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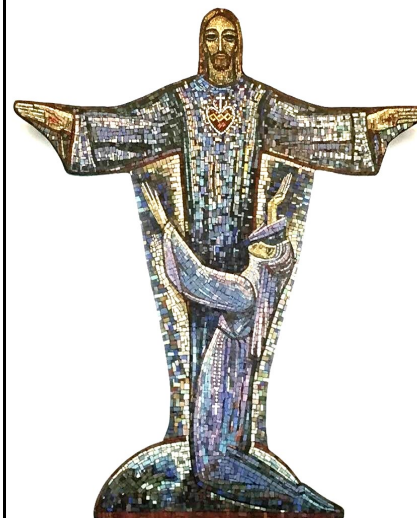


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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS



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



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: AUGUST

For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

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

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

- 1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. *(R.)*
- 2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. *(R.)*
- 3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he said ‘who do you say I am?’ Then Simon Peter spoke up, ‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Simon son of Jonah,

you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.’ Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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


COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise him up on the last day.

MEDITATION

At an opportune time Jesus tests his disciples with a crucial question: Who do men say that I am and who do you say that I am? He was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, exclaimed that he was the Christ, the Son of the living God. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God. The Lord Jesus offers us the gift of unshakeable faith, enduring hope, and unquenchable love - and the joyful boldness to proclaim him as the one true Savior who brings us the kingdom of God both now and forever. Who do you say he is to yourself and to your neighbor? *Lord Jesus, I profess and believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. You are my Lord and my Savior. Make my faith strong like Peter's and give me boldness to speak of you to others that they may come to know you personally as Lord and Savior and grow in the knowledge of your great love.*

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
03 SEPTEMBER 2023
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
Jer 20:7 - 9; Rom 12:1 - 2; Mt 16:21 - 27



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

27 AUGUST 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.




First Holy Communion

GROUP 1 COMMUNICANTS
SUNDAY 27 AUGUST 2023
10:30AM MASS

GROUP 2 COMMUNICANTS
SUNDAY 03 SEPTEMBER 2023
10:30AM MASS


Congratulations to all the children who are receiving their Sacrament of First Holy Communion.
May you always be nourished by the Eucharist.




**ON 01 SEPTEMBER 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"


MEN’S ROSARY CRUSADE
(1st SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)
St Margaret Mary’s parish has joined the Men’s Rosary Crusade! For several years, Catholic men from around the world have been gathering outside churches, including St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney, on the first Saturday of each month to pray the five Joyful Mysteries of The Holy Rosary.
On Saturday, 02 September, at approx. 9.15am (after the 8.30am Mass), our men are invited to participate in this powerful prayer in our church forecourt – rain, hail or shine! - in a public demonstration of devotion to Our Blessed Mother. No experience necessary! ☺
More information about the First Saturdays Devotion can be found inside The Holy Rosary booklets at the back of the church.
Afterwards there’ll be fellowship and morning tea in the Pastoral Centre, so please bring a plate to share.




**02 - 03**
SEPTEMBER 2023
Dear Parishioners, Our Parish is proud to support the **Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal**, let us give thanks and care for our priests for their lifetime of selfless service to God and his people. With your kind Father’s Day gift and prayers, our Clergy Support Foundation can ensure our retired priests and those in ill-health will have personalised, compassionate care when needed. Please show your support for our retired priests and give generously via parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or the giving envelopes.
Thank you and God bless you for your kindness.


**The Feast of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** will be celebrated on **Friday, 08 September** at **9:00am & 7:00pm Mass.**


YOUTH GROUP @ SMM
Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 08 September)
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: 08 September)
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



**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



**The Kids’ Bulletin**
All children are encouraged to take a copy of The Kid’s Bulletin (*on the table outside the Church*). A great resource to educate our Catholic kids to learn about their faith every week.


PRAYER REQUESTS


♦ Reuben Dias	♦ Mary Callagja	♦ Charles Zammit
♦ Shelly Barnes	♦ Rita Figredo	♦ David O’Connor
♦ Robbie Barnes	♦ Chau Tran Chon Chau Maria	♦ Marcelina Domingo
♦ Therese Nicolas	♦ Salam Awkar	♦ Jacqueline Parr
♦ Hermie Alves	♦ Leila Rouhana	



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 **\$2677.75**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3550.35**
Thank you for you continued support and generosity. God bless.




INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL 2023

Planning is well underway for our 2023 International Food Festival, to be held on **Saturday, 21 October** at approx. 7pm (after the 6pm Vigil Mass)!

At a meeting of enthusiastic volunteers last week, these parishioners offered to co-ordinate the key aspects of the festival:


ADMISSION & RAFFLE TICKETS: Gwen D’Silva
FOOD: Belinda Tippetts
HALL DECORATION: Nada Tomas
HALL SET-UP: Freddy Sahyoun
CULTURAL PERFORMANCES: Peter Carroll
RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS: Vivian Tippetts & Mike Jacobson


Admission and raffle tickets will go on sale in a few weeks, but in the meantime if you couldn’t get to last week’s meeting and would like to sell tickets at your regular Mass, provide a food dish (at least 30 servings), perform a cultural dance or song, donate a new item or gift card/voucher as a prize (leave them at the parish office or Piety Shop), or help in any other way, please speak to the above parishioners ASAP.


Mike Jacobson
Secretary



**PARISH MOVIE NIGHT**
Movie: Sound of Freedom
Date: Monday, 28 August 2023
Venue: Events Cinema Parramatta
Ticket Price: \$20 (admit 1 only)
Time: 6:40pm
Please contact Priscilla – 0411 443 783 or the Piety Shop for purchase of tickets

**STMM PIETY 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.



**DIOCESAN SYNOD 9 WEEKS NOVENA**
The nine-week novena is an invitation to a period of spiritual preparation for the Synod. The novena will begin the week of Sunday, 13 August and conclude in the week beginning Sunday, 8 October. Parishes, ministry groups, prayer groups, and families are invited to pray the novena together. Novena booklets are available on the table outside the church or can be downloaded from the Synod website: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>