



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



'He went out moved by Regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.' ... Matthew 21

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 WANGULI 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

O8i



*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



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.

**Please support our Catholic Press
Copies of the Catholic Weekly are in the
Church Foyer \$2.**



In Loving Memory of Julianne Ryan

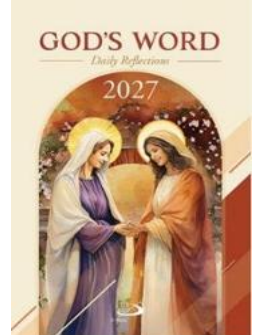
Her funeral will be held at St Martha's on Tuesday 29th September commencing with a Rosary at 10.30am followed by a Requiem Mass at 11.00am.

*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) The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God. The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will. Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders. Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.



Family Connection: The example Jesus poses in today's Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus' story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God. As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of heart. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist's message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for

this change of heart is conversion. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be transformed by his word. Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words. Pray together today's second reading, Philippians 2:1-5.



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.

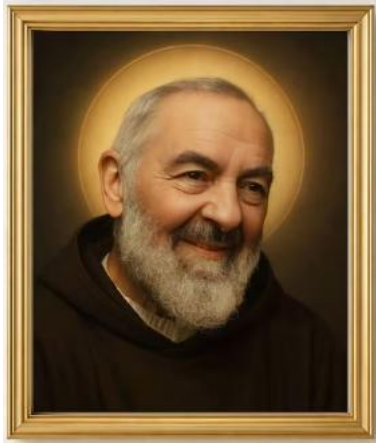
Accommodation needed: A male NSW Health worker is seeking to rent a granny flat or spare bedroom in the Strathfield, Burwood or Lidcombe areas. Please contact Adrian on 0433 632 039 who can provide references, proof of employment, and can pay rent and bond promptly.



Father John will be away from the parish from
Wednesday 30th September to Friday 16th October.
We wish him safe and happy travels.



Reflecting on Padre Pio by Paul Gallagher (Loyola Press)



I have some friends who hail from Livorno, Italy. Christina loves to tell the story of the time her parents went to Confession to St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio). It was the custom of their town that all the school children would take a bus to San Giovanni Rotondo for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On this particular day, Christina's parents, who were in the fifth grade, stood next to each other in the Confession line. They were friendly, but not really friends at that time. Giancarlo went to Reconciliation first, followed by Dina. As she was walking out, Padre Pio stopped her. He told her that he had just heard the confession of the person she would marry one day. In the not-too-distant future, this couple will be happily married for 50 years. I'm sure St. Pio of Pietrelcina continues to intercede for them. As I was reflecting on this mystical saint of the last century, I was reminded about the fact that, while he was alive, he was often misunderstood. In fact, for many years, he was forbidden to celebrate Mass and was not allowed to communicate with those outside the monastery walls. Dealing with this hardship led him to an even deeper relationship with God. How many of us, when dealing with difficulties, simply give up, believing things will not get better? This quote from Padre Pio is a gentle reminder that we should not give up in our prayers. God's timing is perfect, and worrying about the outcome of our situation won't

do any good. "Pray, wait, and do not worry. Worrying is useless. God is merciful and will listen to your prayer... Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to the heart of God. You should speak to Jesus, not with your lips but with your heart." Today, as we remember this modern saint, let's lift up our concerns to Jesus, not just with our lips, but with our hearts. Let's trust that our prayers are being heard.



Actions Show True Obedience (Young Catholics)

The Gospel for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A tells the story of two sons. Their father asks them to work in the vineyard. One refuses but later goes, while the other agrees but does nothing. Jesus asks which son truly did the father's will. The answer is clear—the one who actually obeyed. This parable teaches that words alone are not enough. Promising to do good means little if we do not follow through. Many people say they will do what is right but never act on it. Others may resist at first but later change their ways. Jesus shows that real obedience comes from action, not empty promises. The religious leaders in Jesus' time talked about

righteousness but did not live it. Meanwhile, tax collectors and sinners listened to John the Baptist and changed their lives. They did not seem like holy people at first, but their actions showed real faith. This was why they were entering God's kingdom. The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us to look at our own lives. Do our actions match our words? It is easy to say we will follow God, but do we actually live as He asks? True faith is shown in what we do, not just in what we say.

The Power of Repentance - The first reading for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A speaks about fairness and change. Some people complained that God's ways were not fair. But God explained that each person is responsible for their own actions. If a good person turns to evil, they will suffer. But if a sinner turns back to what is right, they will be saved. This shows the power of repentance. No one is stuck in their past mistakes. A person can always turn back to God and choose a better path. God does not hold onto our sins if we are willing to change. He welcomes those who sincerely seek to do what is right. The Gospel also speaks about repentance. Tax collectors and sinners had lived wrongly, but they listened to John the Baptist and turned their lives around. The religious leaders thought they were already good, so they did not change. Jesus shows that God values those who are willing to correct their ways. The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites us to think about our own lives. Are there things we need to change? God is always ready to forgive, but we must be willing to turn toward Him. It is never too late to make a new choice and follow the right path.

Humility Leads to Honour - The second reading for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A speaks about Christ's humility. Though He was above all, He became like us and even accepted death on a cross. Because of this, God raised Him up, and every knee will bow to Him. Jesus showed that true greatness comes from serving others. Humility is not easy. Many people want to be important and respected. But Jesus teaches that real honour comes from putting others first. He did not seek power or glory. Instead, He chose to lower Himself and serve. Because of this, He was lifted up. The Gospel also teaches about humility. The tax collectors and sinners admitted their wrongs and changed their lives. The religious leaders refused to do the same. In the end, those who humbled themselves were the ones who entered God's kingdom. The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us to follow Jesus' example. We are called to serve, not to seek status. True honour comes when we live with humility and put others before ourselves.

The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges us to examine our hearts and actions. Are we truly following God, or just saying the right words? Do we seek to serve others, or do we put ourselves first? Jesus calls us to real obedience, true repentance, and humble service. When we live this way, we walk the path that leads to life.

Prayer

Lord, help me to follow You with true obedience. Let my actions reflect my faith, not just my words. When I fail, give me the courage to repent and change. Teach me to be humble, like Jesus, and to put others before myself. Guide me to walk in Your ways each day. Amen.

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

3rd & 4th October

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Gian Surjadinata	Anne Marrins	Kynetha Torcato
	Tandiono Family	Artha Surjadinata	Rita Piras	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Baini	Robert Smith	Rachel Suriano	Andrew Chasle
	Maria Soo	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Hayden M.	Ryan W.	Beatrice L.	Volunteer Needed
	Zachary A.	Dylan W.	Holly C.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Matthew C.	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Bonett Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Linda Praum	Abboud Baladi	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
Acolytes	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tyrone Peters	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Julianne Ryan, An Binh Nguyen, Jamal Georges Farah, John L'Estrange, Mercedes Trinidad.
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:	Gerald Wilson, Campbell Farrell, Teresa Moses, Monsignor Kerry Bayada, Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Salvatore Corelli, Charlotte O'Brien, Dr Dexter Ekanayake, Angela & Antonio Pettovel, Maria Rosa Pina, Anthony Sellathamboo, 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.

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

Resources are available in the Church Foyer