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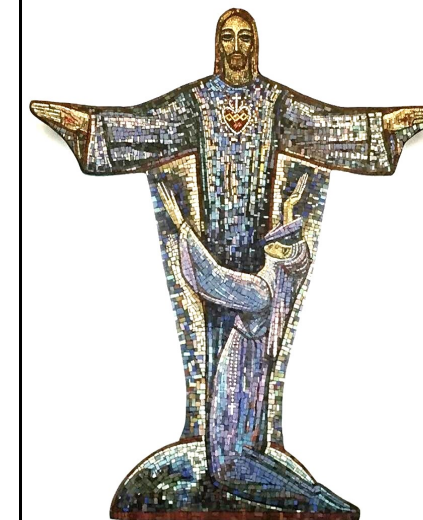
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Parish Priest
Fr Wojciech Sliwa

Assistant Priest
Fr Jeremy Santoso



Ordo Sancti Pauli Primi Eremitae

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE:
1-5 Chetwynd Rd,
MERRYLANDS NSW 2160
Postal Address: PO Box 757, Merrylands.
Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am - 3:30pm
Phone: 9637 2526 9637 2014
Fax: 9637 2442
Email: parish@stmm.org.au
Website: stmm.org.au

PARISH GROUPS CO-ORDINATORS:
Secretary: Denise Fernandes
Finance Committee: TBA
Parish Council:
♦ Chair:
♦ Secretary:

Fundraising Committee:
♦ Mike Jacobson - 0438 590 136

Catechists: Sonia Abi-Rached

Music : Kerry van der Linden

Sacraments: Monique Kairouz

Acolytes / RCIA : Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082

Readers: Gwen D'Silva

YOUTH GROUP:
Pauline Junior / Teen: Fr. Jeremy Santoso

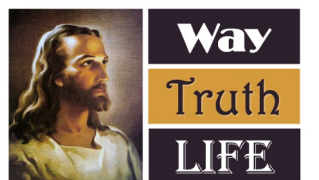
Legion of Mary: Merwyn D'Souza - 0404 863 564

Playgroup: Kathy-lynn Azzi - 0416 225 815

St Vincent de Paul: 88619757



07TH MAY 2023
YEAR A



WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday: 6:00pm Vigil

Sunday: 7:30am
9:00am
10:30am
6:00pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday: 9:15am

Tuesday: 9:00am & 7:00pm
Wednesday: 9:00am & 7:00pm
Thursday: 9:00am
Friday: 9:00am & 7:00pm
Saturday: 8:30am

PRAYER: HOLY FATHER-POPE FRANCIS

MONTHLY INTENTION: MAY

For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

FIRST FRIDAY:

11:00am: Maltese Mass
06:30pm: Confession
07:00pm: Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition

ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Thursdays-Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30 am - 2:30pm
4th Sunday of the month: 1:00pm - 1:30pm- Divine Mercy Devotions
1st Friday of the month: approx. 8:30pm- midnight

VESPERS- SUNDAY EVENINGS

5:15 pm - 5:45pm

RCIA SESSIONS- SUNDAY MORNINGS

9am Mass followed by Session 10 am -11am

DEVOTIONS:

- ♦ Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Succour)
Wednesday: after morning Mass
Wednesday: 6:00pm before 7:00pm Mass (Marian Movement Cenacle)
- ♦ Veneration of the Holy Face of Jesus:
Tuesday: 7:30pm - 8:30pm
- ♦ Divine Mercy Devotions
4th Sunday of the month: 1.00pm - 3.00pm, 3.00pm - Holy Mass

BAPTISMS: 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

RECONCILIATION:

Tues - Fri 8.30 - 8.55am
Sat - 9am - 9.30am and 4.30pm-5.30pm

MARRIAGES: By appointment only (6 months required)

SICK CALLS: 9637 2526- option 3 - any time



 Please remember to switch off your mobile phone

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

1 Pt 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to

prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

MEDITATION:

Do you allow any troubles to rob you of God's gift of peace? As much as we try to avoid it, we inevitably encounter challenges and trials that can shake our confidence and our trust in God. Jesus knew that his disciples would be put to the test when their Master was taken from them during his suffering and passion - his arrest, trial, and rejection by the leaders of his own people, and crucifixion by the Romans. Jesus encouraged his disciples to put their faith and hope in God the Father and also in himself. When adversity or trouble comes your way, does it make you lose hope or give into fear and despair, or does it press you closer to the Lord Jesus and to the strength and help he offers you? When the people of Israel became discouraged and grew weary during their 40 years in the wilderness, the Lord assured them that he would personally bring them safely into the promised land. This land of promise was a sign that prefigured and pointed to the true heavenly homeland which God offers to all who accept his gift of salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus, through his victory on the cross and his resurrection, has opened the way for each one of us to live in peace and friendship with our heavenly Father. **Lord Jesus, you fill us with the joy of your saving presence and you give us the hope of everlasting life with the Father in Heaven. Show me the Father that I may know and glorify him more fully.**



MAY DEVOTIONS

During the month of May, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after all Morning Masses and recitation of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Act of Consecration. Within the cycle of a year, the Church unfolds the whole of the mystery of Christ from His incarnation and birth until His ascension, the day of Pentecost and the expectation of Blessed hope and of the Lord's return.



In celebrating this annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honours with special love **Mary, the Mother of God** who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son. In her, the Church holds up and admires the most excellent effect of the redemption and joyfully contemplates, as in a flawless image, that which the Church itself desires and hopes wholly to be. (SC102, 103)

MORNING TEA WITH OUR NEW PARISH PRIEST FR. WOJCIECH

To welcome our new Parish Priest, Fr. Wojciech Sliwa, the Parish is inviting everyone to join us for morning tea this **Sunday, 07 May after 10.30am Mass in the Pastoral Centre. Please bring a plate to share.**



PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| ◆ Reuben Dias | ◆ Fr. Gabriel Taylor | ◆ Charles Zammit |
| ◆ Leonardo Pedavoli | ◆ Mary Callagja | ◆ David O'Connor |
| ◆ Shelly Barnes | ◆ Rita Figredo | ◆ Marcelina Domingo |
| ◆ Robbie Barnes | ◆ Chau Tran Chon Chau Maria | ◆ Jacqueline Parr |
| ◆ Therese Nicolas | ◆ Salam Awkar | |
| ◆ Hermie Alves | ◆ Leila Rouhana | |



Father, pour out Your Spirit upon the people of this parish so that inspired by Your word, nourished at Your table and graced by Your empowering love, our lives may be devoted to the service of our brothers and sisters and the building up of Your Kingdom. May our parish community truly be, for this place and time, the Body of Christ Your Son, through whom we make this prayer. **Amen**



SUPPORT

We request our generous Parishioners, if possible to kindly continue to financially support our Parish by contributing towards their Planned giving, Sunday Collections or donations to the Church.

Payment options are:

QUEST Tap to Donate (3 devices inside the Church)

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Account Name: Merrylands Catholic Church

(Please specify details of your contribution i.e. Envelope Number or First Collection or Second Collection).

HOME VISITS



Do you know someone living in the Parish who is **permanently housebound and cannot get to Mass?** If you know someone in that situation and the person wishes to receive Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick or Confession; home visits are conducted by our Priests.

Please call our Parish office during opening hours with details and a visit will be arranged. **Thank you**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION THURSDAYS 9:30am to 2:30pm

The Lord invites us to take some time out of our busy lives to spend some time with Him in quiet adoration, prayer and reflection. If you can spare 1/2 hour or more, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed after morning Mass every Thursday until 2:30pm. **ALL ARE WELCOME**



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 14 MAY 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

Acts 8:5 - 8,14 -17; 1Pet 3:15 - 18; Jn 14:15 - 21

SCRIPTURE STUDY

You are invited to experience the joy of **"the Word of God"** in a weekly discussion meeting on Thursdays at 7pm commencing from 11 May at St. Margaret Mary's Pastoral Centre.

For further queries, contact Gwen on 9632 9097



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



On **2nd Sunday** of each month, couples celebrating their wedding anniversary during that month are invited for a special blessing at the 10:30am Mass.

The next blessing will be on **Sunday, 14 May 2023.**

Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office with their relevant details.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

Sacrament of Reconciliation program is divided into two groups taught by Monique Kairouz & assisted by Fr. Jeremy Santos.

RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

All preparation sessions will be held on **WEDNESDAYS with two time slots** to choose from: **5:30 - 6:30pm or 7:00 - 8:00pm**

Session 2: 10 MAY

Session 3: 17 MAY

Session 4: 24 MAY

Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre



Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Monday, 29 May 2023 at 6:00pm inside the Church.

STMM PIETY CORNER SHOP

We request our Parishioners to support our Parish Piety Corner Shop with their generous purchase of a variety of available products. These items are perfect for your own personal needs or as a treasured gift to share with others. Purchases may be done from the Parish Office as well during working hours. **Thank you.**



DEVOTIONAL RELIGIOUS CANDLES

A variety of devotional candles are being sold at the Parish Piety Corner Shop. We request our Parishioners to support our Parish with their generous purchase. These candles are perfect for your own personal devotion or as a treasured gift to share with others.

Small candle \$6 each (burns upto 70 hours)

Large plastic candle \$10 each (burns upto 7days)

Large glass candle \$12 each (burns upto 7days)

Pilgrimage to Penrose Park

Our Lady of Fatima Day (Saturday 13 May 2023)

The Piety Shop is organising a Pilgrimage to Penrose Park to celebrate Fatima Day on Saturday 13 May. The bus will depart St. Margaret Mary's Parish at 8:00am and will return approximately at 4:00pm.

Please bring your own lunch and drinks.

Cost: \$25 (return trip). To book your seat, please see Lydia or Santy in the Piety Shop by **8th May** to add your name to the list. Space is limited.



YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 12 May)

Our youth group for Primary School Students. It meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month starting at 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Pauline Teen (Next Meeting: 12 May)

Our youth group for High School Students. It meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month starting at 8:00pm to 9:00pm.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA SATURDAY – 13 MAY 2023

St Margaret Mary's parish invites everyone for special prayers/devotions in honour of Our Lady of Fatima after 8:30am Mass.

Following Mass there will be: Recitation of the Holy Rosary, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary & Act of Consecration.



As we honour the special role of motherhood; St Margaret Mary's Parish invites all mothers, grand-mothers and carers to receive a special Mother's Day blessing during all Masses next weekend.

REGINA CAELI

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.
R. For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia.

V. Has risen, as He said, Alleluia.
R. Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.
R. For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray, O God, who gave joy to the world through the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**