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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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Year A - 17th 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

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

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. *(R.)*
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. *(R.)*
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults *(R.)*
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35


Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. ‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me”, he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said. “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

MEDITATION

 If God has shown mercy to us in granting us pardon for our sins, then we, in turn, must show mercy and forgiveness towards every person who has offended us. The willingness to forgive those who offend us is a sacred duty. If we expect God to pardon us and show us his mercy when we sin and disobey his commandments, then we must be willing to let go of any resentment, grievance, or ill-will we feel towards our neighbor. Jesus teaches us to pray daily for the grace and strength to forgive others in the same measure in which God has forgiven us (Matthew 6:12,14-15). If we do not show mercy and forgiveness to our fellow human beings, how can we expect God to forgive us in turn? The Apostle James says that "judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy" (James 2:13). *Lord Jesus, you have been kind and forgiving towards me. May I be merciful as you are merciful. Free me from all bitterness and resentment that I may truly forgive from the heart those who have caused me injury or grief.*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
24 SEPTEMBER 2023
25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A

Is 55:6 - 9; Phil 1:20 - 24,27; Mt 20:1 - 16

**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

**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.

AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH
 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.**

YOUTH GROUP @ SMM


Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 22 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: 22 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



SUNDAY - 24 SEPTEMBER 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.


ACOLYTES MEETING
SATURDAY - 30 SEPTEMBER 2023
All Acolytes of our Parish are invited to attend a meeting with the Parish Priest on **Saturday, 30 September 2023 at 10:00am** in the Pastoral Centre.




 **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.



CHURCH PROJECTORS
The Parish is planning to install new projectors inside the Church. The quoted cost for the projectors is **\$13,498**. St Margaret Mary's Parish humbly requests our generous Parishioners for their financial support towards this project.
Donation envelopes are placed in the church pews and other payment options are:
Credit Card (Parish Office during office hours)
Direct Debit: BSB: 067 950
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Account Name: Merrylands Catholic Church
(Please specify details of your contribution i.e. Church Projector)



PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| ◆ Reuben Dias | ◆ Mary Callagja | ◆ Charles Zammit |
| ◆ Shelly Barnes | ◆ Rita Fiegredo | ◆ 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 **\$2260.75**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$2996.45**
Thank you for you continued support and generosity. God bless.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday, 21 October at 7pm in the Parish Hall
TICKETS GO ON SALE THIS WEEKEND
Adults \$20* Children 3-12 years \$10*
Infants (under 3 years) Free
**includes one bottled water*

Tickets will be available from the Piety Shop after all weekend Masses and selected weekday Masses, and from the Parish Office during working hours. There's always a last-minute rush, so buy yours early!

FOOD PROVIDERS - Please note that the information session will be held in the Pastoral Centre on **Saturday, 23 September at 9:15am (after the 8:30am Mass)**. It is essential for food providers either to attend this meeting, or if unable to attend to contact **Belinda Tippetts** beforehand **(0401 587 677)**.


CULTURAL PERFORMANCES - Any performer representatives who haven't contacted **Peter Carroll (0414 070 082)** should do so ASAP, as the program will be finalised soon.

PRIZE DONATIONS - Although the initial response for prize donations for the raffle, door prize, coin tosses, etc. has been short of expectations, there's still time to bring new items (e.g. homewares, electronics, toys, sporting equipment, business vouchers/gift cards) to the Piety Shop or Parish Office. Enquiries please contact **Mike Jacobson (0438 590 136)**.

The next IFF volunteers' meeting will be held in the Pastoral Centre on Monday, 18 September at 7:30pm. All welcome!



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

 Sacrament of Confirmation Enrolments commence from **Tuesday, 12 September 2023** until **Friday, 13 October 2023**.
(Enrolment Fee \$50 per child)
Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or are available at our Parish Office during working hours.
Parents Night: Monday - 09 October at 7pm.
Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.
Sacrament of Confirmation program is divided into two groups taught by Monique Kairouz & assisted by Fr. Jeremy Santoso.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM:
All preparation sessions held on **WEDNESDAYS at 5:30 - 6:30pm OR 7:00 - 8:00pm (parents to choose one session time)**
Session 1: 18 OCTOBER 2023
Session 2: 25 OCTOBER 2023
Session 3: 01 NOVEMBER 2023
Session 4: 08 NOVEMBER 2023
Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.



Saturday, 11 November 2023 at 6:00pm