.



The next parish appeal will be the annual Holy Father's Appeal held across the weekend 4 & 5th July. This appeal, also known as Peter's Pence, is a gesture of solidarity with the universal Church in support of the works of the Holy Father Pope Francis. Scan the QR or donate online at <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-holy-fathersappeal/>



St. Martha's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank St. Martha's parishioners for donating \$6,138.70 to the Vinnies Winter Appeal 2026. Thank you sincerely for supporting the work of the Society. Your generosity directly makes possible feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, supporting the sick and lonely, and loving our neighbours as Christ loves them. Thank you also to Fr. John for his support for the work of the Society.

Anthony Thurn, President, St. Martha's Conference, St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today's reading from Matthew's Gospel comes after a discourse in which Jesus reproaches people who have witnessed his mighty deeds yet still lack belief. In this context, today's Gospel explains the reason for this unbelief and reveals what is necessary for faith. Today's Gospel also continues to enhance our understanding of discipleship as last week's Gospel did. Jesus first prays in thanksgiving to God who has made himself known to Jesus' disciples. He praises God who has made himself known to the "little ones" and not to the wise and learned. As in other recent readings from Matthew's Gospel, a contrast is made here between the unbelieving Pharisees, who are wise and learned, and the faithful disciples, tax collectors, and sinners with whom Jesus keeps company. The second part of this reading calls to our attention the unity between the Father and the Son. God has made himself known through Jesus, and in knowing Jesus, we come to know the Father. In Jesus' life and in his person, God reveals himself to us. In the concluding sentences of today's Gospel, Jesus' teaching is again contrasted to the teaching of the Pharisees. This common theme of Matthew's Gospel probably reflects tension that existed between Jesus and the Pharisees and between the Pharisees and the community of Christians for whom Matthew wrote. Pharisaic Judaism became the predominant form of Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem about 70 A.D. Here that tension is expressed as alternative paths of holiness. The careful observance of the Mosaic law taught by the Pharisees could be experienced by some as difficult and burdensome. In contrast, Jesus' way of holiness is presented as uncomplicated and even restful.

Family Connection: In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches an important lesson for families: from the youngest and simplest among us we can learn the most profound insights about God. Parents who are attentive to this reality can learn much from their children even as their children are learning from them. Families who create time and space for encounters with God will enrich the faith of all who share in family life. Gather as a family and read together today's Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30. Allow time for each person to reflect on what Jesus reveals to us about God. Invite each person to show these things in a creative way, perhaps through a picture, poem, or some other means. Share these with one another. Conclude in prayer together, thanking Jesus for making God known to us. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm, Psalm 145.

2025/2026 TAX RECEIPTS ARE BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE COMING WEEKS.

Walking Together in Christ: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

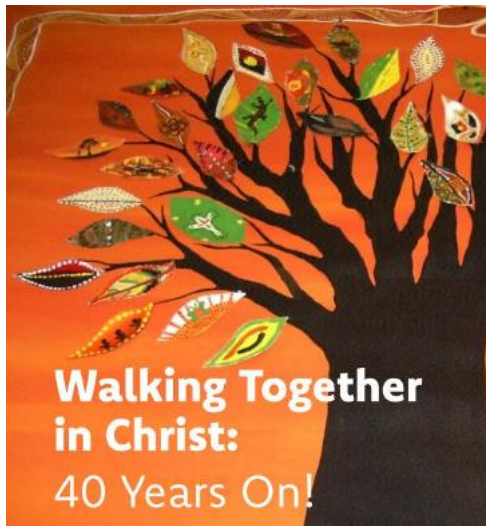


Image Supplied

In November 1986, something remarkable happened at Alice Springs. Saint John Paul II became the first Pope to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples on their own Country — speaking words of respect, solidarity, and deep spiritual recognition. 40 years on, those words still resonate. Below are a Selection of his words.

HEAD

"Your 'Dreaming'... is your only way of touching the mystery of God's Spirit in you and in creation. You must keep your striving for God and hold on to it in your lives."

- Saint Pope John Paul II

HEART

"If you stay closely united, you are like a tree standing in the middle of a bush-fire sweeping through the timber. The leaves are scorched and the tough bark is scarred and burned; but inside the tree the sap is still flowing, and under the ground the roots are still strong. Like that tree you have endured the flames, and you still have the power to be reborn. The time for this rebirth is now!"

- Saint Pope John Paul II

HANDS

"You do not have to be people divided into two parts, as though an Aboriginal had to borrow the faith and life of Christianity, like a hat or a pair of shoes, from someone else who owns them."

- Saint Pope John Paul II

As we gather in faith, we do so as a people shaped by story — by the Gospel, by culture, and by the journeys that have brought us to this moment. We gather in the presence of God, who walks with us always, and who calls us into unity as one people. This year invites us into reflection. We mark 40 years since St Pope John Paul II spoke to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Alice Springs, and we celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC Week. These milestones are more than anniversaries — they are reminders of enduring faith, resilience, and our shared call to walk together. At times, it is important to look back. Not to dwell in the past, but to recognise the path that has been travelled — to see the strength, the challenges, and the grace that have carried us forward. In this, we trust in God's providence, present in every step of our journey. Our theme, Walking Together in Christ: 40 Years On!, speaks to this moment. It calls us to continue the journey with humility and hope - listening deeply, and walking side by side as one Body in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit. Across this land, the Church is enriched by the cultures and voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Their spirituality, connection to Country, and deep sense of community continue to shape and strengthen the life of the Church in Australia. As St Pope John Paul II reminded us, the Church is enriched by the many cultures it embraces. This is not something we simply acknowledge — it is something we are called to live. Today's Liturgy is an invitation to listen to, reflect, and to encounter Christ in one another. Wherever you are gathered — in Parish, school, or community — may this celebration be a moment of grace. May it renew our hearts, deepen our unity, and strengthen our commitment to walk together in faith. We thank you for being part of this journey. **NATSIICC Liturgy Team**

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Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Margaret Bouffler, Justin Mahoro, Father John Thomas Hayes, Ron Weaver, Marion Li, Dilki Peiris, Hannah.
Rest of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Kevin Bouffler, Anne Burton, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco & Sarina Campanale, Daniel Lucich, Stefano, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Pat (Ivy) Killalea, 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, 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, Olga Chidiac, Joseph & Charbel Mannah, Bruan O'Hare, Diedre Banks,
Anniversaries:	Elie Sahyoun, Gladstone Jebanasam, Lachlan Graves, Antonio Truscello, Frank Hickey, Charlie Isaac, Margaret Hetherton, Dalisay Bacho, Tony Khoury, Zmerod Chidiac.
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.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society.

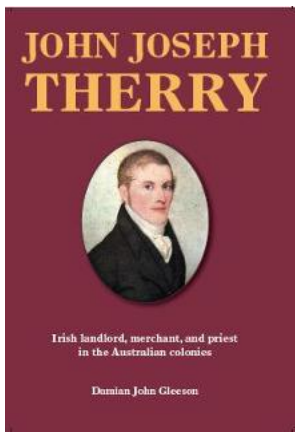
Beyond Blue
Beyond Blue
P: 1300 22 4636
W: www.beyondblue.org.au

CatholicCare
CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney
P: 13 18 19
W: www.catholiccare.org

kidshelpline
Anytime | Any Reason
Call 1800 55 1800

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

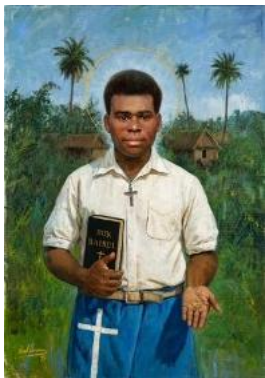
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New Biography challenges century-long clerical interpretations of Irish Australian pioneer
 By Damian John Gleeson, PhD
 A4 Format • 265 pages
 Comprehensive indexing and referencing

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



St PETER ToROT, the first PNG Saint

St Peter ToRot, was a young Catechist ministering in the Papua New Guinea (PNG) town of Rabaul on the island of New Britain during WWII. He was martyred by the Japanese in 1945 for refusing to stop spreading the Gospel & for standing up for monogamous Christian Marriage. He preserved the Blessed Sacrament which he hid in a cave in order to take Communion to the Priests & Religious who were imprisoned. He

was just 33 years old and we are celebrating his Feast Day this coming Tuesday, 7 July. St Peter ToRot pray for us. He was canonised by Pope Leo in Rome on October 19 last year.

11th & 12th July

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

	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Special Ministers	Grace Herro	Gian Surjadinata	Relyn Aguinaldo	Kynetha Torcato
	Rick Herro	Artha Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	Maria Soo	Robert Smith	Emmanuel Nathan	Andrew Chasle
	Lisa Dennis	Volunteer Needed	Michael Quinlan	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	Beatrix A.	Ryan W.	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed
	Collin A.	Dylan W.	Emilia T.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Matthew C.	Charlotte L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Ryan L.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	Linda Praum	Georgette	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
Acolytes	Tyrone Peters	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe