

- The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
- All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **(R.)**
- Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.
Alleluia!

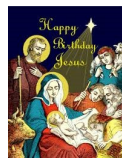
GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



The Nativity of our Lord is the **Central mystery of our faith**. On that first Christmas Day, **God came down to us and gave us the best He had: His very own self**.

At Christmas, we feel that God is very close to us and very loving towards us. As the same time, we feel closeness to one another. All this happens because God's Son became one of us. So Christmas is a celebration of joy, hope and peace. With gladness and happiness we should tell everyone that the Saviour is born and good news is announced and newness is proclaimed. The joy of Jesus, the joy of Christmas can only be ours to the extent that we work with Jesus to bring joy into the lives of others. **Let us remember that Christmas is not complete unless we show real generosity to those who have nothing to give us in return.**

Let us bring the **true light of Christ** to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this CHRISTMAS season and through our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness and humble service.

In Jesus, God tells us and keeps spelling it out: **no matter who you are, no matter how little you are counted in this world, I love you– I wish to be with you, I stand at your side as your everlasting friend. Emmanuel**, says St Matthew, a word which means **"God-with-us"**. **God loves us so much and he wants to share himself with us. He does not want to merely exist alongside us but wants to be part of everything we are.**

TO BRING JOY TO CHRISTMAS, WE REALLY HAVE TO BRING THEM CHRIST.

May our celebration be a **true encounter** with Christ who is the reason for the season.

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to each one! May God bless each of you and your families on this Christmas day.



Father Janusz



Our Christmas Raffle & Sausage Sizzle event on 11 December 2022 raised an outstanding amount of \$15,180.05 for the Parish!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this Christmas event an outstanding success!

The proceeds will go towards the Parish current expenses and future projects.

LED CAR PARK LIGHTING UPGRADES

Our Parish Priest has accomplished his last project for 2022 at St. Margaret Mary's Church...just in time for a brighter Christmas. The car parking lights have been replaced with new LED lights enhancing a modern beautification and a cost effective one.



FEASTS OF THE WEEK

26 December - St Stephen, the first martyr
27 December - St John, apostle, evangelist (Blessing of Wine)
28 December - The Holy Innocents, martyrs
30 December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
01 JANUARY 2023
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (YEAR A)
Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21



THANKSGIVING

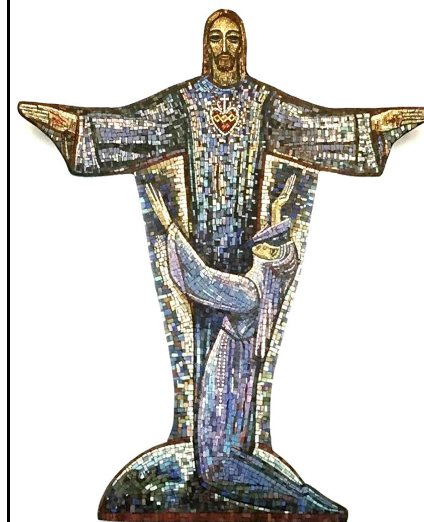


SATURDAY - 31 DECEMBER 2022
After 8:30am Morning Mass

All are welcome to join our parishioners for a special morning devotion following the 08:30am Morning Mass as thanksgiving for all the blessings received during 2022.

There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Thanksgiving devotions.

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

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
CHRISTMAS DAY

25TH 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

SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER - 6PM VIGIL MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4.

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. 'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER - MIDNIGHT MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4.

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives



blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER - 7.30AM MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

This the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look, your saviour comes, the prize of his victory with him, his trophies before him'. They shall be called 'The Holy People', 'The Lord's Redeemed'. And you shall be called 'The-sought-after', 'City-not-forsaken.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

1.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
the many coastlands be glad.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all the peoples see his glory. (R.)
2.

Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.



Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;
give glory to his holy name. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Rejoice, O Daughter Sion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem:
Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of the world.

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER
9.00AM & 10.30AM

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. (R.)

Titus 3:4-7

Lk 2:15-20

