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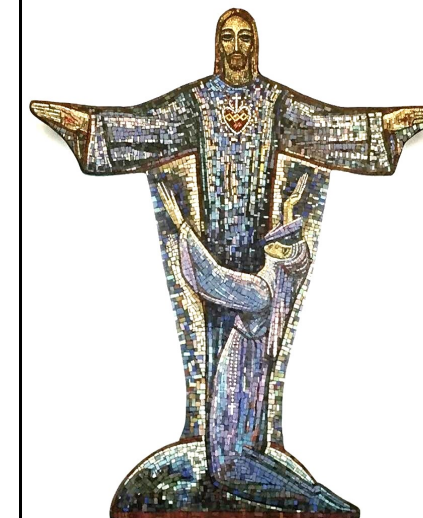
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CONTACT US

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



Year A
11th
December
2022

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: DECEMBER

For volunteer not-for-profit organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

- It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *(R.)*
- It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. *(R.)*
- It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then

what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

MEDITATION:

Jesus knew that what the Father in heaven had sent him to accomplish for our sake would supersede all that the prophets had done and foreseen in the past. Jesus' atoning death on the cross cancels the debt of our sins and sets us free to live as citizens of his kingdom. He gives us pardon, healing, and abundant life through his Holy Spirit, and the promise of unending joy with him in his everlasting kingdom. John the Baptist paid the ultimate sacrifice of his life for speaking God's word and preparing the way for Jesus the Lord and Savior of the world. The Lord Jesus offers us the same assurance of faith and the strength to stand against every force that would try to rob us of our conviction and courage to live and proclaim the good news (the Gospel) of God's kingdom. Do you know the joy, strength, and power which Jesus gives to every one who puts their trust in him and the power of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Lord Jesus to increase your faith and hope in his promises for you. *Lord Jesus, strengthen my trust in your word and my hope in the saving power of your kingdom. Free me from everything that would hold me back from pursuing your kingdom and your will for my life.*



MASS TIMES 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 RAFFLE DRAW & SAUSAGE SIZZLE 11 DECEMBER 2022



Christmas Raffle tickets will be on sale until the raffle draw takes place on 11 December at mid-day. For **ONLY \$5 EACH**, with over \$3500 worth of prizes consisting of attractive gifts, business & taxation, massage, dining, grocery & gift vouchers to be won in the lucky draw.

Highlights:

- Christmas Carols
- Raffle lucky draw
- Sausage sizzle + water or soft drinks or tea or coffee + Christmas cookie (combo for only \$5)
- Santa's Grand Entrance

Sausage Sizzle will be on sale after 7:30am, 9:00am & 10.30am Mass



Christmas Raffle Draw after 10.30am Mass

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

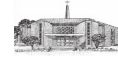
PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| ♦ 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.

Payment options are:

QUEST Tap to Donate (3 devices inside the Church)

Cash (Parish Office during office hours)

Credit Card (Parish Office during office hours)

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Direct Debit: BSB: 067 950

Account Number: 00438

Account Name: Merrylands Catholic Church
(Please specify details of your contribution i.e. Envelope Number or First Collection or Second Collection).

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**



ADVENT AT OUR PARISH Everyday after Morning Mass

As we joyfully await the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, all are invited to join in spiritual Advent preparations following morning Masses every day.

This includes Exposition of the Blessed sacrament, Advent prayer, one decade of the Rosary for our Parish Community and five minutes of private adoration.



SCRIPTURE STUDY

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



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 18 DECEMBER 2022 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



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.**



The Parish sincerely thank all our Volunteers who came forward and helped decorate the Church for Advent & Christmas on Saturday, 26 November 2022. Thank you for your valuable time.

CHRISTMAS MASS 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE : SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER

- * **6:00 pm - Family Mass** (children are welcome to come dressed as angels, shepherds or kings)
- * **11:30pm - Christmas Carols**
- * **12:00am - Midnight Mass**

CHRISTMAS DAY: SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

- * **7:30 am**
 - * **9:00 am**
 - * **10:30 am**
- There will be NO EVENING MASS**



VOICES NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS



We are seeking **CHILDREN & ADULTS** to join the Choir and be part of our festive celebration for the Christmas Vigil Mass at 6pm on 24 December 2022. Please contact Kerry at k.dainer1@gmail.com for further details.

Simbang Gabi

The devotional nine-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas

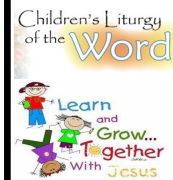
Dawn Mass at St. Margaret Mary's Parish 16 to 24 December 2022 at 5:00am

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It is a series of nine dawn masses on the days leading to Christmas. It begins on December 16 and ends on December 24. **ALL ARE WELCOME**



Parish Movie Night Saturday - 17 December 2022

Please come join us in the Pastoral Center to watch a movie (**The Nativity Story**) after the 6pm evening Mass.



AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (18 December 2022) there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.

All children are welcome to attend.

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)



RCIA PROGRAM



RCIA is an ongoing Apostolate in this Parish. The RCIA Apostolate consists of a dedicated team of volunteers who have received instructions to guide anyone who wishes to join the Catholic Church through weekly preparations classes and regular Mass attendance.

If you know of anyone who wishes to enter the Catholic Faith, who has been baptised in another Faith or unbaptised and wishes to complete the Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church; Please see our Priests after Mass during the weekends or contact the **RCIA Co-ordinator Peter Carroll on 0414 070 082** or the Parish Office.