



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 tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven' ... Matthew 18

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.



Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice. The 2026 theme "Love



Protects" recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love. When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel. We take this opportunity to sincerely thank our **Parish Safeguarding Support Officers Dianne Dawson and Sheba Varghese** who volunteer so much of their time to ensure St Martha's Parish follows guidelines and compliance.

NEPAL FLOOD DISASTER - CARITAS

Caritas teams are on the ground assessing the scale of the disaster and how to respond to the needs which include:

- Emergency shelter and essential items
- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Access to food
- Immediate and long-term recovery

The humanitarian needs remain immense. Families urgently require food, clean water, shelter, health care and essential household items. Schools and health facilities have also been damaged, and humanitarian assessments indicate that thousands of children need support. Donations can be made via the donation box in the Church Foyer or donate online at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/nepal-floods/nepal-floods/>



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness. The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison. A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another. There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.



Family Connection: Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity. Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as "I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks" or "I will accept your apology after you clean up your room." Do we sometimes "keep count" or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart. Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.

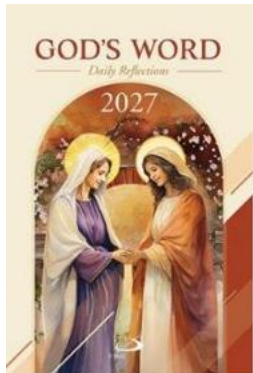
IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE NEW MINISTRIES ROSTER WILL START AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER 2026.

If you would like to join the ministries roster write your details on the sign-up sheets in the Church Foyer. For those on the current roster, please notify the parish office of any changes before 2nd October 2026 by emailing admin@stmarthas.org.au ALL Working with Children Compliance must be completed for inclusion on the new roster

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

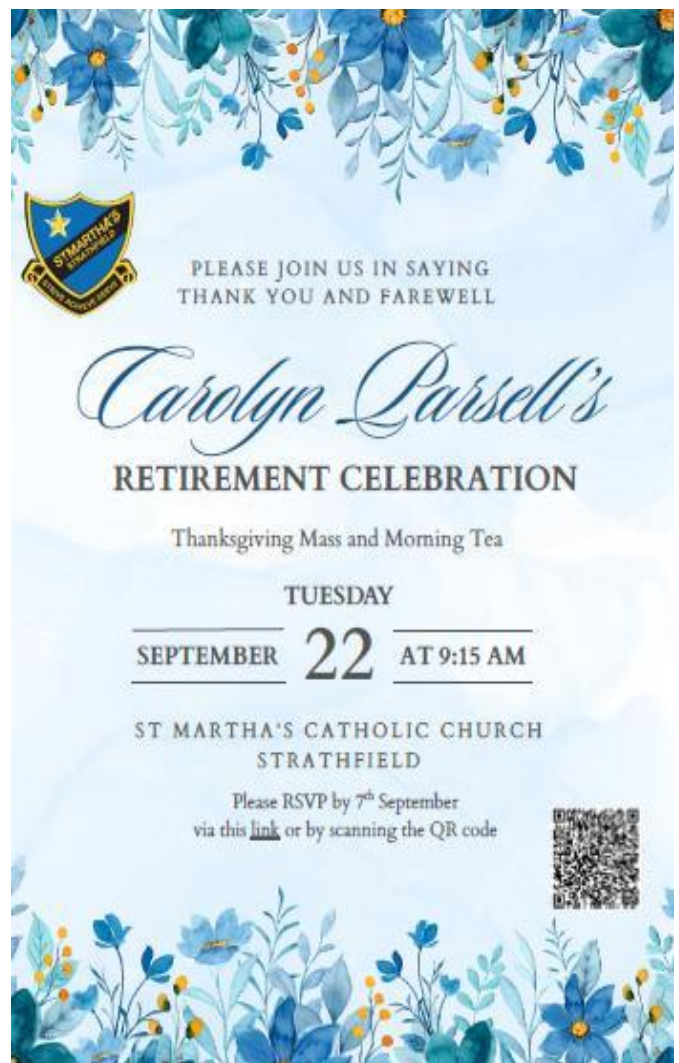
First Holy Communion - Please continue to pray for the candidates who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday 13th and Sunday 20th September during special Masses at 12.00 noon. May our Lord watch over them on their faith journey. A special thanks to Linda Praum our Sacramental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



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.**



19th & 20th September

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Yvonne Martins	Reylyn Aguinaldo	Andrew Bova
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Rick Herro	Lilly Ravi	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Daniel Martins	Michael Quinlan	Andrew Chasle
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lisa Dennis	Volunteer Needed	Michael Quinlan	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Beatrix A.	Jacob M.	Emilio A.	Zachary A.
	Collin A.	Christian C.	Emilia T.	Volunteer Needed
	Ethan P.	Ryan W.	Charlotte L.	Volunteer Needed
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Volunteer Needed	Dylan W.	Ryan L.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Befari	Mary Daley	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk
Acolytes	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tyrone Peters	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe

**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)**

Please visit the Church Notice-Boards for upcoming events.



Reflection: Forgiveness Is a Way of Life

(Young Catholics)

The readings for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A show that forgiveness is more than a single act. It is a way of life. People are called to forgive not just once, but again and again. Jesus tells Peter to forgive “seventy times seven times,” meaning there should be no limit to mercy. Many people struggle with the idea of forgiving someone over and over. They may think it is unfair or that it lets the other person win. But forgiveness is not about letting someone get away with harm. It is about refusing to let anger and bitterness take control. Sirach reminds people that they must forgive if they want to receive forgiveness from God. The Gospel parable warns about the danger of refusing to forgive. When people hold onto

grudges, they harm themselves more than anyone else. Mercy is not just for the benefit of others; it is also for the one who forgives. The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites people to think about how they forgive. Do they forgive as God forgives, or do they hold onto past wrongs? Choosing mercy does not mean being weak. It means living in a way that reflects God’s love, every single day. Forgiveness is not always easy, but it is necessary for those who follow God. The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches that mercy is not just a suggestion—it is a command. When people forgive, they reflect God’s love and open their hearts to His peace. The challenge is to choose forgiveness, even when it is difficult. With God’s help, they can let go of anger and live with mercy.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Jamal Georges Farah, John L'Estrange, Mercedes Trinidad, Wadih Habib Chidiac, Shiranee De Silva.
Repose of The Soul:	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, Alfredo Pjanic, Julia & Elias Georges, Laurice Sassine, Xavier, Joseph, Josephine & Anthony Seltathamboo, Christy & Teresa Moses, Georgette Farrah, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Jim Bradbury, Anne Kelly, Bernard & Mark Kelly, Iswary Richards.
Anniversaries:	Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Salvatore Corelli, Charlotte O'Brien, Dr Dexter Ekanayake, Anthony Sellathambu, Kevin O'Connor, Salvatore Puglisi, Emile & Foula Moubarak, Francesco Natale, Eric & Marie Leahy, Joy & Kevin Quinlan, Mrs P Christy, James Webb & Wajih Saliba, Duncan Maclean, Adelia Pizzirusso, Netta O'Hara, Moh Heng Lim, Gladstone Jebanasam, Joseph Singarayer.
Sick Intentions:	Julie Ryan, Ajith Antony, Simon Alam, Amy Scott, Maureen Darcey, Carmen Caruana, Ben Carblis, 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. Veronica Lim & Family, Maree & Chris Twomey & Family, Members of the Georges Family.

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.



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

Resources are available in the Church Foyer