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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS

Our Parish is under the Pastoral Care of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit (known as the Pauline Fathers) who for more than 630 years are renowned Custodians of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, Poland.

Parish Priest
Fr Janusz Pawlucha

Assistant Priest
Fr Joseph Maria Buckley




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

Second Sunday
ADVENT



08th DECEMBER 2019

PARISH GROUPS CO-ORDINATORS:
Secretary: Denise Fernandes
Finance Committee: Reuben Dias
Parish Council:
♦ Chair: Bella Reyes - 0419 228 160
Fr Janusz Pawlucha, OSPPE
♦ Secretary: Cheryl Fortini

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

Fundraising Committee:
♦ Mike Jacobson - 0438 590 136
Catechists: Sonia Abi-Rached
Music: Kerry van der Linden - 0406 973 350
Sacraments: TBA
Acolytes / RCIA: Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082
Readers: Gwen D'Silva
YOUTH GROUP:
Pauline Teen: Fr Joseph / Rita Jacobson
Legion of Mary: Merwyn D'Souza - 0478 109 569
Playgroup: Nicole Gadd - 0402 350 170
St Vincent de Paul: 88619757
Bus to Berrima: Giovanna - 9682 1008

PRAYER: HOLY FATHER-POPE FRANCIS'
MONTHLY INTENTION : DECEMBER
Universal - The Very Young
That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.



FIRST FRIDAY:
11am: Maltese Mass
7.00pm: 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 Succour
Tuesday: after morning Mass
Wednesday: 6:30pm before 7:00pm Mass
♦ 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



THIS WEEK: 08 December 2019
Counting: Group F
Church Cleaning: A
Altar & general cleaning - Nada & Volunteers
NEXT WEEK: 15 December 2019
Counting: Group G
Church Cleaning: C
Altar & general cleaning - Nada & Volunteers

BAPTISMS: 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
RECONCILIATION:
Tues - Fri 8.30 - 8.55am
Sat - 9am - 9.30am and 4.30pm-5.30pm (or by appointment)
MARRIAGES: By appointment only (6 months required)
SICK CALLS: 9637 2526 - option 3 or 0412 625 187 - any time



Please remember to switch off your mobile phone

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING

Is 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
- For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
- May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
And behold the joy which comes to you from God.

MEDITATION:

The Lord Jesus gives us the fire of his Spirit so that we may radiate the joy and truth of the Gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. His word has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing others to Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do you point others to Christ in the way you live, work, and speak? "Lord, let your light burn brightly in my heart that I may know the joy and freedom of your kingdom. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to witness the truth of your Gospel and to point others to Jesus Christ."

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MONDAY - 9 DECEMBER 2019



The Blessed Virgin promised that whatever a person asked her for during this Hour of Grace would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the Will of the Eternal Father.
"Hour of Grace" will be held from 12:00 noon - 01:00 pm on 09 December 2019 at St. Margaret Mary's Church.
ALL ARE WELCOME

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION Wednesday 18 DECEMBER 2019 After 7:00pm Mass

The 2nd rite of Reconciliation will be held at St Margaret Mary's parish on Wednesday, 18th December following the 7pm Mass. There will be community prayers to prepare for reconciliation, followed by the opportunity for individual confessions.

We are encouraged to take advantage of this great opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare for Christmas and avoid the Christmas week Confession rush.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ◆ Peter Newman | ◆ Sonia & Pierre Abi-Rached | ◆ Andrew Tawil |
| ◆ Tony Ostojic | ◆ Therese Nicolas | ◆ Giovanna Prestipino |
| ◆ Shelly Barnes | ◆ Luca Jerkovic | ◆ Alice Said |
| ◆ Shirley Fomo | ◆ Susan Pace | ◆ Youssef Tawil |
| ◆ Fiona Khoury | ◆ Branko Soric | ◆ Peter Van Tilburg |
| ◆ Annie Ingram | ◆ Theresa Durand | ◆ Nicole Ratnakumar |
| ◆ Teresa Saad | ◆ Joanna Essey | ◆ Sakaria Frank Mausio |
| ◆ Doreen Dias | ◆ Desfosses | ◆ Diab Baysari |
| ◆ George & Mary Spiteri | ◆ Adam Borcuik | ◆ Mario & Tereza Cutajar |
| ◆ Christopher Oldham | ◆ Rose Abdo | ◆ Mary Essey |
| ◆ Simon Khoury | ◆ Jocelyn Santos | ◆ Greg Stephen |
| ◆ Gervais | ◆ Willie & Tereza Cutajar | ◆ Gretta Charbel |

CHRISTMAS MASS 2019

CHRISTMAS EVE :

TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2019

- * 6:00 pm - Family Mass (children are welcome to come dressed as angels, shepherds or kings)
- * 11:30pm - Christmas Carols
- * Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY:

WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER 2019

- * 7:30 am
- * 9:00 am
- * 10:30 am

There will be **NO EVENING MASS**

Altar Boy's Practice

Saturday -14 December 2019 at 12:00 noon.
All welcome from ages 8 and up.
Please contact Fr. Joseph Maria for any further information.



St. Margaret Mary's Altar Boys Albs

Twenty New Altar boys Albs have been ordered and are ready to be worn. The total costs for the Albs is \$1500 which has been donated by one of our generous Parishioner. 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**

Parish Movie Night Saturday 21 December 2019

Come join us in the Pastoral Center to watch a film every 3rd Saturday of the Month after the 6pm evening Mass. The film for December is "The Christmas Candle". Rated G. Film will be followed by a short talk/discussion.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 15 DECEMBER 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Year A: Is 35:1-6,10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11



PARISH MORNING TEA Sunday - 08 December 2019



Where : Pastoral Centre Time : following 10.30am Mass
This week : Catechists
Next week: Legion of Mary
ALL ARE WELCOME



DATE: Sunday 15 DECEMBER 2019
TIME: After 10:30 am Mass
VENUE: SMM School Grounds

Highlights:

- Christmas Carols
- Games for all ages
- Jumping castle
- Raffle
- BBQ, bottled water, soft drinks, ice creams, tea & coffee for sale at low prices
- Santa's Grand Entrance



Children are invited to come dressed for the festive season.

Volunteer helpers are welcome to attend the next Fund-raising Committee meeting next Wednesday, 11 December after the 7pm Mass or contact Mike Jacobson (0438 590 136).



We hope you can join us as we celebrate the joy of Christmas together!

CHRISTMAS CARDS & CALENDARS

St Margaret Mary's Parish will be selling Christmas cards and calendars after all Sunday Masses.

- ◆ Christmas Cards (Pkt of 8) : \$5.00
- ◆ Calendars : \$6.00



Children's Liturgy of the Word AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH

Commencing Sunday, 15 December 2019 and every 3rd Sunday of the Month, there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass. **ALL children are welcome to attend**



SCRIPTURE STUDY—THURSDAY EVENINGS

You are invited to experience the joy of "the Word of God" in a weekly discussion/study meeting at 7pm at St. Margaret Mary's Pastoral Centre. For further queries, please contact Gwen on 9632 9097.



What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?
He got 25 days!
What carol is heard in the desert?
O camel ye faithful!
What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!