

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



'Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him. … 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 November Parish Appeal

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

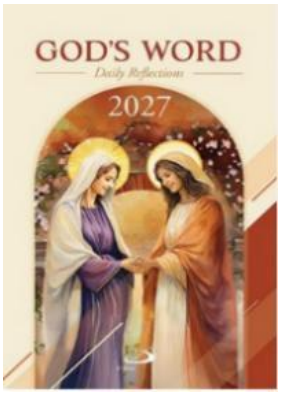
Remembrance Day 2026

The First World War Armistice came into effect at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th Month in 1918. We remember the courageous men and women who gave their lives in wartime and as a result of war. As we remember the lives that have been lost, let us promise each other to work for the freedom of all who are oppressed in the world today. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus who taught us how to live. Amen.

Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am on Wednesday 11th November

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.

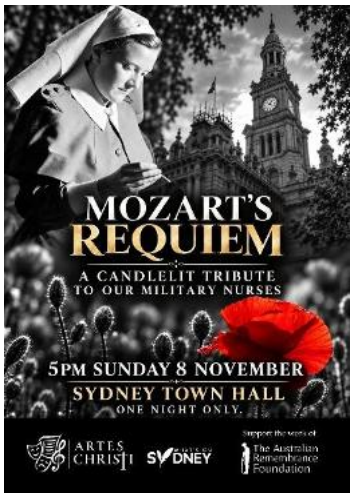
Lest we forget!



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.



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

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.

Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press) In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared. When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he ca me to bring his bride to her new home. As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel. In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?

Family Connection: In the daily activities of family life, we can easily find excuses for not attending to our spiritual lives. If not given top priority, prayer and reading Scripture risk becoming occasional activities rather than daily practices. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we fail to give our spiritual life priority, we will find ourselves unprepared to receive Jesus. Daily prayer and spiritual practice keeps us ready to receive Jesus. Gather together as a family and talk about some of the things our faith calls us to do every day and every week to keep God first in our lives. Talk about what might happen if we don't do these things regularly. Explain to your family that Jesus taught us that it is important to keep ourselves ready to receive him when he comes again. Tell them to listen as you read the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel. Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13. Talk with your family about why Jesus says that it is so important to remain ready to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray together that your family will always keep God first in your lives so that you will all be prepared to receive Jesus when he comes. Pray together the Act of Hope.

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

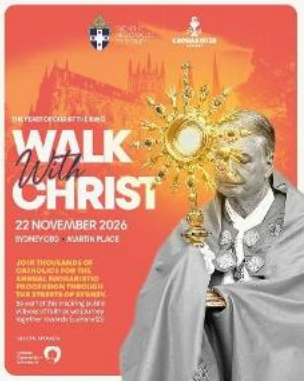
14th & 15th November

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

Special Ministers	**5PM**	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
	Beatrice Bonett	Yvonne Martins	Jackie Romanous	Antonella Russo
	Vince Blefari	Lilly Ravi	Helen Williamson	**Volunteer Needed**
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Readers	Helen Blefari	Daniel Martins	Anne Marrins	Andrew Chasle
	Maria Soo	John Edwards	Steven Doumit	Luka Govorcin
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Altar Servers	Marissa B.	Jacob M.	Jay L.	Zachary A.
	Olivia B.	Wong Family	Jarvis L.	**Volunteer Needed**
	Volunteer Needed	Dann Family	Courtney O.	**Volunteer Needed**
	Volunteer Needed	**Volunteer Needed**	Charlize O.	**Volunteer Needed**
	5PM	**8AM**	**10AM**	**6PM**
Wardens	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	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 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls people to seek wisdom, stay prepared, and trust in God's promises. The readings offer guidance on how to live with purpose and readiness. Wisdom is available to those who seek it, and faith gives strength in times of uncertainty. The parable of the ten virgins reminds people that preparation cannot be borrowed—it must be built through daily choices. These reflections help explore how to apply these lessons in everyday life.

Lady Wisdom and True Understanding - The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A highlights the importance of wisdom. The first reading presents Wisdom as radiant and unfading, always available to those who seek her. This image of Wisdom as a woman is striking. It reminds us that true understanding is not hidden but waiting to be found by those who search with open hearts. This reading encourages people to pursue wisdom actively. It does not simply appear out of nowhere. Wisdom is found by those who watch for it and seek it sincerely. Just as people must put effort into learning and growing, they must also seek wisdom in their spiritual lives. The way Wisdom is described also challenges how people view women. Women are often expected to be intelligent and strong, yet they are sometimes overlooked or not taken seriously. This passage reminds people to value wisdom wherever it is found, including in the insights and leadership of women. Wisdom leads to freedom from worry. When people make wise choices, they avoid unnecessary trouble and stress. The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches that wisdom is not just about knowing things but about living in a way that brings peace. Seeking wisdom helps people live better and grow closer to God.

Being Ready for What Comes - The parable of the ten virgins in the Gospel for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches about preparation. The wise virgins bring extra oil, while the foolish ones do not. When the bridegroom arrives, only those who are ready can enter the wedding feast. This story is a reminder that people must always be prepared for what comes next. The foolish virgins want to borrow oil, but the wise ones do not share. This might seem selfish, but it teaches an important lesson. Some things in life cannot be borrowed or given away. A person cannot rely on someone else's faith or preparation. Each person must take responsibility for their own spiritual journey. Preparation takes effort. Just as the wise virgins brought extra oil, people must make time for prayer, good works, and faith. These things help a person stay ready for God. Without them, a person risks being caught unprepared. The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A encourages people to reflect on their own readiness. Are they prepared to meet God? Do they take their faith seriously? The parable shows that those who prepare will find joy, while those who delay may miss out on what truly matters.

The Wisdom of Hope - The second reading for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds believers not to grieve without hope. It speaks about those who have died and reassures that they will rise again. This message is one of comfort and encouragement. Death is not the end, and faith gives people hope for the future. Hope requires wisdom. A wise person does not only focus on the present but prepares for what is to come. They trust in God's promises and live in a way that reflects that trust. This reading challenges people to think about where they place their hope. Is it in temporary things, or in the promise of eternal life? This passage also reminds people of the importance of faith in difficult times. Losing a loved one can bring sorrow, but faith offers peace. Knowing that God has prepared a place for them brings comfort. Hope does not erase grief, but it gives people the strength to move forward. The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites people to reflect on how they live their faith. Do they trust in God's promises? Are they preparing for eternal life? Wisdom and hope go hand in hand, guiding people to a life that is both meaningful and prepared for what is to come. The message of the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A is clear: wisdom, readiness, and faith are essential. Those who seek wisdom find peace, those who prepare are not caught off guard, and those who trust in God have hope. These readings challenge everyone to think about their own spiritual journey. Are they seeking wisdom? Are they ready? Are they living with hope? Each person must take responsibility for their faith and stay prepared for what is to come.

Prayer

Lord, help me seek wisdom and live with understanding. Guide me to make choices that bring peace and prepare me for what is ahead. Strengthen my faith so I may trust in Your promises. Teach me to be ready for Your coming and to walk in Your ways each day. 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