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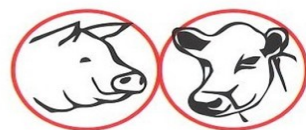
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# ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS



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



The righteous  
man walks in  
his integrity;  
His children  
are blessed  
after him.  
PROVERBS 20:7

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

**Year A  
03<sup>rd</sup> September 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: SEPTEMBER

### For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

### 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

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** 5:15pm - 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

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 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**  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.  
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of mercy to all who call to you.

**FIRST READING** **Jeremiah 20:7-9**  
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah  
You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
*(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

- O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water. *(R.)*
- So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. *(R.)*
- So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. *(R.)*
- For you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast. *(R.)*

**SECOND READING** **Romans 12:1-2**  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our heart,  
that we might see how great is the hope  
to which we are called.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** **Mt 16:21-27**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**  
How great is the goodness, Lord,  
that you keep for those who fear you.

**MEDITATION**  
A true disciple gladly gives up all that he or she has in exchange for an unending life of joy and happiness with God. God gives without measure. The joy he offers no sadness or loss can diminish. The cross of Jesus Christ leads to victory and freedom from sin and death. What is the cross which Jesus Christ commands me to take up each day? When my will crosses with his will, then his will must be done. Are you ready to lose all for Jesus Christ in order to gain all with Jesus Christ? *Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and all my will, all that I have and possess. You have given them to me; to you, O Lord, I restore them; all things are yours, dispose of them according to your will. Give me your love and your grace, for this is enough for me.*

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**10 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**YEAR A**  
*Ezek 33:7 - 9; Rom 13:8 - 10; Mt 18:15 - 20*



**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

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS**




Congratulations to all the children and their families who received First Holy Communion on **27 August & 03 September**. May you always be nourished by the Eucharist. As we conclude the Eucharist celebration, we sincerely thank all those involved in making this Holy Sacrament so meaningful and memorable. This would not have been possible without our Sacramental Coordinator Monique Kairouz. Her enthusiasm, dedication and efforts with preparing the children was commendable. Our gratitude to all our volunteers for beautifully decorating our Church & our Acolytes, Altar servers & Choir. Last but not the least, we thank the Principal & teachers of our school for their continuous support.

**WEEKLY CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**



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.



**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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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)







**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**  
On 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, couples celebrating their wedding anniversary during that month are invited for a special blessing at the 10:30am Mass.  
The next blessing will be on **Sunday, 10 September 2023**. Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Children's Liturgy of the Word Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (**17 September 2023**) there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass. **All children are welcome to attend.**




**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.



**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.





The Parish sincerely thanks everyone who purchased tickets for our **Parish Movie Night** on Monday (28 August) and making it a successful event. A special note of thanks to **Priscilla** for all her efforts.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**


- ◆ Reuben Dias
- ◆ Shelly Barnes
- ◆ Robbie Barnes
- ◆ Therese Nicolas
- ◆ Hermie Alves

- ◆ Mary Callagja
- ◆ Rita Figredo
- ◆ Chau Tran Chon Chau Maria
- ◆ Salam Awkar
- ◆ Leila Rouhana

- ◆ Charles Zammit
- ◆ David O'Connor
- ◆ Marcelina Domingo
- ◆ Jacqueline Parr



**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 **\$3272.30**  
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3785.15**  
**Thank you for you continued support and generosity. God bless.**

**INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL 2023**


On **Saturday, 21 October** at 7pm (after the Vigil Mass) in the Parish Hall.  
Tickets for the delicious all-you-can-eat buffet and enchanting multicultural performances will be sale at weekend masses (**9 - 10 September**) and the Parish Office (**12 September**).  
**Adults \$20, Children (3-12 years) \$10, Under 3 Free.**  
*Buy your tickets early to avoid the last-minute rush!*  
**Food providers** – an information session to confirm provider places will be held in the Pastoral Centre on **Saturday, 23 September at 7pm**. If you would like to provide food but can't attend this session, please contact Belinda Tippetts (0401 587 677) ASAP.  
**Cultural performances** – places are filling fast! Enquiries contact Peter Carroll (0414 070 082).  
**Prize donations** – please leave new items (e.g. homewares, electronics, toys, sporting equipment, business gift cards/ vouchers) at the Piety Shop or Parish Office ASAP. Enquiries contact Mike Jacobson (0438 590 136).  
The next volunteers' meeting will be held in the Pastoral Centre on **Wednesday, 09 September at 7:45pm. All welcome.**





**Happy Father's Day**  
Prayers and blessings on this special day

Blessed are You, Lord and Father of all life, who has given to us the gift fathers for our families. Today, we honour them and we thank You for the numerous good things that are ours because of them. Their love for us has been a sign of Your divine affection and a sharing in Your holy love. Their continuous concern for our needs and welfare is a mirror of Your holy providence. And so, as we honour them we also praise You, Father of all peoples. May we, as members of their families, assist them in their holy duties as a parent with our respect, our obedience and our deep affection.  
Dear God, We thank you for the gift of Dads in this life. We pray for your blessing, favour, and strength over every Dad in this world, for those who are seeking to walk closely with you in a dark world, and for those who just need to be reminded that you are real. We ask for your renewed courage, for your boldness, for your Spirit to fill them. We ask that you would keep their footsteps firm, and guard their way. We ask that you would help them to always stand strong, to be men of faith, to say "no" to what is wrong and to say "yes" to what is right. We ask that you would fill their hearts with love, compassion, joy, faithfulness, and cover their lives with great peace. **Amen**



At the Installation of our Parish Priest, Most Rev. Bishop Vincent presented Fr. Wojciech & Fr. Jeremy with a Spiritual Bouquet. Both our Priests express their sincere thanks to our Parishioners for the Spiritual Bouquet of:  
**Masses (4976)**  
**Rosaries (17541)**  
**Divine Mercy Chaplets (6544)**  
**Days of fasting (5)**  
**Novena to St. Joseph (16)**