



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



'Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself' ... Matthew 16

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@sydney.catholic.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.



The Annual Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal will be held across **weekend 5th & 6th September.** Also known

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

as the Father's Day Appeal, each year our Archdiocese hosts this annually to support retired priests and thank our Fathers for their wonderful service to our community.

Your gift is a 'thank you' to our priests who've contributed in many ways in your life. They are friends who've counselled, comforted and provided spiritual nourishment through their wisdom and willingness to teach. Please give generously. Your tax-deductible gift will make a big difference to our retired Fathers who need our care. Envelopes are available in the pews and in the Church Foyer. Thank you for your support.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today's Gospel continues the story that began in last week's Gospel. Simon Peter was called the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus' identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him "Satan." In opposing this aspect of Jesus' mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ's disciple is to follow in his way of the cross. Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-

century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way. Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus' prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called "rock" would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.

Family Connection: Peter was expecting a Messiah that would carry out a different plan than the one Jesus had explained. Jesus was indeed the Messiah, but his life and death would show a different understanding of what it means to be the Messiah. We too have expectations of God and our own ideas about what we think God ought to be doing in our world. Like Peter we may risk limiting our image of God by thinking only in human ways. God's plan is always more than we can ever imagine. As you gather as a family, talk about what we expect God to be doing in our world and in our family life. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 16:21-27. Why do you think Peter was so upset by what Jesus was saying? Notice how Jesus reprimands Peter. Do we sometimes forget to let God be God for us? That is, do we sometimes get discouraged because God doesn't act in our world in the ways that we expect? Pray together that your family will remember that God is always working for the world's salvation in ways that are beyond our human imaginings. Conclude by praying together today's Psalm, Psalm 63.



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.

First Holy Communion - Please continue to pray for the candidates who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday 13th and Sunday 20th September during special Masses at 12.00 noon. May our Lord watch over them on their faith journey. A special thanks to Linda Praum our Sacramental Coordinator who has been preparing the children.

**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)**



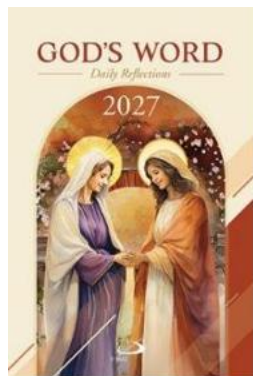
**NATIONAL R U OK DAY – THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026
ASK R U OK? ANY DAY BECAUSE LIFE HAPPENS EVERY DAY.**

Thursday 10 September is R U OK? Day but we know that whether it's a friend, family member, partner, or colleague, the people around us go through life's ups and downs every day. That's why we want everyone to feel confident to check in with the people they care about and Ask R U OK? Any Day. R U OK? is a national suicide prevention charity and registered public health promotion that encourages people to stay connected and have conversations that can help others through difficult times. Our work focuses on building the motivation, confidence and skills of the help-giver – the person who can have a meaningful conversation with someone who is struggling with life. R U OK? contributes to suicide prevention efforts by encouraging people to invest more time in their personal relationships and building the capacity of informal support networks – friends, family and colleagues - to be alert to those around them, have a conversation if they identify signs of distress or difficulty and connect someone to appropriate support, long before they're in crisis. Our research found that those who are regularly asked, 'are you OK?' report increased feelings of wellbeing, and we've learned that a third of Australians say they've been asking others more often over the past year. That means many of us are already showing up for others in meaningful ways, but when it comes to conversations about how we're really going, some people are less confident than others. It's natural to feel a little hesitant, but the good news is nine in ten Australians report feeling grateful, supported and cared for when someone genuinely asks them if they're OK - and that's a good reason to give it a go. You might even be having these conversations already without realising. If you need tips to build your confidence, we're here to help with plenty of free resources to help you feel more confident to check in with someone you care about. You've got this, and we've got your back. Ask R U OK? Any Day of the year because a conversation could change a life. Visit <https://www.ruok.org.au/r-u-ok-day> Resources are available in the Church Foyer.



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.

5 th & 6 th September				
IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL YOUR ROSTER DUTY PLEASE ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT.				
Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrice Bonett	Gian Surjadinata	Jackie Romanous	Kynetha Torcato
	Vince Blefari	Artha Surjadinata	Helen Williamson	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Robert Smith	Anne Marrins	Andrew Chasle
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Steven Doumit	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marissa B.	Ryan W.	Jay L.	Volunteer Needed
	Olivia B.	Dylan W.	Jarvis L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Matthew C.	Courtney O.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Charlize O.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Linda Praum	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
Acolytes	Tyrone Peters	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe



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.

REFLECTION: Renewed Living (Young Catholics)

The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges people to live differently. Paul urges believers to offer themselves to God. This isn't about big, dramatic gestures. It's about daily choices. Faith is not just about words but about how a person lives. Paul warns against conforming to the world. Many things fight for attention—money, success, comfort. It's easy to follow what everyone else is doing. But Paul calls for a different path. He tells believers to renew their minds and focus on what is good. Renewing the mind doesn't happen instantly. It takes effort and time. It means letting go of old habits and learning to see things as God does. It's about making choices that align with faith, even when they are difficult. The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds people that faith is active. It's not about going through the motions. It's about choosing God's way every day. Paul's words encourage believers to live with purpose, offering their lives as an act of worship.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased: Repose of The Soul:	Mercedes Trinidad, Jean Omeissah, Wadih Habib Chidiac, Shiranee De Silva, Zenaida Red Gaite. <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, Georgette Farrah, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Jim Bradbury, Anne Kelly, Bernard & Mark Kelly.</i>
Anniversaries:	Duncan Maclean, Adelia Pizzirusso, Netta O'Hara, Moh Heng Lim, Gladstone Jebanasam, Joseph Singarayer, John & Doreen McNamara, Francis Tai Ta, Carminella Tiberio, Carmelina Truscello, Ruth Walker, Francis & Roslyn Sinnadurai, Michael Issa, Joseph Sarkis Baini, 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.

Remembering someone with a Mass Intention honours them in a unique way – surrounding them with the warmth of God's love. A Mass may be offered for the living or deceased, for a Birthday, Anniversary, for somebody who is ill, or for a special intention. Mass Intention envelopes are available at the Church Entrance. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this.

Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the Church Entrances.

 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 Saving Lives Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention. Lifeline P: 13 11 14 W: www.lifeline.org.au	 1800RESPECT NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE 1800RESPECT P: 1800 737 732 W: www.1800respect.org.au
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2025/2026 TAX RECEIPTS, ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO COLLECT IN THE CHURCH FOYER