

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



'Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord'. … Matthew 25

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.



HOSTS WITH A GLUTEN CONTENT OF LESS THAN 20PPM ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE FAITHFUL WHO HAVE GLUTEN INTOLERANCE OR SOME CASES OF LESS SENSITIVE COELIAC DISEASE. PLESE MAKE ANY REQUESTS KNOWN TO THE CELEBRATING PRIEST PRIOR TO MASS.

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

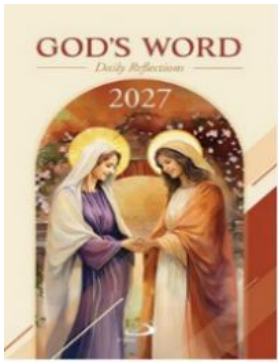
During the month of November, we remember those who have returned to the Father

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.

CWF
CHARITABLE WORKS FUND
Your local charity

CWF November Parish Appeal

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal is still running this weekend. 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



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.

THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION – 2026

Please keep the candidates in your prayers during their final preparation before receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Thank you to Linda Praum, Sacramental Coordinator, teachers, helpers and parents for preparing the children.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
Weekend 12th & 13th December

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold its annual Christmas Appeal in this Parish on 12th & 13th December 2026. Envelopes on the seats can be placed in either collection. You can also give by QR Code to the Appeal's Fundraising Website which will issue you with a receipt in real time. The focus of this year's Appeal is the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis resulting in housing insecurity, homelessness, food stress and hunger, family breakdown, and increased physical and mental illness as people must choose between food or medical treatment. We frequently assist whole families living in crisis accommodation. St. Martha's Conference of Vinnies and those we serve would be most grateful for anything you can give to help. **Anthony Thurn, President Strathfield Conference.**

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

Resources are available in the Church Foyer

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) This week's Gospel speaks of how Jesus' disciples are to conduct themselves as they await the Kingdom of Heaven. In the preceding passages and in last week's Gospel, Jesus taught that there is no way to predict the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. His disciples must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to receive the Son of Man at any time. Jesus' parable talks about Christian discipleship using economic metaphors. Before he leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to his servants a different number of talents, giving to each according to their abilities. A talent is a coin of great value. Upon the master's return, he finds that the first and second servants have doubled their money, and both are rewarded. The third servant, however, has only preserved what was given to him because he was afraid to lose the

money. He has risked nothing; he did not even deposit the money in a bank to earn interest. This servant is punished by the master, and his talent is given to the one who brought the greatest return. Read in light of last week's parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, this parable teaches that God's judgment will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God's judgment on us will be severe. On the other hand, if we make use of these gifts in service to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even more responsibilities. This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbour. God's grace allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.

Family Connection: In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the correlation between faithfulness and responsibilities. Family life provides many opportunities to illustrate this connection for children. As children prove themselves trustworthy, they can be trusted to take on greater responsibilities. Jesus teaches us in this parable that when we show ourselves to be trustworthy in small matters, we can be trusted to participate in greater matters of responsibility. As you gather as a family, take some time to recall how each child in the family has matured and can now be trusted with greater responsibilities. Say: In today's Gospel, Jesus talked about how our trustworthiness in small matters shows that we can also be trusted to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven. Read Matthew 15:14-30. Say: We share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven when we use our talents to help and serve others. As a family, choose one thing to do this week to serve others. Conclude in prayer together, asking God's help so that your family may serve others more faithfully. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. and you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

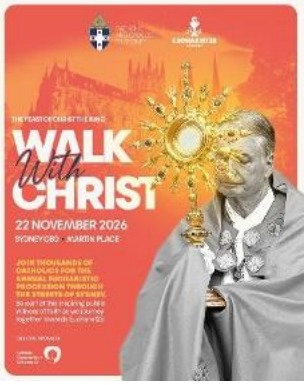
21st & 22nd November

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

Special Ministers	**5PM**	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
	Joanne Touma	Gina Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Leo Jo
	Volunteer Needed	Andri Surjadinata	Maria Soares	Mary L'Estranage
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Readers	Maria Soo	John Edwards	Mark Soares	Owen Loney
	Patricia Saad	Daniel Martins	Merlyn D'Souza	Milka Mihaljevic
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Altar Servers	Grace T.	Mary Louise I.	Marcus V.	Jeff Z.
	Peter T.	Archie S.	Elijah M.	Rolon Z.
	Volunteer Needed	Matthew C.	Harrison S.	Matthew Z.
	Volunteer Needed	Filimone C.	George S.	**Volunteer Needed**
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Wardens	Vince Blefari	Paul Abela	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Acolytes	Tyrone Peters	Anton Ravi	Roger Bonett	Joseph Samarasinghe

CHRISTMAS ROSTER SIGN UP SHEETS ARE NOW IN THE CHURCH FOYER

To assist with the preparation of rosters for the Christmas Masses would any parishioners who are on the regular rosters please volunteer if available. The Sign Up Sheets are now located in the Church Foyer.



Sydney's annual Eucharistic Procession, **Walk with Christ**, will be held on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This public witness and act of worship is a continuation of the Eucharistic celebration allowing the faithful to publicly profess their faith in the Most Blessed Sacrament. When: 22 November with a festival at 1:00pm at Martin Place. The procession begins at 2:30pm from the corner of Martin Place and Pitt Street.

Please visit the Church Notice-Boards for upcoming events.

Reflection: (Young Catholics)

The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds people to be responsible, use their gifts, and stay prepared. The readings highlight a capable woman, faithful servants, and the need for spiritual awareness. These lessons encourage action, trust, and a life lived with purpose. Each reading offers guidance on how to grow in faith and serve others.

A Woman of Strength and Character - The first reading for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A describes a woman who is capable, hardworking, and caring. She is trusted by her husband, provides for her household, and helps those in need. Her value is not just in what she does, but in who she is. She is strong in character, wise

in her actions, and centered on her faith. This reading is not just about marriage. It speaks to the importance of living with purpose and responsibility. The woman in Proverbs 31 is an example of someone who balances personal and community duties. She does not wait for others to take care of things. She sees what needs to be done and does it. Her worth is not based on appearance but on the way she lives. Beauty fades, but a person's kindness, wisdom, and faith last. This reading reminds people that real value comes from actions and character. Being hardworking, generous, and faithful is more important than wealth or status.
The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A highlights the qualities that matter most. Strength, kindness, and faithfulness make a lasting impact. Whether married or not, everyone can learn from this example. It encourages people to be responsible, care for others, and live with integrity.

Taking Action with What We Have - The Gospel for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A tells the story of three servants who receive different amounts of money from their master. Two of them invest and increase what they were given. The third hides his money out of fear and does nothing with it. When the master returns, he rewards the first two and punishes the one who was afraid to act. This parable is about using the gifts and opportunities that God gives. Some people may have more than others, but what matters is how they use what they have. The two servants take risks, work hard, and grow their gifts. The third one lets fear stop him, and in the end, he loses everything. Fear can keep people from moving forward. It can make them afraid to try new things or take on responsibilities. But playing it safe and doing nothing is not the answer. The master in the parable does not expect his servants to be perfect. He expects them to try. The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds people to take action. Life is not about hiding talents or avoiding responsibility. It is about using what is given to make a difference. God calls everyone to be active, to grow, and to give back.

Staying Ready for What Matters - The second reading for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds people that they do not know when God will come. It says that the "Day of the Lord" will come suddenly, like a thief in the night. This means people should always be ready. They should not live carelessly or assume they have unlimited time. Being ready does not mean living in fear. It means being aware and responsible. Just as people prepare for important events in life, they should also prepare spiritually. They should not put off doing what is right or wait until later to grow in faith. The Gospel also warns against being passive. The servant who buried his money was not ready when the master returned. In the same way, people who do not use their time and talents well may find themselves unprepared when it matters most. The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A encourages people to stay awake and alert. This means living with purpose, making good choices, and being faithful in daily life. No one knows what the future holds, but being ready means always trying to do what is right. The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges people to reflect on their choices. Are they using their talents well? Are they preparing their hearts for God? These reflections encourage a deeper look at responsibility, trust, and faith. Living wisely and faithfully brings lasting rewards.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gifts You have given. Help us to use them wisely and not be afraid to act. Guide us to be responsible, kind, and faithful. Keep us awake to Your presence and ready to follow You. May our lives reflect trust and love. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased:	Leo Behan, Mrs Christy, 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, Joseph Sellathamboo, Christy & Teresa Moses, Xavier, Josephone & Anthony Sellathambu.
Anniversaries:	Padma Rajah Sittampalam, 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 Iannella, Jabbour & Jennifer Azizi, Pauline Gibson, Ken & Patricia Miller, Saad Saad, Lawrie Soares, Hubert Saldanha, Members of the Pham, Vo, Nguyen & Le Families.
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