# 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

***'Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's' … Matthew 22***

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.

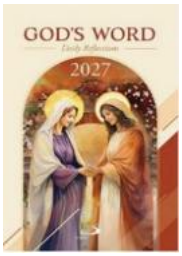
**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**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.**

# Happy Birthday to Fr John who celebrated his Birthday on 9th October and his 29th Anniversary of Ordination on 15th October.




**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. These books of Special Intentions will be set up on a special memorial on the Sanctuary during the month of November. Mass Offering Envelopes are also available. (names cannot be printed in the Weekly Bulletin due to the large volume).

**All Saints Day Sunday 1st November**
**Mass will be celebrated at 8.00am, 10am & 6.00pm**
**All Souls Day Monday 2nd November - Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am & 6.00pm**

## First Reconciliation - (For Year 2 Students or older)

**Enrol Now On our parish webpage** https://stmarthas.org.au/sacraments/reconciliation/
**(Enrolments close Monday 19th October 2026 at our Information Session)**

**Information Session with Fr. John** ***Compulsory for one parent to attend***
***(Both are welcome. Children can attend, though session will be for parents)***

**Monday 19th October 2026 @ 6pm In the Church of St Martha's Strathfield**

**Background on the Gospel Reading** (Loyola Press) In today's Gospel Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem continue their tense exchange of questions and challenges. At this point the disciples of the Pharisees, together with the Herodians, try to entrap Jesus by their question about the payment of taxes. Matthew sets up an unusual partnership between the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Herodians were supporters of Herod Antipas, a Jewish political leader who collaborated with the Romans. Such collaboration would have required a compromised observance of the Mosaic Law. The Pharisees, on the other hand, taught scrupulous observance of the Mosaic Law and opposed Roman occupation. Herodians favoured the payment of taxes; the Pharisees opposed it. The Herodians and the Pharisees approach Jesus, asking that he take sides in their dispute. If Jesus answers with the Pharisees, he shows himself to be an enemy of Rome. If he answers with the Herodians, he offends popular Jewish religious sensibilities. Jesus' response to this attempt to trap him exposes the guile of his questioners. From his first words to them, Jesus shows that he is very much aware of what they are trying to do. He asks to see a Roman coin, which is readily provided to him. It may have come from the hand of a Herodian, but the Pharisees show themselves to be quite willing to accept this compromise. Jesus has already exposed the Pharisees as hypocrites. Jesus takes his response one step further. He asks that his questioners examine the coin. Agreeing that it is Caesar's image on the coin, Jesus tells them that it must belong to Caesar. Avoiding the question of lawfulness altogether, Jesus answers their question with simple logic. Then, going further still, Jesus tells them that their obligation is to pay to God that which belongs to God. Jesus' response to the Herodians and Pharisees suggests the ethic that Christians ought to adopt. It reminds us of the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honour that we owe to God?

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

**Family Connection:** Payment of taxes is unlikely to be a disputed issue in your family. Yet families can still learn something from this Gospel reading. Jesus' answer to the Herodians and Pharisees redirects their question to focus on the issue of greatest importance: loving and honouring God. Taking this perspective can help us make good judgments about the competing issues of importance in our lives. As your family gathers,

make a list of the activities that your family spends time doing together, such as household tasks, jobs, academics, and recreational activities. Talk about the importance of each of these activities. Ask what would happen if there were an imbalance in our attention to these activities and we spent too much time on one activity at the expense of another. In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of the necessity of giving things their proper importance. Read Matthew 22:15-21. The Herodians and Pharisees were giving too much importance to the issue of the payment of taxes. Jesus reminds them that loving and honouring God is of greater importance. In family life we do many important things, but we remember that God is of the greatest importance in our lives. Pray together that your family will learn to keep things in proper perspective, remembering to keep God first in your lives. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 96.

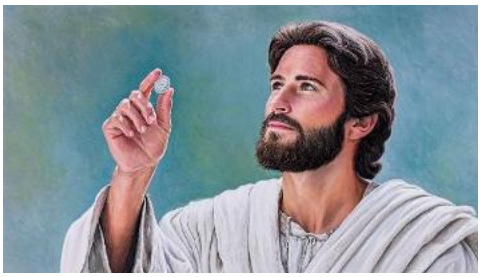
**Let us keep the HSC students and their families in our prayers during their final exams.**

## Prayer for HSC Students

Dear Lord, we ask for your blessing on our students that are preparing
to undertake HSC Examinations over the coming weeks.
Grant them the confidence they deserve from their years of diligent study.
Grant them the ability to comprehend questions
and effectively plan and articulate their responses.
May they be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
Wisdom, Understanding, Fortitude and Knowledge.
May their faith and piety give them the strength to face these examinations
and the satisfaction of achieving their personal best.
We ask these things though Christ Our Lord, Amen.

## Reflection for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Young Catholics)



The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites people to reflect on faith, responsibility, and sincerity. The readings show how God works through history, how faith should be active, and how people must balance their duties in the world with their duty to God. Jesus challenges people to give to God what truly belongs to Him. Paul encourages believers to live their faith with love and endurance. These messages remain important for anyone seeking to live with integrity and trust in God.

**A Faith That Takes Action**

The second reading for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A shows that real faith is not just words. Paul praises the Thessalonians because their faith is visible in their actions. They live with love, hope, and trust in God. Their faith is not hidden or passive. It moves them to serve others and stay strong in difficult times. Paul also speaks about the Holy Spirit. The Thessalonians did not believe in God on their own. God called them, and the Holy Spirit strengthened their faith. This reminds people that faith is a gift. It is not just about human effort. God invites people to believe, and the Holy Spirit helps them live that belief. The message of the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges people to reflect on their own faith. Is it just words, or does it shape their daily life? Do they serve others and trust in God even when life is hard? Faith should be more than something people say—it should be something they do. Living faith means showing love, being patient, and staying hopeful. It means trusting in God's plan even when things are uncertain. Like the Thessalonians, people are called to live in a way that reflects what they believe. True faith is seen in action.

**Giving to God What Belongs to Him**

The gospel for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A tells the story of the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus. They ask Him if it is right to pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus gives a wise answer. He tells them to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to give to God what belongs to God. This response goes beyond taxes. It is a reminder that people have responsibilities in the world, but their first duty is to God. Governments may require money, but God requires hearts, minds, and lives. Everything comes from God, and people should give Him their love, trust, and obedience. The challenge is to balance both responsibilities. People live in the world and must follow its laws, but they should not forget their greater duty to God. Some focus too much on material things and forget their faith. Others ignore their duties in society. Jesus teaches that both matter, but God must come first. The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls people to reflect on their priorities. Do they give to God what belongs to Him? Do they make time for prayer and service? Jesus' words remind everyone to keep their focus on what truly matters—living in a way that honours God.

**Living with Honesty and Sincerity**

The readings for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A highlight the importance of being genuine in faith. Paul praises the Thessalonians for their sincere faith. Their actions match their beliefs. They do not just say they believe—they live it. In the gospel, Jesus sees through the Pharisees' trap. They ask Him about taxes, not because they want to learn, but because they want to trick Him. Their question is not sincere. They pretend to respect Him, but their hearts are not in the right place. Jesus' response exposes their dishonesty. This teaches that faith should not be about appearances. It should be real. Some people go through religious motions but do not live out their faith. Others say the right words but do not act with love and justice. The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges people to be true in both words and actions. Faith should not be just for show. It should be part of daily life. God sees beyond words and actions—He knows what is in the heart. Living with honesty and sincerity means making faith a real part of life, not just something to be seen by others. Faith is not just about words or appearances—it is about action and sincerity. The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds people to live their beliefs daily, trust in God's plan, and make Him their highest priority. God sees beyond outward actions and looks at the heart. These reflections encourage people to ask themselves if they are truly giving to God what belongs to Him.

*Prayer*

*Lord, help me to live my faith with honesty and love. Give me the wisdom to balance my responsibilities in the world with my duty to You. Teach me to trust in Your plan and follow Your ways. May my actions reflect my belief in You. I give myself to You with a sincere heart. Amen.*

## 24th & 25th October

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

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Special Ministers** | **5PM** | **8AM** | **10AM** | **6PM** |
| | Grace Herro | Gina Surjadinata | Relyn Aguinaldo | Kynetha Torcato |
| | Rick Herro | Andri Surjadinata | Rita Piras | **Volunteer Needed** |
| | **5PM** | **8AM** | **10AM** | **6PM** |
| **Readers** | Maria Soo | Maria Yu | Michael Quinlan | Owen Loney |
| | **Volunteer Needed** | **Volunteer Needed** | **Volunteer Needed** | **Volunteer Needed** |
| | **5PM** | **8AM** | **10AM** | **6PM** |
| **Altar Servers** | 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** |
| | **5PM** | **8AM** | **10AM** | **6PM** |
| **Wardens** | Edith Pun | Mary Daley | Trudie Rogers | Anthony Thurn |
| | **5PM** | **8AM** | **10AM** | **6PM** |
| **Acolytes** | Tyrone Peters | Anton Ravi | Roger Bonett | Joseph Samarasinghe |

## Mass Intentions

**Recently Deceased:** Isobel John, Mia Lay, Julianne Ryan, An Binh Nguyen, Jamal Georges Farah, John L'Estrange, Mercedes Trinidad.

**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, 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.

**Anniversaries:** Pauline Gibson, Ken & Patricia Miller, Saad Saad, Lawrie Soares, Hubert Saldanha, Emmanuel Naren, Anthony & Matthew Raheb, Gerald Wilson, Campbell Farrell, Teresa Moses, Monsignor Kerry Bayada, Giuseppe Mazzaferro, Salvatore Corellli, Charlotte O'Brien, Dr Dexter Ekanayake, Angela & Antonio Pettovel, Maria Rosa Pina, Anthony Sellathambu, Kevin O'Connor, Salvatore Puglisi, Emile & Foula Moubarak, Francesco Natale, Eric & Marie Leahy, Joy & Kevin Quinlan, James Webb & Wajih Saliba.

**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. The Pham, Vo, Nguyen & Le Families.

*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

Ask R U OK? ANY DAY
A conversation could change a life.

Resources are available in the Church Foyer