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

'Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven' … Matthew 5

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 CATHOLIC CHURCH STRATHFIELD

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.

NSW GOVERNMENT Office of the Children's Guardian

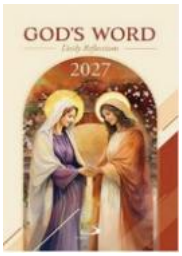
Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to take care when uploading photos 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.



2027 GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS BIBLE DIARIES

Available to purchase in the Sacristy after Mass or from the Parish Office.
$20 each (rrp $21.95) Cash payments only.

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.

During the month of November, we remember those who have returned to the Father

We invite all families to write the names of departed loved ones in the books of remembrance. Mass Offering Envelopes are also available. (names cannot be printed in the Weekly Bulletin due to the large volume). We contemplate the lives and deaths of our loved ones and all the departed, recognizing our unity with them in the Church, and praying for their eternal rest. It is a time to be thankful for the gift of life, remember the power of God's love, and reflect on the destructive power of sin, while also reaffirming faith in eternal life through Christ's victory over death. This day provides a moment to extend compassion, hope, and prayer for those who have passed.

All Souls Day Monday 2nd November - Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am & 6.00pm

CWF November Parish Appeal

The next Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal will be held across the weekend 7th & 8th November. Our parish quota is $8,255. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney. Appeal envelopes are available in the Church Foyer. You can also make a donation and find out more at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf

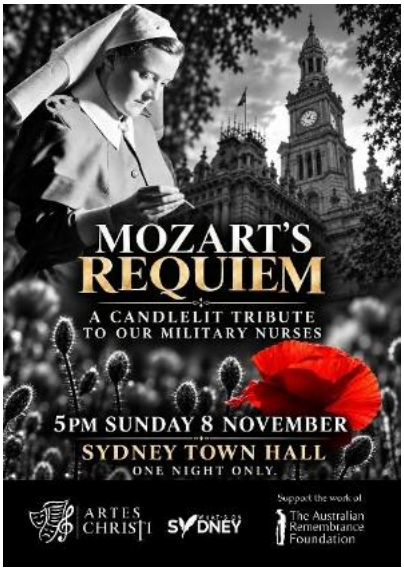
Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) Every year the Church recalls the example, witness, and prayer of the holy women and men who have been identified by the Church as Saints. These saints are more than just role models; they are family members with whom we continue to share relation, in a bond of prayer, called the Communion of Saints. Every year when we celebrate this day, the Gospel we proclaim recalls for us Jesus' teaching about happiness, the Beatitudes. We quickly note in this reading that none of those Jesus names as "blessed" or "happy" are expected . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness. What does Jesus mean when he uses the word "blessed?" This word is sometimes translated as "happy" or "fortunate" or "favoured." In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, who mourn, who are persecuted. This might have been welcome and surprising news to the crowds who heard Jesus that day. The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Because of this, it is natural that we proclaim this Gospel on the Feast of All Saints. Saints are people who lived the spirit of the Beatitudes as Jesus lived. On this day, we too are challenged to model our lives on the spirit and promises of the Beatitudes.

Family Connection: One of the great gifts of our Catholic tradition is remembrance of and prayer with the saints. The Church offers us an official canon, or list, of saints. On All Saints Day, we recall and pray with these saints. It is important to continue to tell these stories of saints and saintly people to our children so that they have ample models of people of faith for their own lives. Together as a family, name and tell the story of favourite saints. Together prepare a list of some of the traits that these people have in common (generosity, courage, prayerfulness, and so on) After preparing this list, read together today's Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12. Identify how the attitudes described in the Beatitudes are reflected in the lives of the saints and people you named. Pray together as a family a Litany of the Saints. (For example, the leader prays, "St. Elizabeth," and the children are invited to reply, "Pray for us.") Include in your list the saints and holy people you named in your discussion. Conclude by praying that your family will follow the example of these people as disciples of Jesus.

Mozart's Requiem by Candlelight – Sydney Town Hall

Parishioners are warmly invited to Mozart's Requiem by Candlelight, presented by Catholic arts organisation Artes Christi at Sydney Town Hall on Sunday 8 November at 5.00pm. This special concert honours Australia's military nurses and medical personnel through an evening of sacred music and remembrance. Booking details are available below and on the church noticeboard. Join Catholic arts organisation Artes Christi for a magnificent candlelit performance of Mozart's Requiem at Sydney Town Hall on Sunday 8 November at 5.00pm. Featuring choir, orchestra and soloists, this special concert will honour Australia's military nurses and medical personnel through an unforgettable evening of sacred music and remembrance. Recently featured in The Catholic Weekly.

Bookings: https://www.trybooking.com/DQKGI



Reflection: Solemnity of All Saints

(My Catholic Life)

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, a celebration honouring all men and women who have entered Heaven. While this includes every soul in Heaven, the focus is particularly on those who led extraordinarily holy lives on earth and that the Church has canonized as saints. These individuals honoured God in a variety of ways: through deep prayer and mystical union, through enduring martyrdom or other forms of religious persecution, and through acts of service, such as caring for the needy or teaching the faith. Some saints were powerful preachers or miracle workers. Others were leaders, some lived in obscurity, and still others experienced exile or made significant personal sacrifices for their faith. In various ways, these saints glorified God during their lifetimes. By honouring this host of saintly witnesses, we honour and glorify God through their lives. By honouring them, we honour Him Who made them holy. This liturgical solemnity is but a foretaste of the eternal Solemnity of Heaven. Heaven will be the eternal glory of God through the lives of all His saints. In Heaven, the virtues, sacrifices, prayers, and selfless service of all the saints will radiate as beacons that eternally manifest the great mercy and goodness of God. The life of every saint in Heaven will become a continuous chorus of praise and worship of God, intertwined with the nine choirs of angelic hosts. With the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones, the saints will cry "Holy, Holy, Holy…" With the Dominions, Virtues, and Powers, the saints will participate in God's providential care of the New Heavens and Earth. With the Principalities, Archangels, and Guardian Angels, the saints will celebrate God's protection and continuous communication with all of His sons and daughters. Heaven today, as well as the New Heavens and Earth at the end of time, will be nothing other than a continuous solemn celebration of all that God is in His essence and all that God has done in the lives of those who responded to His grace. Honouring the saints also becomes an invitation to each one of us on earth to strive after the holiness the saints attained. The saints give us an example; their lives are a "how to" book in holiness. The lives of the "super saints"—such as the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Ávila, Thérèse of Lisieux, Augustine of Hippo, and Thomas Aquinas—should be studied and pondered so that we can learn from their example. We must also remember that, from Heaven, the saints become powerful intercessors for us on earth. It is true that God could deal directly with us without using the mediation of angels and saints. He chooses to use secondary causes, while He always remains the First Cause and Source of all grace. The saints and angels are among those secondary causes God chooses to mediate His grace. For that reason, we should rely upon their intercession. Doing so is an act of faith by which we profess our belief in God, using the saints and angels as His instruments. Today's solemnity has its roots in the earliest days of the Church. Even in the New Testament times, martyrs were honoured by the community of believers, beginning with the deacon Saint Stephen, the first martyr. As the first century of the Church unfolded, others began to suffer persecution and death at the hands of Roman emperors, and the Church honoured their deaths. In 64, Emperor Nero was the first to organize a persecution of Christians in Rome, taking the lives of Saints Peter and Paul, and many others. After this first persecution in Rome, other Roman emperors systematized various persecutions throughout the entire empire. The worst persecution took place under Emperor Diocletian from 303–311. During that persecution, churches and sacred texts were destroyed; Christians lost their property, legal rights, and lives; and those who were not killed were imprisoned and tortured. Some estimate that during the Diocletian persecutions, there were as many as 3,500 martyrs. Although there is no way to confirm the exact number, there were many. In the fourth century, after Christianity was legalized in 313 by Emperor Constantine I, who became a Christian himself and began building churches and monuments to the martyrs, public devotion to the martyrs began to flourish. Their graves became churches and places of pilgrimage and prayer. On May 13, 609, Pope Boniface IV transformed the Pantheon in Rome, a former pagan temple, into a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all martyrs. The annual celebration of its dedication also honoured the Blessed Virgin Mary and all martyrs. On November 1, 731, Pope Gregory III dedicated an oratory within Saint Peter's Basilica to "all saints" that included the Apostles, martyrs, confessors, and all holy men and women throughout the world. This broadened the commemoration of the saints beyond the martyrs to all who lived saintly lives. In 844, Pope Gregory IV extended the November 1 celebration to the entire Church. In 1484, Pope Sixtus IV made November 1 a holy day of obligation for the entire Church and added a vigil day and octave to follow, making the celebration nine days in all. The vigil celebration for All Hallows' Day was called All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween. Unfortunately, in many places, Halloween has lost its Christian and saintly focus and has become a secular, and even pagan, celebration. As we honour all the saints in Heaven today, ponder the fact that you are called to be among their company. The extent to which you become holy while on earth is the extent to which your life will be an eternal glorification of God. Seek a profound depth of holiness. Don't just try to remain in a state of grace. Seek an abundance of grace. Strive to grow in virtue. Purge all sin, even small sins, from your life. Pray as often as you can. Read about the saints. Ponder the Scripture. Act with generosity and charity. Forgive everyone. And do everything you can to become the super saint God wants you to become. Prayer: All saints in Heaven, I thank you for the holy witness you each have given to the Church and rejoice in the blessings you now enjoy in Heaven. Please pray for me and for all people, that every one of us will become holy, bearing witness to Christ with our lives, and one day enter Heaven. May God pour forth an abundance of grace upon the world through the example you set and the prayers you now pray before His throne. All saints of God, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

The New Ministries Roster is now available from the Church side entrance & on the parish website

7th & 8th November

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

Special Ministers	**5PM**	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
	Tandiono Family	Georgette Sahyoun	Anne Marrins	Mary L'Estrange
	Tandiono Family	Lilly Ravi	Rita Piras	Leo Jo
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Readers	Natalie Baini	Maria Yu	Rachel Suriano	Melanie John
	Maria Soo	Robert Smith	Mark Soares	Milka Mihaljevic
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Altar Servers	Hayden M.	Mary Louise I.	Beatrice L.	Celeste S.
	Zachary A.	Archie S.	Holly C.	Thomas S.
	Volunteer Needed	Matthew C.	Bonett Family	**Volunteer Needed**
	Volunteer Needed	Filimone C.	Khoo Family	**Volunteer Needed**
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Wardens	Joy Li	Abboud Baladi	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Acolytes	Tyrone Peters	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe

Nicolle will be on leave from Friday 6th November until Monday 23rd November. The Parish office will be open limited hours during this time. For any important matters please see Father after Mass.

The Binding Power of Hatred by Ron Rolheiser

Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. We know this works for love. Does it also work for hatred? Can someone's hatred follow us, even into eternity? In her recent novel, Payback, Mary Gordon poses that question. Her story centers on two women, one of whom, Agnes, has hurt the other, Heidi. The hurt had been unintentional and accidental, but it had been deep, so deep that for both women it stayed like a poison inside their souls for the next forty years. The story traces their lives for those forty years, years in which they never see each other, don't even know each other's whereabouts, but remain obsessed with each other, one nursing a hurt and the other a guilt about that hurt. The story eventually culminates with Heidi seeking out Agnes to confront her for some payback. And that payback is hatred, an ugly, pure hatred, a curse, promised to last until death, ensuring that Agnes will never be free from it for the rest of her life. Agnes doesn't know what to do with that hatred, which dominates her world and poisons her happiness. She wonders if it will also color her eternity: "Her last meeting with Heidi had troubled her belief in the endurance of the ties of love. Because if love went somewhere after death, where, then, was hate? She had understood, in Heidi's case, that it was the other side of the coin of love. Even after death would Heidi's hatred follow her, spoiling her eternity, the cracked note in the harmony, the dark spot in the radiance? Since Heidi had come back into her life, Agnes had, for the first time, been truly afraid to die. She had to make herself believe that the love of those who loved her would surround her always … keeping her from the hatred and ugliness that Heidi has shown her. She had to believe it; otherwise … the otherwise was too unbearable even to name." Gabriel Marcel correctly states that to love someone is to ensure that this person can never be lost, that he or she (as long as the love continues) can never go to hell. By that love, the other is connected ("bound") always to the family of love and ultimately to the circle of love inside of God. How ever, is this true then too for hatred? If someone hates you, can that touch you eternally and contaminate some of the joy of heaven? If someone's love can hold you for all eternity, can someone's hatred do the same? This is not an easy question. Binding and loosing, as Jesus spoke of it, work both ways, with love and with hatred. We free each other through love and constrict each other through hatred. We know that from experience and at a deep place inside us intuit its gravity. That is why so many people seek reconciliation on their deathbeds, wanting as their last wish not to leave this world unreconciled. But, sad fact, sometimes we do leave this life unreconciled, with hatred following us into the grave. Does it also follow us into eternity? The choice is ours. If we meet hatred with hatred, it will follow us into eternity. On the other hand, if we, on our part, seek reconciliation (as much as is possible practically and existentially) then that hatred can no longer bind us; the chord will be broken, broken from our end. Leo Tolstoy once said: There is only one way to put an end to evil, and that is to do good for evil. We see that in Jesus. Some hated him, and he died like that. However, that hatred lost its power over him because he refused to respond in kind. Rather, he returned love for hatred, understanding for misunderstanding, blessing for curse, graciousness for resentment, fidelity for rejection, and forgiveness for murder. But … that takes a rare, incredible strength. In Gabriel Marcel's affirmation (that if we love someone that person can never be lost), there is a caveat implied, namely, that the other does not willingly reject our love and choose to move outside of it. The same holds true for hatred. Another person's hatred holds us, but only if we meet it on its own terms, hatred for hatred. We cannot make someone stop hating us, but we can refuse to hate him or her and, at that moment, hatred loses its power to bind and punish us. Granted, this isn't easy, certainly not emotionally. Hatred tends to have a sick, devilish grip on us, paralyzing in us the very strength we need to let it go. In that case, there's still another salvific thing remaining. God can do things for us that we cannot do for ourselves. Thus, in the end, as Julian of Norwich teaches (and as our faith in God's compassion and understanding lets us know) all will still be well, hatred notwithstanding.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Aru Richards, Elsie Oong, George Sule, Isobel John, Mia Lay.
Repose of The Soul:	*Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding,* Julianne Mary Ryan, 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, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Gerald Wilson, Charbel Mannah, Pauline Gibson, Julian & Mabel Doyle, Jim Bradbury, Anne Kelly, Bernard & Mark Kelly, Iswary Richards, Thomas Cahill, Luis Anacleto de Barros.
Anniversaries:	Frances Doumit, Eileen Crocker, Mary Gertude Cahill, Phillip, Flind & Siham Azar, Diana Stephen, Slaiman Herro, Elias Georges, Anthony Menino D'Costa, Hamide Najjar, Don Khoury, Vito & Giuseppina Iannella, Jabbour & Jennifer Azizi, Pauline Gibson, Ken & Patricia Miller, Saad Saad, Lawrie Soares, Hubert Saldanha, Emmanuel Naren, Anthony & Matthew Raheb.
Sick Intentions:	Ajith Antony, Simon Alam, Amy Scott, Maureen Darcey, Carmen Caruana, Ann & Robert Calilhanna, 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.

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
Beyond Blue
P: 1300 22 4636
W: www.beyondblue.org.au

CatholicCare
CatholicCare – Archdiocese of Sydney
P: 13 18 19
W: www.catholiccare.org

kidshelpline Anytime | Any Reason
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