



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



'Why are you jealous because I am generous?' ... Matthew 20

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.



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.



It is with broken hearts that we announce the death of Julianne Ryan who died peacefully on Wednesday 16th September.

Known to most as "Julie" she devoted decades of her life to St Martha's Church fulfilling a combined role of Sacristan and Altar Society. Much like St Martha, she kept herself busy serving with a joyful heart and quietly going about her work grounded by her faith and trust in the Lord. She took care of so many things that it would be impossible to list them all.

She offered everyone the simple gifts of kindness and hospitality, but to others she was a sister, an aunt and the dearest friend.

To know her was the greatest blessing and she will always be deeply missed.

Her funeral will be held at St Martha's on Tuesday 29th September commencing with a Rosary at 10.30am followed by a Requiem Mass at 11.00am.

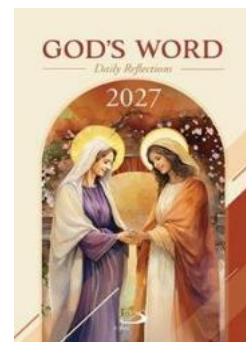
Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon her.

May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace.

NOW IN STOCK - 2027 GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS BIBLE DIARIES 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.



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) In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to

teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first. On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the

landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified. A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who laboured in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else? The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.



Family Connection: The workers in this parable sound very much like squabbling children, comparing what they have each been given and making complaints to the parent. Among children there is a tendency to equate love with gifts and material things. This tendency can devolve into a spirit of entitlement, which runs counter to the spirit of gratitude. Any effort we make to overcome this tendency, to keep love from being entwined with gifts and possessions, will enable our children to accept completely the love that God gives freely and generously. Observe together any tendency within your family to make comparisons. Are children sometimes heard saying that another child received a greater portion of a favourite food at dinner

or dessert? Does one person complain that a parent spends more time with one child over another? Ask if such comparisons are helpful. Discuss together why such comparisons are made. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16. Consider these questions: Why do the workers grumble? Is the landowner's assessment accurate? Unfortunately, we are sometimes like these workers when we make the comparisons we discussed earlier. Conclude in prayer together remembering that love cannot and ought not to be measured. Sit quietly together acknowledging God's great love for each person as individuals and for your family. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 145, 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. Existing members on the current roster do not need to re-sign but 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.



Reflection: From Maintenance to Missionary by Ron Rolheiser

We know what to do for someone who comes to church, but we don't know how to get someone to come to church. We know how to be Christian when we are poor, under-educated, and culturally marginalized, but we struggle to be Christian when we are affluent, educated, and have a full place in the culture. These over-simplifications speak volumes about the state of the church in the Western world. Simply put, today we are better at dealing with someone already sitting in our church pews than we are at getting anyone there in the first place. Our churches are strong on maintenance, weak on being missionary. This is everywhere evident. We look at our churches today and we see so many wonderful things: faith-filled individuals, good liturgies, good preaching, good music, wonderful programs sensitivity to justice, faith-sharing groups, excellent theology, ecumenical openness, soul-work in our renewal centres, beautiful church buildings, and an ever-increasing lay involvement. It has been centuries since we have done so many things so well and maintained church life with such quality and balance. But we see something else too, less positive: One-half of all baptized Christians rarely enter a church, our churches are greying, the culture is increasingly marginalizing the church, and, most serious of all, too often we cannot pass on our faith to our own children. Even as so many good things are happening within the church we are losing ground. The crisis, it seems, is not in the area of parish program, liturgy, or theology but in the area of the missionary dimension of Christianity. We know how to run a church, but we don't know how to found a church. What's needed? We need to become more deliberately, reflectively, and programmatically missionary within our own culture, to our own children. We need to send missionaries into secularity in the very same way as we once sent them off to faraway countries. The church in the secularized world needs a new kind of missionary. What will this new kind of missionary need to bring? Before anything else, real faith. What we need are men and women who can walk the workplace, the marketplace, the academy of learning, and the arts and entertainment industry, and radiate a faith that is not infantile, over-protective, paranoid, colourless, or compromising. We need men and women who are post-affluent, post-sophisticated, post-liberal, post-conservative, and post-fearful in their faith. Their faith needs to have a double strength: It must be strong enough not be defensive in the face of secularity, even as it has the capacity to sweat the blood of self-renunciation rather than compromise the great future for present consolation. Beyond personal faith, the missionary to secularity will need these things too: A new language for a post-ecclesial generation, a new gospel-artistry to refire the romantic imagination of a secularized mind, a new way to connect the gospel to the streets, a new way of moving beyond personal gift and charism to the building of lasting community, a new way of connecting eros and spirituality, justice and piety, energy and wisdom, and a new way to combine God's consolation with prophetic challenge. No easy task. In all these areas we are, right now, still searching for new ways. Perhaps the person we can look to for guidance is Henri Nouwen. To the extent that our age has had a missionary to secularity, he fits the bill. His life and his writings touched people in all walks of life and not just inside church circles. His approach was deliberate and faith-filled, he was trying to speak to the heart of secular culture from the perspective of the gospel. Slowly, through many years of writing, he developed his own language. He re-wrote his books many times over in an attempt to be simple without being simplistic; to carry real feeling without falling into sentimentality; to speak the language of the soul without falling into psychological jargon; to be personal without being exhibitionist; to put forth Christ's invitation and challenge without being preachy; to challenge towards community without being churchy; and to offer God's consolation without falling into mushy piety. He didn't always succeed, but he did it better than the rest of us. And more so even than the popularity of his writings (that unique appeal and effectiveness of the language he developed) Nouwen is a model to us in terms of the quality of his faith. He walked inside secularity with a visible faith, raw, without fear and without compromise (albeit not without tears, heartache, and breakdown). In the end, what shone through was faith, his belief that God's existence is real and is the most important thing of all. We need to learn from people like him, learn the difference between providing church-maintenance and being missionaries. We know what to do with people once we get them into a church but we must learn again how to get them there.



Rejoicing in God's Generosity (Young Catholics)

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches that God's mercy is for everyone. The gospel parable shows that even those who come to faith later receive the same reward. This challenges those who feel they deserve more. It invites them to rejoice instead of resent. It is easy to compare ourselves to others. People often feel jealous when someone else is blessed. But the parable reminds us that God is generous. Instead of being upset when others receive grace, we should celebrate His kindness. This also applies to how we treat others. The parable highlights the dignity of labour and fair treatment. Every worker

in the vineyard received what they needed. This reminds us that all people deserve respect and just wages. Supporting the dignity of work is a way to live out our faith. The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites us to let go of comparison and embrace gratitude. God's generosity is beyond human understanding. Instead of focusing on what we think we deserve, we should trust in His goodness and share His love with others. The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges us to let go of comparison and trust in God's goodness. His grace is not something we earn but a gift He gives freely. Instead of focusing on fairness, we are called to rejoice in His generosity. When we seek Him with trust, we open our hearts to His love.

Prayer

Lord, your ways are higher than ours. Help us to seek you with humble hearts. Teach us to trust in your wisdom and rejoice in your mercy. Let us serve you without seeking rewards. May we welcome others with kindness, just as you welcome us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

26th & 27th September

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Gina Surjadinata	Elias Family	Theresa Kuk
	Marian McCluskey	Andri Surjadinata	Ivanna Siu	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	John Edwards	Elias Family	Owen Loney
	Patricia Saad	Volunteer Needed	Chelsea Valentin	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S.	Mary Louise I.	Alysha N.	Volunteer Needed
	Thomas S.	Archie S.	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff & Rolon Z.	Volunteer Needed	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Matthew Z.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
Acolytes	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tyrone Peters	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Julianne Ryan, Jamal Georges Farah, John L'Estrange, Mercedes Trinidad, Wadih Habib Chidiac, Shiranee De Silva.
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, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Stefano, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, 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.</i>
Anniversaries:	Campbell Farrell, Teresa Moses, 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.
Sick Intentions:	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