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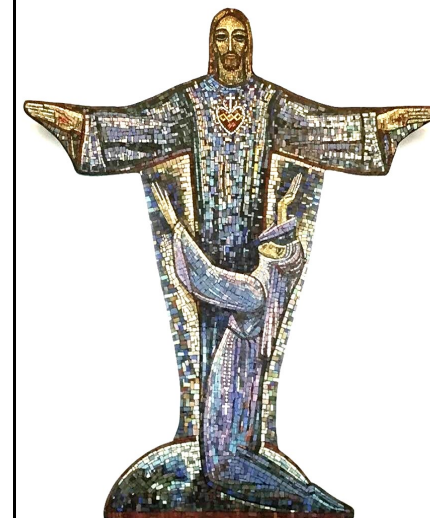
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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS



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. 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
sacraments@stmm.org.au

Acolytes / RCIA : Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082

Readers: Gwen D'Silva

YOUTH GROUP:
Pauline Junior / Teen: Fr. Jeremy Santoso

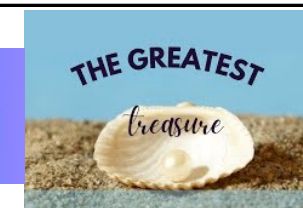
Legion of Mary: Merwyn D'Souza - 0404 863 564

Playgroup: Kathy-lynn Azzi - 0416 225 815

St Vincent de Paul: 88619757



**17TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**
YEAR A - 30 JULY 2023



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: JULY

For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

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: 9:30am - 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 5:15pm - 5:45pm

RCIA SESSIONS- SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:00am Mass followed by session 10:00am - 11:00am

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 8:30am - 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

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, ‘Ask what you would like me to give you.’ Solomon replied, ‘Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. ‘Since you have asked for this’ the Lord said ‘and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

- My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. *(R.)*
- Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. *(R.)*
- That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. *(R.)*
- Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

Rom 8:28 - 30

Mt 13:44 – 52

Jesus said to the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. ‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

MEDITATION

What do you treasure the most and how do you keep it from being lost or stolen? In a peasant community the best safe was often the earth. The man in the parable (Matthew 13:44) "went in his joy" to sell everything. Why? Because he found a treasure worth possessing above all else he had. He did not, however, have enough to buy the treasure. Fortunately, he only needed enough to buy the field. In a similar fashion, God offers his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy (Romans 14:17) as incomparable treasure at a price we can afford! We can't pay the full price for the life which God gives us; but when we exchange our life for the life which God offers, we receive a treasure beyond compare. When we discover the kingdom of God we receive the greatest possible treasure - the Lord himself. Selling all that we have to obtain this incomparable treasure could mean many things - our friends, job, our "style of life", what we do with our free time. Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. In this parable what does the treasure of the kingdom refer to? It certainly refers to the kingdom of God in all its aspects. But in a special way, the Lord himself is the treasure we seek for. If the Almighty is your gold and your precious silver, then you will delight yourself in the Almighty (Job 22:22-23). Is the Lord the treasure and delight of your heart? *Lord Jesus, may your word take deep root in my heart and transform my way of thinking, discerning, and acting. May your Spirit open my ears to hear and understand the word of God in the Scriptures that I may revere and treasure both the Old and the New Testaments which God has prepared for all who desire to enter his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. Help me to be a diligent student and faithful disciple of your word.*



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 06 AUGUST 2023 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD YEAR A

Dan 7:9 - 10, 13 - 14; 2Pet 1:16 - 19; Mt 17:1 - 9



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

PARISH CAR BLESSING & MORNING TEA SUNDAY - 30 JULY 2023

St. Christopher known as the patron saint of travellers protecting them from danger and illness. Through his intercession of safe travel and protection, for all our Parishioners who wish to have their car blessed, after 10:30am Mass please enter through the school entrance church carpark from **Davies St.** and drive through the school grounds and exit to **Henson St.** A request to kindly follow instructions from our volunteers, who will be there to guide the drivers in a systematic manner from the entrance to the exit. Thank you. After blessing of the cars, please join the Parish for **Morning Tea** in the Pastoral Centre. All are welcome.

We request our Parishioners to kindly bring a plate to share.

ON 04 AUGUST 2023 AT 7:00PM (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'. Followed by Adoration, Scriptural Rosaries & Nine Office of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, until Midnight.

"IN THE END, MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"

NOVENA TO THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Will commence from **Sunday, 06 August 2023** and
conclude on Monday, 14 August 2023 after Mass.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday 15 August 2023

The Solemnity of the Assumption will be celebrated on **Tuesday 15th August** in our Parish. This is a **Holy Day of Obligation** which means that every Catholic is **bound to attend Mass**.

MASS TIMES:

9:00am	School Mass
12 Noon	Solemn Mass
6:30pm	Exposition, Holy Rosary & Litany
7:00pm	Solemn Mass

SOLEMNITY of ST MARY (MACKILLOP) OF THE CROSS Tuesday 08 August 2023

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. 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

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 Coordinator Peter Carroll on 0414 070 082** or the Parish Office.

GOD'S WORD 2024

We request our Parishioners to support our Parish with their generous purchase of **GOD'S WORD 2024** for a special price of **\$22** (limited stock available). Purchases may be done from the Piety Shop or Parish Office during working hours. **Thank you.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

◆ Reuben Dias	◆ Rita Figredo	◆ Marcelina Domingo
◆ Shelly Barnes	◆ Chau Tran Chon Chau Maria	◆ Jacqueline Parr
◆ Robbie Barnes	◆ Salam Awkar	
◆ Therese Nicolais	◆ Leila Rouhana	
◆ Hermie Alves	◆ Charles Zammit	
◆ Mary Callagla	◆ David O'Connor	



DIOCESAN SYNOD 2023

A synod of the Parramatta Diocese comprising clergy, religious and laity, chaired by Bishop, will be held from **12-15 October 2023**, to decide issues to form the basis of a pastoral plan.

Parishioners are invited to suggest ideas to help form issues considered by the synod. Ideas should relate to **"How can we improve community and devotional life and missionary activity in parishes and diocese?"** Example ideas are: establish groups of under-represented parishioners (e.g. men, youth), closer parish-school links, more processions, longer adoration times, etc. Submissions can be made by **31 July** at https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_submissions/ or by mail to: **Synod C/- Bethany Centre, 470 Church Street. Parramatta, NSW 2150.**

YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 11 August)

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

Pauline Teen (Next Meeting: 11 August)

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



SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

First Collection (Priests)

Account: Order of St. Paul The First Hermit Merrylands
BSB: 062 202 Account Number: 10869892

Second Collection (Parish)

Account: Merrylands Catholic Church
BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 00438

Last weekend First Collection was **\$2524.25**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3419.45**

Thank you for you continued support and generosity. God bless.



Someone claiming to be **Fr. Wojciech Sliwa** is messaging people stating **"I'm in a meeting right now, can't talk on phone but text me back when you get this message, your assistance is crucial and highly appreciated"**.

THIS IS A SCAM. Please **DO NOT** respond to the text messages received, however contact the Parish Office instead to verify the sender of the messages as well as report the incident.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023



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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM:

All preparation sessions held on **MONDAY** or **TUESDAY** at **5:30-7:00pm**

Session 2: 31 JULY or 01 AUGUST 2023

Session 3: 07 AUGUST or 08 AUGUST 2023

Session 4: 14 AUGUST or 15 AUGUST 2023

Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.

Rehearsal Group 1: Thursday- 24 August at 6:00pm
Rehearsal Group 2: Thursday- 31 August at 6:00pm



Group 1: Sunday- 27 August at 10:30am
Group 2: Sunday- 03 September at 10:30am