



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



'Command me to come to you over the water' ... 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.

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.

**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.

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's Gospel directly follows last week's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray. The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in Chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost. Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with last week's Gospel about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week's Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry. Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God. Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son.

Family Connection: The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Jesus. The family, the domestic church, participates in this mission too. Talk about how your family participates in the mission of the Church. Discuss ways in which you seek to reach out to your neighbours and people in need through acts of kindness, mercy, and justice. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 14:22-33. Talk about how Peter wanted to be like Jesus, to walk on water like Jesus did. Note that Peter was successful for a time, but then he doubted Jesus, and he began to sink into the water. Talk about how your family's acts of mercy and justice are rooted in your faith in Jesus. Pray together that Jesus will continue to work through your family to prepare the kingdom of heaven. Pray together the Morning Offering 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

The faithful must fulfil the obligation of the Assumption and of the Sunday separately (i.e. go to two Masses, not one)



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.**

15th & 16th August

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Georgette Sahyoun	Relyn Aguinaldo	Mary L’Estrange
	Rick Herro	Volunteer Needed	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Maria Yu	Emmanuel Nathan	Melanie John
	Lisa Dennis	Volunteer Needed	Michael Quinlan	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Mary Louise I.	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed
	Collin A.	Archie S.	Emilia T.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Charlotte L.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Ryan L.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
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.

REFLECTION: Walking Toward Peace in the Storm (Young Catholics)

The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A highlights faith during challenges. Elijah, in the first reading, finds God not in loud events but in a quiet whisper. In the Gospel, Peter walks on water but doubts and begins to sink. Both stories show that faith is about staying focused on God, even in hard times. Faith is not about avoiding struggles. It is about trusting God through them. Elijah was afraid, but God was with him. Peter doubted, but Jesus saved him. These stories remind people that God does not leave them, even when they feel uncertain. Sometimes, faith wavers, just like Peter’s. Fear and doubt can creep in. But God is always present, offering help and strength. The key is to keep looking toward Him. Faith does not mean never struggling—it means trusting God even in the struggle. The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls people to anchor their faith in God. Life has storms, but faith keeps people steady. By trusting in God, they find the strength to move forward, knowing He will always be there. Faith is not about having all the answers or never feeling doubt. It is about trusting God even when things seem unclear. The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches that God is always near, whether in silence or in struggles. By listening to Him and keeping faith, people find strength and peace.

Mass Intentions

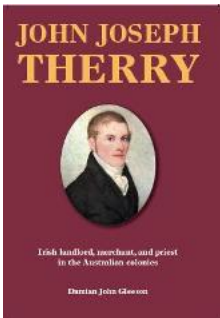
Recently Deceased:	Jean Omeissah, Baby Madison Aubrey Faner, Wadih Habib Chidiac, Shiranee De Silva, Zenaida Red Gaité, Sunil Swaris.
Repose of The Soul:	<i>Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Aldo & Fiorella Amarino, Margaret & Kevin Bouffler, James Brady, Anne Burton, Francesco & Sarina 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.</i>
Anniversaries:	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, 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, 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. 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

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

ASK RUOK?™ ANY DAY
A conversation could change a life.

Resources are available in the Church Foyer