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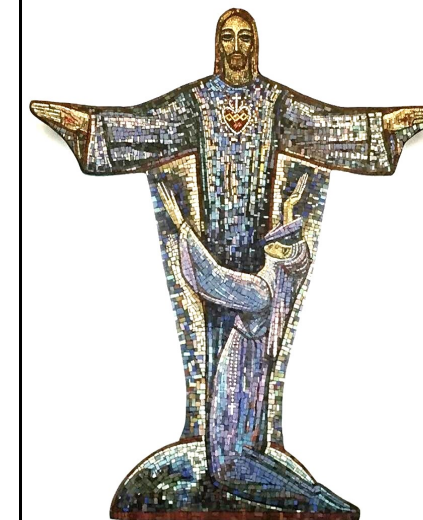
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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS



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 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: 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: TBA

Acolytes / RCIA : Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082

Readers: Gwen D'Silva

YOUTH GROUP:
Pauline Junior / Teen: TBA

Legion of Mary: John Donaldson - 0422 656 991

Playgroup: Nicole Gadd - 0402 350 170

St Vincent de Paul: 88619757



the LORD is kind and merciful

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)
19th February 2023

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

WEEKEND MASSES:		WEEKDAY MASSES:	
Saturday:	6:00pm Vigil	Monday:	9:15am
Sunday:	7:30am	Tuesday:	9:00am & 7:00pm
	9:00am	Wednesday:	9:00am & 7:00pm
	10:30am	Thursday:	9:00am
	6:00pm	Friday:	9:00am & 7:00pm
		Saturday:	8:30am

PRAYER: HOLY FATHER-POPE FRANCIS'
MONTHLY INTENTION: FEBRUARY
For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

FIRST READING

Lv 19:1-2. 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: ‘Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: “Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. “You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

- My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. *(R.)*
- It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. *(R.)*
- The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. *(R.)*
- As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

1 Cor 3:16-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you

to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. ‘You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.’

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

MEDITATION:

If someone insults you or tries to take advantage of you, how do you respond? Do you repay in kind? Jesus approached the question of just retribution with a surprising revelation of God's intention for how we should treat others, especially those who mistreat us. When Jesus spoke about God's law, he did something no one had done before. He gave a new standard based not just on the requirements of justice - giving each their due - but based on the law of grace, love, and freedom. God knows our sinfulness and weaknesses better than we do - and he assures us of his love, mercy, and help. That is why he freely gives us his power, strength, and gifts so that we may not lack anything we need to do his will and to live as his sons and daughters (2 Peter 1:3). Do you want to grow in your love for God and for your neighbor? Ask the Holy Spirit to purify and transform you in the image of the Father that you may know and live in the joy and freedom of the Gospel.

Lord Jesus, your love brings freedom and pardon. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and set my heart ablaze with your love that nothing may make me lose my temper, ruffle my peace, take away my joy, nor make me bitter towards anyone.





Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's main fundraising campaign. It mobilises Australians to raise much-needed funds to help alleviate poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity in the most marginalised communities in the world.

This message invites us to step up for those who do not have the essential resources they need for their survival and those whose needs at this time are far beyond ours. By putting compassion into action, we can make a difference today For All Future Generations, the theme of Project Compassion 2023. Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/roject-compassion or phoning 1800 024 413.


FEAST OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS
21 FEBRUARY 2023 - 9:00AM & 7:00PM


Solemn Mass for the **Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus** is on **Shrove Tuesday, 21 February 2023 at 9:00am and 7:00pm.** Morning tea will be provided after the 9:00am Mass at the Pastoral Centre. Copy of 9 Day Novena available www.holyface.com
LORD, SHOW US YOUR FACE and WE SHALL BE SAVED



PRAYER REQUESTS

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






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).



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**



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

26 FEBRUARY 2023


First Sunday of Lent (Year A)
Gen 2:7 - 9, 3:1 - 7; Rom 5:12 - 19; Mt 4:1 - 11


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





ALLIANCE OF THE TWO HEARTS

Please join us in responding to 'Our Blessed Mother's Appeal for Prayer & Reparation for World Peace & the Sanctity of Family Life'.

Every First Friday of the month after 7pm Mass, Scriptural Rosaries, Stations of the Cross, Adoration, & Nine Office of the Sacred Heart of Jesus until Midnight.


Every Friday (except 1st Friday of the month) the Adoration Service will commence after 7:00pm Mass until 10:00pm

"IN THE END, MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"

7 WAYS TO HAVE A GOOD LENT

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. This Lent do your best. Strive to root out sin and cultivate holiness. Let it be a lesson in humility that drives you back to the grace of God flowing from the pierced heart of Jesus - for that is the true heart of Lent.

1. Have a plan	2. Pray
3. Give alms	4. Fast
5. Examine yourself	6. Confess your sins
7. Read a good spiritual book	



DEVOTIONAL RELIGIOUS CANDLES

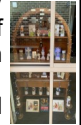
A variety of devotional candles are being sold at the Parish Piety Corner Shop. We request our Parishioners to support our Parish with their generous purchase. These candles are perfect for your own personal devotion or as a treasured gift to share with others.


Small candle \$5 each (burns upto 70 hours)
Large candle \$10 each (burns upto 7days)




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.**





Seeking expressions of interest for a kids choir at **6:00pm Mass on the Fourth Sunday of each month.** Kids must be able to attend 1-2 practices a month (likely Saturday mornings but we'll confirm once we have an idea of numbers and schedules). Contact **Rebecca on 0414972462** for more information.



SCRIPTURE STUDY

You are invited to experience the joy of **"the Word of God"** in a weekly Lenten discussion on Thursdays at **7:00pm** at St. Margaret Mary's Pastoral Centre. For further queries, contact Gwen on 9632 9097

Table Tennis social nights

Every Tuesday evening, in the Pastoral Centre from approx 7:30 pm after the evening Mass.
All are welcome.





WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY

Day of Fast and Abstinence


09:00am - Parish Mass
12:00pm - Parish Mass
07:00pm - Parish Mass

Fasting: 1 main meal, 2 light snacks to be observed by those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year.

Abstinence: from meat products & sweet treats to be observed by those who have completed their fourteenth year.

Why do Catholics have their foreheads marked with a cross on Ash Wednesday?


In the Bible a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. By having their foreheads marked with the Sign of a Cross, this symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, Who died on a Cross. This is in imitation of the spiritual mark or seal that is put on a Christian in baptism, when he is delivered from slavery to sin and the devil, and made a servant of righteousness and Christ.



The Season of Lent

Let today be the day you give up who you've been for you who can become.

Blessed Ash Wednesday



TUESDAY - following 9:00am Mass

FRIDAY - following 7:00pm Mass

FRIDAYS IN LENT

ROSARY- 6:30pm
HOLY MASS - 7:00pm
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 7:30pm following 7pm Mass

LENTEN MORNING DEVOTIONS

Following All Morning Mass (excluding Tuesday & Wednesday)

During the period of Lent, all are invited to join in our special Lenten devotions after the morning Mass. We will be reciting the **chaplet of Divine Mercy** and the **Litany of the Most Precious Blood of Christ.**

26 FEBRUARY 2023

1:00 – 1:30pm	Silent Adoration
1:30 – 3:00pm	Devotions
3:00 pm	Special Holy Mass

All are welcome to come and pray with us.

