



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



'You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbour as yourself' ... 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 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.



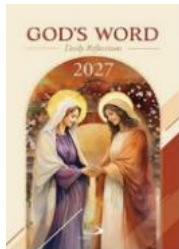
Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to take care when uploading photos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



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

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) This week's Gospel follows close behind the Gospel read last Sunday. It is the last of three questions put to Jesus by Jewish religious leaders who are trying to trick him into saying something that might get him arrested. This reminds us that the context for today's reading is the mounting tension between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem. The Herodians and the Pharisees asked the first question, which was about taxes. The Sadducees asked the second question, which was about the Resurrection (see Matthew 22:22-33). The third question, considered in today's Gospel, is asked by a Pharisee who asks Jesus about the greatest of the commandments. The question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Mosaic Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law. Jesus answers the Pharisees' question with a two-fold summary. Jesus says that all of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love God and love your neighbour. Both of these were central elements of the religious tradition Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed these continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbour.

Family Connection: Children learn about love from real, concrete examples witnessed in family life. We can help children to love God and love their neighbours by showing everyday acts of love, generosity, and kindness—our own expressions of our love for God. These acts, small and large, are the expression of what Jesus identified as the two greatest commandments: love God and love neighbour. Make a poster together as a family. Write the words Love God in the centre of the poster and write the words Love Neighbour near each of the four sides of the poster. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 22:34-40. Talk about how Jesus taught us that our love for God is revealed in the love that we show to other people. On the poster, use pictures and words to show some of the ways that your family shows their love for other people. Pray together that your family will continue to express your love for God by loving others. Pray the Act of Love.



CWF November Parish Appeal

The next Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal will be held across the weekend 7th & 8th November. 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

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.

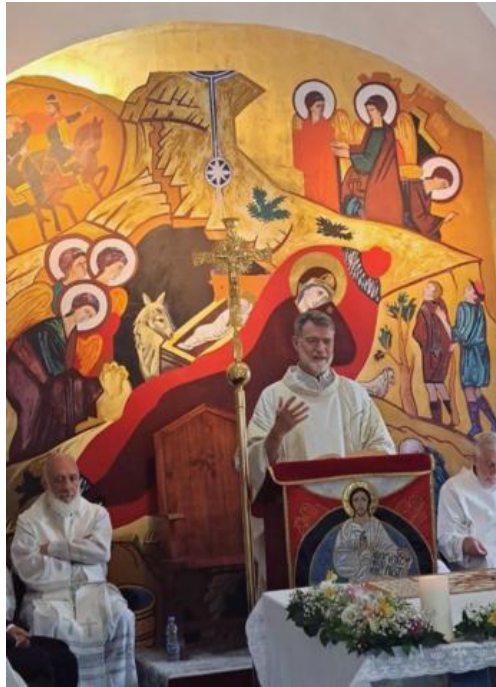
May their faith and piety give them the strength to face these examinations and the satisfaction of achieving their personal best.

We ask these things through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Welcome Back Father John



On my Birthday in Bethlehem where Jesus was born!



Celebrating Mass in Bethlehem on my Birthday



John the Baptist! Standing in the Jordan River, ready to sprinkle water on the pilgrims



Outside the empty tomb of Jesus' Resurrection



Grotto of the Annunciation in Nazareth



Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount in Galilee



Chapel on the shore of Lake Galilee where Jesus cooked breakfast for St Peter after the Resurrection





In the Sacristy of St Peter's Basilica on my Ordination Anniversary day



Fountain in the Vatican gardens



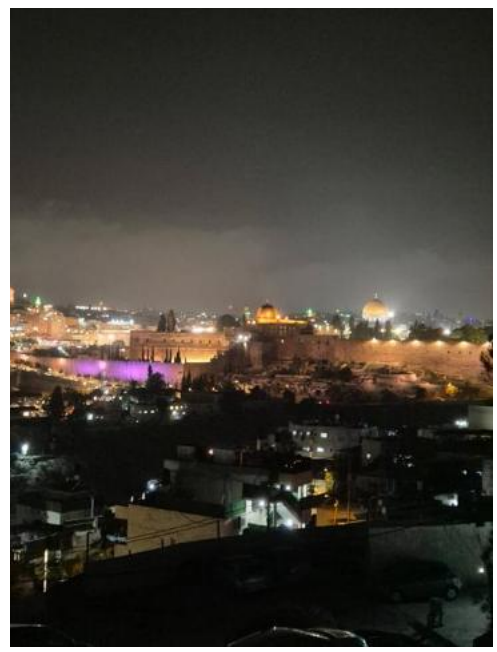
In the Vatican Gardens where Pope Benedict XVI used to sit and pray his Rosary



Lighted Cross marks the Holy Sepulchre



Jerusalem by day



Jerusalem by night



In St Peter's Basilica before Mass with Paulina Skerman, ex-Principal of Santa Sabina



At Marymount Catholic College Rome with Paulina Skerman, her husband Andrew and Australia's Ambassador to Italy Julianne Cowley and her husband Anthony

Reflection: The Regrets We Can Live With by Ron Rolheiser

In her recent book, *The Invention of Wings*, Sue Monk Kidd presents us with a deeply conflicted heroine, Sarah, a highly sensitive woman who grows up the daughter of a slave-owner and a child of privilege. But Sarah's moral sensitivity soon trumps her sense of privilege and she makes a series of hard choices to distance herself from both slavery and privilege. Perhaps the most difficult among those hard choices was the choice to refuse an offer of marriage from a man. Sarah badly wants marriage, motherhood, and children; but, when the man she has loved for years finally proposes, there were things inside her that she won't compromise and she ends up saying no. What was her hesitancy? When her suitor, Israel, finally proposes, Sarah asks him whether, inside their marriage, she could still pursue her dream to become a Quaker minister. Israel, a man of his time who could only grasp a woman's role as that of wife and mother, is frank in his reply. For him, that could not be a possibility. Sarah immediately intuits the implications of that answer: "It was his way of telling me that I could not have him and myself both." Her suitor then further aggravates the situation by suggesting that her desire to become a minister is simply a compensation, a second-best, for not being married. She turns down his offer. But a renunciation does not cease being painful just because it's has been made for a noble reason. Throughout her life, Sarah often feels an acute regret for her choice, for having her principles trump her heart. However she eventually makes peace with her regrets. Feeling the bitterness of her loss more acutely on the day her sister's wedding, she shares with her sister how: "I longed for it [marriage] in that excruciating way one has of romanticizing the life that she didn't choose. But sitting here now, I knew if I'd accepted Israel's proposal, I would have regretted that too. I'd chosen the regret that I could live with the best, that's all. I'd chosen the life I belonged to." There will always be regrets in our lives, deep regrets. Thomas Aquinas wrote: Every choice is a renunciation. For this reason, we find it so difficult to make hard choices, particularly as these pertain to any type of permanent commitment. We want the right things, but we do not want to forego other things. We want it all! But we can't have it all, none of us, no matter how full of talent, energy, and opportunity we are; and sometimes it takes us a long time to properly understand why. At one point in Kidd's story, Sarah, in her thirties, single, unemployed, mainly alienated from her own family, frustrated by society limits and her limited choices as a woman, is living as a guest with a woman friend, Lucretia, a Quaker minister. One evening, sitting with Lucretia, lamenting the limits of her life, Sarah asks: "Why would God plant such deep yearnings in us. ... if they only come to nothing?" It was more of a sigh than a question, but Lucretia replies: "God fills us with all sorts of yearnings that go against the grain of the world – but the fact that these yearnings come to nothing, well, I doubt that's God's doing. ... I think we know that's men's doing." For Lucretia, if the world was only fair, we'd have no broken dreams. Partly she's right; much of what's wrong on this planet is our doing. But our frustrations ultimately tap into a deeper, less-culpable root, the inadequacy of life itself. Life, this side of eternity, is not whole. We, this side of eternity, are not whole. This side of eternity, nothing is whole. In the words of Karl Rahner: In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable we ultimately learn that in this life all symphonies must remain unfinished. This has many implications, not least the simple (though not-easily-digestible) fact that we can't have it all or do it all. Our lives have very real limits and we need to stop crucifying what we have and what we have achieved by what we haven't got and what we haven't achieved. Despite the current myth to the contrary, no one gets it all! Most of us, I suspect, can relate to some of these regrets: I've raised my children well, but now I will never go anywhere professionally. I'm very successful at work, but I am less successful as a husband and father. I never married for the wrong reasons, but now I am single and alone. I've sacrificed ordinary life for an ideal, but now I fiercely miss what I've had to give up. Or, like Sue Monk Kidd's, Sarah: I've never compromised my principles, but that has brought a brutal loneliness into my life. It's never a matter of living with regrets or without them. Everyone has regrets. Hopefully, though, we've chosen the regret we can live with best.

Reflection: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Young Catholics)

Old Rules for Fair Treatment - The first reading for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A gives laws about justice and fairness. God tells His people not to mistreat foreigners, widows, or orphans. He also tells them to be fair when lending money and to return a borrowed cloak before sunset. These laws show that God cares for the weak and expects His people to do the same. The command to treat foreigners with kindness is still important. Many people today face discrimination or unfair treatment because they are different. The reading reminds people to be welcoming and kind, especially to those who are alone or struggling. God also warns against taking advantage of people who are poor. Lending money with high interest or keeping something they need for warmth is wrong. These rules remind people that money and power should not be used to harm others. The laws given in the first reading are not just old rules. They teach fairness and compassion. The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds people to care for those in need and treat everyone with justice.

Actions Matter - The second reading for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A speaks about faith in action. Paul praises the Thessalonians because their faith is not just words. They live in a way that shows what they believe. Others see their example and are inspired. Faith should change how people live. It is not enough to say the right things. Actions show what is truly in a person's heart. If someone believes in love and justice, they must show it in how they treat others. In the modern world, people often share opinions online or talk about doing good. But real change comes through action. Just as the Thessalonians became an example by how they lived, people today can show their faith by what they do. The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A is a reminder that faith is more than words. It calls people to act with love, kindness, and fairness.

Love and Compassion - The readings for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A focus on love. The first reading teaches care for the vulnerable, and the Gospel says the greatest commandment is to love God and love others. Jesus explains that all laws are based on these two commandments. Loving God means more than just prayers or worship. It means following His ways and caring for others. Love is not just a feeling—it is a choice and an action. It means treating people with kindness, fairness, and respect. The first reading mentions widows, orphans, and foreigners. These were the most vulnerable people in ancient times. Today, there are many who are struggling—people without homes, those facing discrimination, or those who are lonely. Loving them means more than feeling sorry for them. It means helping in real ways. The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches that love is active. Loving God and loving others go together. If people truly love God, they will show it by caring for those in need. The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A is a call to live with love and fairness. Faith should shape how people treat others, especially those who are vulnerable. Loving God means caring for those in need and making choices that reflect justice and kindness. These readings remind people that faith is not just about words but about real actions that make a difference.

Prayer

Lord, teach us to love as You love. Help us to treat others with kindness and fairness. Open our eyes to see those who need our help. Give us the courage to act with justice and compassion. May our faith be shown in the way we live. Amen.

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.

31st October & 1st November

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

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Gian Surjadinata	Elias Family	Kynetha Torcato
	Marian McCluskey	Artha Surjadinata	Ivenna Siu	Volunteer Needed
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Maria Soo	Robert Smith	Elias Family	Andrew Chasle
	Patricia Saad	Volunteer Needed	Chelsea Valentin	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Celeste S	Ryan W.	Alysha N.	Volunteer Needed
	Thomas S.	Dylan W.	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Jeff Z.	Matthew C.	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
	Matthew & Rolon Z.	Volunteer Needed	Elias Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Linda Praum	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
Acolytes	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tyrone Peters	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Elsie Oong, George Sule, Isobel John, Mia Lay, Julianne Ryan, An Binh Nguyen, Jamal Georges Farah.
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:	Diana Stephen, Don Khoury, Vito 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.



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

Resources are available in the Church Foyer