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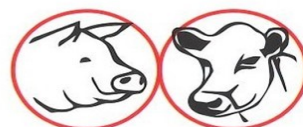
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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS



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



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A - 15th October 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: OCTOBER

For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at
every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the
peripheries of the world.

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

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

- The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. *(R.)*
- He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. *(R.)*
- You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. *(R.)*
- Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Matthew 22:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together every-one they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

MEDITATION

What can a royal wedding party tell us about God's kingdom? One of the most beautiful images used in the Scriptures to depict what heaven is like is the wedding celebration and royal feast given by the King for his newly-wed son and bride. Whatever grand feast we can imagine on earth, heaven is the feast of all feasts because the Lord of heaven and earth invites us to the most important banquet of all - not simply as bystanders or guests - but as members of Christ's own body, his bride the church! The last book in the Bible ends with an invitation to the wedding feast of the Lamb - the Lord Jesus who offered his life as an atoning sacrifice for our sins and who now reigns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Spirit and the Bride say, Come! (Revelations 22:17). The Lord Jesus invites us to be united with himself in his heavenly kingdom of peace and righteousness. *Lord Jesus, may I always know the joy of living in your presence and grow in the hope of seeing you face to face in your everlasting kingdom.*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
22 OCTOBER 2023
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A

Is 45:1, 4 - 6; 1Thess 1:1 - 5; Mt 22:15 - 21



**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



THE ROSARY is a prayerful exercise comprised of both meditation and vocal prayer. While praying the prayers of the Rosary, meditation focuses on the lives of Jesus and Mary. *The four mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious.* During the month of October, there will be recitation of The Holy Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of every Morning Mass (**weekdays only**).



AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH
Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (15 October 2023) there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.
All children are welcome to attend.

FEAST OF ST MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE MONDAY - 16TH OCTOBER 2023

You are invited to celebrate the Feast of Our Patroness St. Margaret Mary with our Parish community at 9:00am Mass.

There will be Morning tea at the Pastoral Centre after the 09:00am Mass to mark this occasion. Please bring a plate to share. **All are welcome.**

"All for the Eucharist, nothing for Me" - St Margaret



SUNDAY - 22 OCTOBER 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.

YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 27 October)

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: 27 October)

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 Legion of Mary would like to encourage families to pray the rosary. With this in mind, we invite families to call **Merwyn D'Souza on 0404863564** to book a date and time. The legionaries will bring the Pilgrim Mother to your home and pray the rosary with the family and leave the statue in your home for a week before returning to conclude.

May Our Blessed Mother protect us all!



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.

CHURCH PROJECTORS

The Parish has installed new projectors inside the Church for a total cost of **\$13,498. Currently collected amount is \$9618.40.**

Now that the projectors are fixed, let's start watching these talks given by: Brant James Pitre who is an American New Testament scholar and Distinguished Research Professor of Scripture at the Augustine Institute.

Starting on **Wednesday 25 October** followed by 7pm Mass in the church.

Does God Exist? How can we know it?

Is Jesus God? Did Jesus claim to be God? And why should we believe him?

Peter and the Papacy? Did Jesus establish the Catholic Church? What is the historical evidence?

How Did We Get the Bible? From where did the Bible come? Who decided which books got in and which didn't?

Is the Eucharist Jesus' Real Presence? What does the Bible teach about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist?

Why Confess to a Priest? Did Jesus arrange for us to confess our sins to a priest of the new covenant?

Do Catholics Worship Mary? What does the Bible teach about her? **Purgatory and Prayers for the Dead?** Where is Purgatory in the Bible? Why do Catholics pray for the dead?

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	♦ Cheryl Fortini



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 **\$2156.40**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3566.10**
Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.



Saturday, 21 October 2023
at 7pm in the Parish Hall



Next Saturday evening, after the vigil mass, our community will gather in the Parish Hall for St Margaret Mary's first International Food Festival in four years. This is traditionally our major social and fundraising event of the year, so come along for a great time!

Admission prices (includes one bottle of spring water or soft drink):
Adult \$20*, Child (3-12 years) \$10*, Infants (under 3 years) free.

- All-you-can-eat buffet of delicious international cuisines including African, Croatian, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Italian, Lebanese, Malaysian, Maltese, Pacific Islands, Singaporean & Syrian***
- Captivating cultural performances & Spectacular light show.**
- 10 raffle draws for hampers containing new products, vouchers and gift cards + bonus draws with major prizes. Tickets @ \$5 each will be on sale at this weekend's masses, some of next week's weekday masses, and during the event.**
- Lucky door prizes & coin-toss competition for adults & children. (all admission ticketholders are eligible).**
- Additional soft drinks on sale, free tea & coffee.**

Tickets are available from the Piety Shop after this weekend's Masses, some of next week's weekday Masses, and at the door on the night. Ticketholders have priority admission, so buy your tickets now to avoid the queue!

Several more volunteers are needed to assist during the event. If you can help, please come to the volunteers' meeting in the Pastoral Centre on **Wednesday, 18 October at 8pm** or contact Mike Jacobson 0438 590 136.

PLEASE NOTE: General parking will be prohibited near the Parish Hall on Saturday afternoon/evening.

*** Correct at the time of publication. Subject to change without notice.**

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT PRAYER

This weekend (**14 - 15 October**) Saturday Vigil and Sundays Masses, all the children enrolled for the Sacrament of Confirmation are requested along with their parents to attend any one of the weekend Mass.

At the end of the Mass, they will be invited forward to say the Enrolment Prayer as a spiritual beginning to the child's formation in the Sacrament. All children enrolled in the program are expected to attend.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

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