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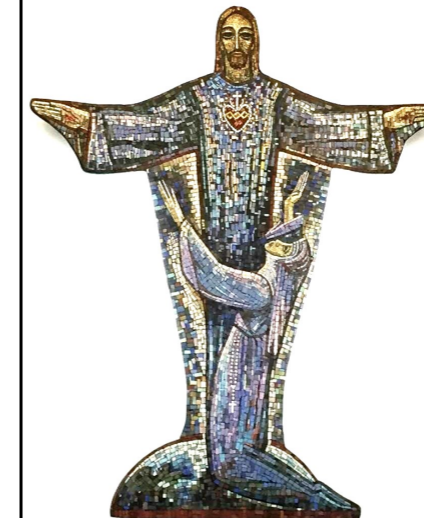
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**CONTACT US**

# 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. 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



### 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  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month: 1:00pm - 1:30pm - Divine Mercy Devotions  
1<sup>st</sup> 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**  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month: 1:00pm - 3:00pm, 3:00pm - Holy Mass

**BAPTISMS:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

*The Word of the Lord.*  
Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

- All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
- God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
- God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

*The Word of the Lord.*  
Thanks be to God

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.



## MEDITATION:

Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time. He assured them of his power -- a power which overcame sin and death. Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Savior, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to give them the power of his Holy Spirit, which we see fulfilled ten days later on the Feast of Pentecost (Luke 24:49 and Acts 2:1-4). When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left alone or powerless. Jesus assured them of his presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole church. All believers have been given a share in this task -- to be heralds of the good news and ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of his Holy Spirit. Today we witness a new Pentecost as the Lord pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people to renew and strengthen the body of Christ and to equip it for effective ministry and mission world-wide. Do you witness to others the joy of the gospel and the hope of the resurrection? **"Lord Jesus, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, you fill us with an indomitable spirit of praise and joy which no earthly trial can subdue. Fill me with your resurrection joy and help me to live a life of praise and thanksgiving for your glory. May I witness to those around me the joy of the gospel and the reality of your resurrection."**



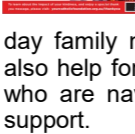
## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 28 MAY 2023 PENTECOST SUNDAY - YEAR A

Acts 2:1 - 11; 1Cor 12:3 - 7, 12 - 13; Jn 20:19 - 23

## BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL 20 & 21 MAY 2023



Dear Parishioners, This weekend, our Parish is proud to support the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal raising funds for Aboriginal Catholic Care at Emerton. The centre helps people seeking practical assistance, learning opportunities, and connection with others.



This may be through healthcare, help with everyday family needs, or financial and legal counselling. There's also help for people impacted by domestic violence and those who are navigating the justice system or needing mentoring support.

Your generosity will help Aboriginal Catholic Care to provide a welcoming place where people experiencing tough times can be supported with kindness and compassion.

Please give generously via the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal giving envelopes or online at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/)

## 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)

**Cash** (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).

## 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**



## 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

## ROSARY PROCESSION - 27 MAY 2023

The Legion of Mary, in conjunction with the Prospect Curia, is organizing a rosary procession on **Saturday (27 May)** of the Marian Month of May. The procession will commence immediately after the 8:30am Mass and will go around the Church and Primary School block. We encourage all parishioners and families to participate in this public witness of praying the rosary. Thank you all Marian devotees.



## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

**Patroness of Australia - Wednesday 24 May 2023**



**PRAYER:** Almighty God, Deepen our hearts in the love for Mary, Help of Christians. Through her prayers and under her protection may the light of Christ shine over our land, and may Your blessing remain with us always. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023



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

## 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 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)**

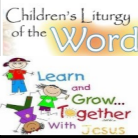
## YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

**Pauline Junior (Next Meetings: 26 May)**

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

**Pauline Teen (Next Meeting: 26 May)**

Our youth group for High School Students. It meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month starting at 8:00pm to 9:00pm. For further information please contact Fr. Jeremy at [Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org](mailto:Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org)



## AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, **(21 May 2023)** there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.

**All children are welcome to attend.**

## DIOCESAN SYNOD 2023

A Synod is both an event and a process where clergy, consecrated, and the laity gather to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church. Synods are transformative events that lead to renewal in the Church's life.



The Diocesan Synod will be held from **12-15 October 2023**. Further information is available on Diocesan Synod website: [www.parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://www.parracatholic.org/synod2023)



## 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)**