



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



'Woman you have great faith' ... Matthew 15

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.

If you or someone you know has experienced abuse, or if you are worried about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, please know that you are not alone and that help is available. The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office is available to listen, support you, and provide guidance about reporting options. You can contact the office on (02) 9390 5800 or at safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also wish to speak with your Parish Priest, who can offer pastoral care and assist you in taking the next step.

The Archdiocese takes all safeguarding concerns seriously and is required to report criminal matters to police. If there is an emergency or someone is in immediate danger, please contact NSW Police on 000.



**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.



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 priests, 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. There will also be a meeting on Friday evening 21st

August with representatives of our different ministry groups in the parish. **NO PARKING WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS ON SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST.**

**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 runs throughout August. The CWF is a centralised fund that supports the charitable and pastoral activities of the Archdiocese of Sydney. The Quota for our parish is \$7,610. Appeal envelopes are available in the Church Foyer. You can also make an online donation and find out more at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf Donations of \$2 or more are 100% tax-deductible.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew’s Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples’ confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew’s entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean. Knowing about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today’s Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus’ exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone. The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, “dog.” But the woman cleverly turns Jesus’ insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter. Jesus’ unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus’ ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today’s Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world. Behind Matthew’s text we can hear this early Christian community’s struggle to understand how God’s selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel’s rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles’ acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today’s second reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern. The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God’s abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

Family Connection: Even when spurned by Jesus, the faith of the Canaanite woman makes her bold enough to argue and ask again for what she needs. Her persistence and great confidence that Jesus could heal her daughter reminds us of the confidence with which our children bring to us their own needs. In their faith and trust we can find modern examples of how we might approach God in prayer. As a family recall some times when a request for something was presented by one family member to another with confidence and persistence. If the request was denied, talk about why that was so. If the request was eventually granted, talk about what led to the change of heart. Then read together today’s Gospel, Matthew 15:21-28. Was anyone surprised by Jesus’ response to the Canaanite woman? Why or why not? What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman’s daughter? When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. Invite family members to identify the things that they most need from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer your prayers.

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



We once again 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).

Mary's Journey to Heaven - The doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is an important belief for Catholics. It teaches that Mary was taken up to heaven, body and soul, at the end of her life. This means she did not go through the usual process of decay. Instead, God brought her directly to heaven. Pope Pius XII declared this belief as official Church teaching in 1950. He did this through a formal statement called a dogma. This makes the Assumption a central part of Catholic faith. While the Bible does not specifically mention the Assumption, the Church has believed in it for many centuries. The Assumption shows Mary's special relationship with Jesus. As His mother, she had a unique role in His life and mission. By taking her to heaven, God honoured her faithfulness and obedience. This event also highlights the respect and honour given to Mary within the Church. On this day, we think about how Mary is closely linked to Jesus and how she lived a life of strong faith. This celebration highlights the idea that we can have life forever and be saved. It teaches us that God's special help can change us, helping us live in harmony with God after we die. This event shows that Mary was a prime follower of Jesus, representing her complete rescue. It represents a part that goes beyond normal ideas of time and space. Mary's Assumption puts her in the role of someone who prays for us and guides us, going beyond what we can fully understand. It's an idea that's both very human and very mysterious. The Assumption gives hope to all believers. It reminds them that they, too, can look forward to eternal life with God. By reflecting on Mary's journey to heaven, Catholics are encouraged to live faithful lives, trusting in God's promises.

22nd & 23rd August

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

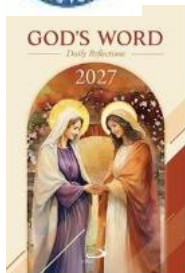
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Yvonne Martins	Elias Family	Andrew Bova
	Marian McCluskey	Lilly Ravi	Ivanna Siu	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Daniel Martins	Elias Family	Andrew Chasle
	Patricia Saad	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Jacob M.	Alysha N.	Zachary A.
	Thomas S.	Christian C.	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff C.	Ryan W.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Rolon & Matthew Z.	Dylan W.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk
Acolytes	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.



THANK YOU! Fantastic work by St. Martha's Catholic Primary School who contributed \$684 to the 2026 Vinnies Winter Appeal. Thank you so much! Anthony Thurn, Acting President, St. Martha's Conference Strathfield, St. Vincent de Paul Society.



PRE-ORDER THE 2027 GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS BIBLE DIARIES – LIMITED STOCK WILL BE AVAILABLE SO RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW.

These Bible Diaries are designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God make these an ideal Christmas gift. Please write your name and contact details on a payment envelope in the Church Foyer.

\$20 each (rrp \$21.95) Cash payments only.

POSITION VACANT – Senior Administration Officer. The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea is seeking applications for this position. Based at Stanmore, the role can be full-time or part-time, as suits the successful applicant. Enquiries to Vivian Meloni on 0438 001 840

REFLECTION: Waiting for Crumbs of Grace (Young Catholics)

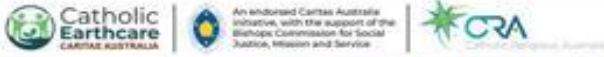
This image for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A captures the spirit of the Gospel story of the Canaanite woman, reminding us of faith, persistence, and God's mercy.

God does not turn anyone away. The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls us to live with faith and perseverance. Just as Jesus recognized the faith of the Canaanite woman, He sees our trust in Him. We are reminded to pray without giving up and to welcome others with open hearts. May we continue to seek God and share His love with the world.

Prayer - Lord, You welcome all who seek You with faith. Help us to trust in Your mercy and never give up in prayer. Teach us to open our hearts to others, just as You do. Strengthen our faith so that we may follow You with confidence. Thank You for Your love that never fails. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Jean Omeissah, Baby Madison Aubrey Faner, Wadih Habib Chidiac, Shiranee De Silva, Zenaida Red Gaité, Sunil Swaris.
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 Cranney, 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, Georgette Farrah, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Jim Bradbury, Anne Kelly, Bernard & Mark Kelly.</i>
Anniversaries:	Joseph Singarayer, John & Doreen McNamara, Francis Tai Ta, Carminella Tiberio, Carmelina Truscillo, Ruth Walker, Francis & Roslyn Sinnadurai, Michael Issa, Joseph Sarkis Bani, Kamal Salameh, Josephine Khoury, Marion Li, Nicolaas Schoenmaker, Peter Lam, Clare Kenny, Joseph Tabbakh, William (Bill) Starr.
Sick Intentions:	Ajith Antony, Simon Alam, Amy Scott, Carmen Caruana, James Bradbury, 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 Avirneni & Baby Mia Valente, Helene Hussein.
Special Intentions:	Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & St Vincent de Paul Society. Maria Schiavo.

 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 Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention. P: 13 11 14 W: www.lifeline.org.au	 1800RESPECT NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE P: 1800 737 732 W: www.1800respect.org.au
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ASK RUOK?™ ANY DAY

A conversation could change a life.

Resources are
available in the
Church Foyer