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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

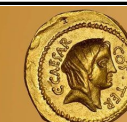
Playgroup: Kathy-lynn Azzi - 0416 225 815

St Vincent de Paul: 88619757



**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year A - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**



Give to Caesar the things  
that are Caesar's and to  
God the things that are God's  
Mt. 22:21

### 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

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

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;  
turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

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

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.*

- O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. *(R.)*
- The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens. *(R.)*
- Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. *(R.)*
- Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. *(R.)*

## SECOND READING

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 22:15-21**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**


## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Son of Man has come  
to give his life as a ransom for many.

## MEDITATION


What do we owe God and our neighbor? Scripture tells us to give to everyone whatever is their due and to "owe no one anything, except to love one another" (Romans 13:6-8). The Jewish authorities sought to trap Jesus in a religious-state issue. The Jews resented their foreign rulers and despised paying taxes to Caesar. They posed a dilemma to test Jesus to see if he was loyal to them and to their understanding of religion. If Jesus answered that it was lawful to pay taxes to a pagan ruler, then he would lose credibility with the Jewish nation who would regard him as a coward and a friend of Caesar. If he said it was not lawful, then the Pharisees would have grounds to report him to the Roman authorities as a political trouble-maker and have him arrested. This story has another deeper meaning as well. We, too, have been stamped with God's image since we are created in his own likeness - "God created man in his own image ..male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27). We rightfully belong not to ourselves, but to God who created us and redeemed us in the precious blood of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ (see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul the Apostle says that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). Do you acknowledge that your life and everything you possess belongs to God and not to yourself? And do you give to God what rightfully belongs to him?

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**29 OCTOBER 2023**  
**30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**YEAR A**  
*Ex 22:20 - 26; 1Thess 1:5 - 10; Mt 22:34 - 40*




**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)**.

**SUNDAY - 22 OCTOBER 2023**  
**1:00 – 1:30pm** Silent Adoration  
**1:30 – 3:00pm** Devotions  
**3:00 pm** 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month starting at 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

For further information please contact Fr. Jeremy at [Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org](mailto:Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org)



## NIGHT OF LIGHT

On **Monday, 30 October** from 5:30pm, our Parish will be celebrating a Night of Light. This event is an initiative for reclaim All Saints eve for the Church, that it might be a celebration of the Holy Saints, not an evening full of images of darkness.

Children of all ages are invited to come to the Pastoral Centre dressed up as a saint. There will be games and food. Thanks to all parents who are participating and especially Elie's Butchery (Hilltop), who donated sausages for this event.

## ALL SAINTS DAY WEDNESDAY - 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

**9:00am** SMM Primary School Mass  
**12:00 noon** Solemn Mass  
**7:00pm** Solemn Mass



## ALL SOULS DAY - 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 THURSDAY - MASS (9:00am & 7:00pm)

This year The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday, 02 November 2023**.

The celebration of the Eucharist will be offered for all the faithful departed with special remembrance of those whose funeral took place at St. Margaret Mary's during the past year.

Also invited to participate in the liturgy are parishioners who have lost a close relative during the past year and whose funeral was conducted outside the parish.

A candle ceremony will be held as part of the **9:00am & 7:00pm Mass** celebration. **During the candle ceremony, a member of**

**the family will be invited to place a candle on the sanctuary** in memory of their loved one.

You are also invited to bring a small framed photo of your loved one and place on the sanctuary **before the commencement of Mass.**



## 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!**



## 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.

## 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 **\$2427.40**  
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3305.75**  
**Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.**

## CHURCH PROJECTORS

The Parish has installed new projectors inside the Church for a total cost of **\$13,498. Currently collected amount is \$9888.40.**

**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?

## NOVEMBER MASS OFFERINGS FOR ALL DEPARTED SOULS

During the month of November, we will be celebrating **ONE (1) daily Gregorian Mass** during **weekdays and weekends** for all the deceased.

**On Thursdays (during November) there will be recitation of the Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of Morning Mass.**

We will continue with "**November Mass**" **yellow envelopes** for our daily Gregorian Masses in November. The envelopes will be kept on the pews inside the church.

**Please write the name of your deceased loved ones for whom you wish to pray along with an offering inside the envelope.** Kindly place the "**November Mass**" envelope in the basket at the altar or give it to the Priests or Parish Office.

**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.

## 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 are held on **WEDNESDAYS** at 7:00 - 8:00pm.

**Session 2: 25 OCTOBER 2023**

**Session 3: 01 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Session 4: 08 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.**

**CONFIRMATION** Saturday, 11 November 2023 at 6:00pm