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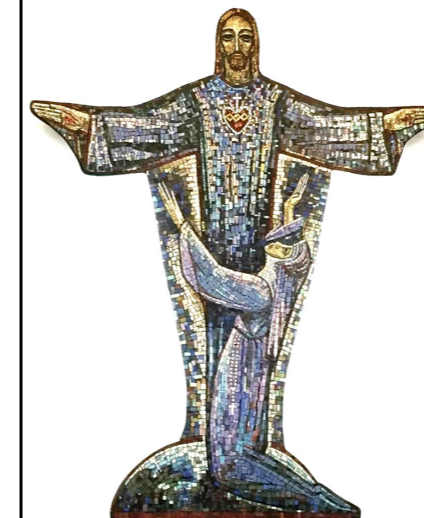
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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS



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 Pawlicha

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

PARISH GROUPS CO-ORDINATORS:
Secretary: Denise Fernandes
Finance Committee: TBA

Parish Council:
♦ **Chair:** Gwen D'Silva
Fr Janusz Pawlicha, OSPPE
♦ **Secretary:** Monique Kairouz

Fundraising Committee:
♦ Mike Jacobson - 0438 590 136

Catechists: Sonia Abi-Rached

Music : Kerry van der Linden

Sacraments: Fr Joseph Maria Buckley

Acolytes / RCIA : Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082

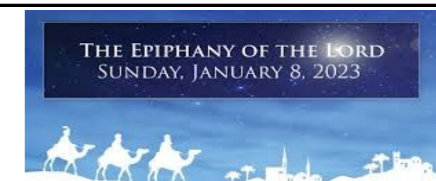
Readers: Gwen D'Silva

YOUTH GROUP:
Pauline Teen: Fr Joseph / Rita Jacobson

Legion of Mary: John Donaldson - 0422 656 991

Playgroup: Nicole Gadd - 0402 350 170

St Vincent de Paul: 88619757



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: JANUARY

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

FIRST FRIDAY:

11:00am: Maltese Mass

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

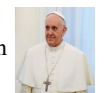
RECONCILIATION:

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 or 0412 625 187 - any time



 Please remember to switch off your mobile phone

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

- 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 earth's bounds. **(R.)**
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **(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.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod

heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

MEDITATION:



In their thirst for knowledge of God, the wise men from the East willingly left everything, their home and country, in pursuit of that quest. In their diligent search they were led to the source of true knowledge - to Jesus Christ, the Light and Wisdom of God. When they found the newborn King they humbly worshiped him and gave him gifts fitting for a king. To know and to encounter Jesus Christ is to know God personally. In the encounter of the wise men with Jesus we see the plan of God to give his only Son as King and Savior, not just for the Jewish people but for all the nations as well. The Lord Jesus came that both Jew and Gentile might find true and lasting peace with God. Let us pray today that Jew and Gentile alike will find the Lord and Savior on their journey of life. Do you bring the light of Jesus Christ to those you meet through the witness of your life and testimony? **Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for bringing salvation to all the nations. May the gospel of salvation be proclaimed to every nation today and to every person on the face of the earth. Help me to be a good witness of the joy of the gospel to all I meet.**

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING 20 C + M + B 23

(Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year)

This **Sunday, 08 January 2023**, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We rejoice that the light of Christ has come into our world. Today, we invite families to take home a piece of this chalk to mark the front door of your homes as a blessing for the New Year. **Kindly ensure one pack per family is taken.**



FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



On **Monday, 09 January 2023**, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or Epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan; when God his father revealed His love and favour for his Son - Jesus Christ our Lord. During the Mass there will be a special Blessing of Water.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE OF WATER TO BE BLESSED DURING THE MASS

PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◆ Reuben Dias | ◆ Therese Nicolas | ◆ Rita Figredo |
| ◆ Leonardo Pedavoli | ◆ Hermie Alves | ◆ Roxane Recto-Cavanagh |
| ◆ Shelly Barnes | ◆ Fr. Gabriel Taylor | ◆ Chau Tran Chon Chau Maria |
| ◆ Robbie Barnes | ◆ Doreen Callagja | |



OUR PARISH PRAYER

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.

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Account Name: Merrylands Catholic Church

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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.**



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 15 JANUARY 2023

Solemnity of St. Paul The First Hermit

2 Kg 17:2-6; Gal 2:19-20,5:24-25,6:14-17; Mt 21:25-30

FATHER JOSEPH MARIA BUCKLEY FAREWELL MASS 15 JANUARY 2023 - 10:30AM

Thanking You for Your Service to Our Parish



We have been blessed over the last 3 years to have had the presence of Father Joseph Maria Buckley at St Margaret Mary's parish as our assistant Priest. His contribution to our Parish has been invaluable.

Father Joseph has been assigned a new role at the Monastery in Berrima. May our Triune God bless Father Joseph as he continues his ministry and may our Blessed Mother guide and protect him always.

A farewell Mass for Father Joseph will be held on Sunday at 10.30am followed by a Parish Morning tea in the Pastoral Centre. Please bring a plate to share.

For those who wish to contribute to a farewell monetary gift for Father Joseph, kindly contact our Parish Office during office hours.

Feast Day of St Paul the First Hermit SUNDAY - 15 JANUARY 2023

- ◆ Solemn Mass at 10:30am (special blessings for children & blessings of dates & apricots).
- ◆ Special 3rd collection at all Masses to support Seminarians of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit in Australia and overseas.



01 -31 JANUARY 2023

- ◆ **09:15 am - Monday**
- ◆ **09:00 am - Tuesday to Friday**
- ◆ **08:30 am - Saturday**
- ◆ **NO Evening Weekday Masses**
- ◆ **Weekend Masses as usual**
- ◆ **06:00 pm - Saturday (Vigil)**
- ◆ **07:30 am, 09:00am, 10:30am - Sunday**
- ◆ **06:00 pm - Sunday**

ALL DEVOTIONS, ADORATIONS & EVENING MASSES WILL RESUME ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2023



CHRISTMAS & DEVOTIONAL RELIGIOUS CANDLES

A variety of devotional candles and Christmas 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 \$5 each (burns upto 70 hours)
Large candle \$10 each (burns upto 7days)



SOLEMNITY OF ST. PAUL THE FIRST HERMIT SUNDAY - 15 JANUARY 2023

To prepare for this Solemnity, the Novena to St. Paul will be recited after morning Mass beginning on **Friday, 06 January and concluding on Sunday, 15 January**, which will be our Patronal Feast Day. We ask all our Parishioners to pray for all the Priests, brothers & seminarians in the order of St Paul the First Hermit and for an increase in vocations to the order.

Invocations to St. Paul the First Hermit

Saint Paul, Patriarch of our Order,
Saint Paul, faithful follower of Christ
Saint Paul, man of strong and lively faith,
Saint Paul, lover of solitude,
Saint Paul, persevering in prayer and penance,
Saint Paul, patient in bearing the difficulties of the eremitical life,
Saint Paul, embracing with your devoted love the Church of Christ and the whole mankind,
Saint Paul, model of perseverance in your chosen way of life,
Saint Paul, prepared to meet God at the time of death, That we may be faithful to our monastic vocation,

Pray for us.

Intercede to God for us

That through the observance of our religious vows, we may become more Christ-like, That we may fulfil Christ's command to love all men, That we may pray well and unceasingly, That we may participate in the saving love of Christ through a penitential life, That we may not succumb to the temptation of mediocrity, That we may prudently profit from the fruits of the land and from technical and cultural achievements; That we may fearlessly strive to attain that love exemplified in the Gospel, That we may feel responsible for our Order and its apostolic works, That we may persevere in our Order until death, Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Hermits and Patroness of our Order,

We beg you Lord, hear us!

Through the merits of all the Saints of our Order, That you may graciously grant our monastic community an increase in number and an enrichment of virtues, That you may generously provide graces for our families, confraters and benefactors, That you may show your mercy to our brothers, who have left our community, That you may remedy the failures and defects of our love, That you may grant the grace of conversion to the enemies of the Church, That you may grant eternal happiness to our deceased brothers, parents, relatives, confraters and benefactors.

L. Pray for us St. Paul the First Hermit,
All That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

L: Let us pray:

O God, who willed that St. Paul, our Father, reach a high degree of sanctity through a life of solitude in the desert, grant that, through this intercession, we who are striving to develop in ourselves a spirit of prayer and service, may come ever closer to you in love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen