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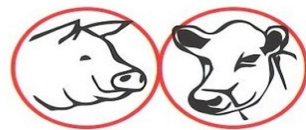
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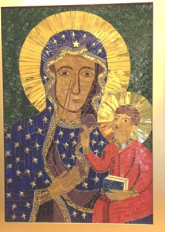


Our Parish is under the Pastoral Care of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit
(known as the Pauline Fathers) who for more than 630 years are renowned
Custodians of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, Poland.



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: 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



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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans. “If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. “If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

- 1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. *(R.)*
- 2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

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

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew


When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON


Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, as a fragrant offering to God.

MEDITATION

What makes our love for God and his commands grow in us?
 Faith in God and hope in his promises strengthens us in the love of God. They are essential for a good relationship with God, for being united with him. The more we know of God the more we love him and the more we love him the greater we believe and hope in his promises. The Lord Jesus, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives us a new freedom to love as he loves. Paul the Apostle writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free... only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh [sinful inclinations], but through love be servants of one another" (Gal 5:1,13). Do you allow anything to keep you from the love of God and the joy of serving others with a generous heart? *Lord Jesus, your love surpasses all. Flood my heart with your love and increase my faith and hope in your promises. Help me to give myself in generous service to others as you have so generously given yourself to me.*

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
05 NOVEMBER 2023
31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
Mal 1:14 - 2:2, 8 - 10; 1Thess 2:7 - 9, 13; Mt 23:1 - 12

SPEAK TO ME



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 Parish sincerely thank the Fundraising Committee for their tremendous efforts and everyone who patronized the International Food Festival on Saturday, 21 October 2023. It was overwhelming to see the Parish Hall filled with over 500 people.

A great thank you to everyone who generously donated their time to cook the delicious International dishes enjoyed by so many and to all the performers who gave us a wonderful night of entertainment (especially our very own Parish Priest’s star performance).


Last but not the least, an immense appreciation to all our local business sponsors & parishioners that participated and donated generously. Without you this event wouldn’t be such a monumental success. **God Bless You.**

Stay tuned for more updates...coming soon!

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 - 1ST NOVEMBER 2023

9:00am
12:00 noon
7:00pm


SMM Primary School Mass
Solemn Mass
Solemn Mass (confession available)



ALL SOULS DAY - 2ND NOVEMBER 2023
Thursday - Mass at 9am & 7pm (confession available)

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.*





ON 03 NOVEMBER 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
(SATURDAY - 04 NOVEMBER 2023)

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, 04 November, at 10:00am, 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.




YOUTH GROUP @ SMM
Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 10 November)


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: 10 November)

Our youth group for High School Students. It meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month starting at 7:30pm 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



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.

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
- ◆ 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 **\$2981.65**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3762.70**
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 \$11088.40.



Why We Believe - Dr. Brant Pitre
Answering Common Questions about the Catholic Faith
Every Wednesday after 7pm Mass inside the church.

Brant James Pitre who is an American New Testament scholar and Distinguished Research Professor of Scripture at the Augustine Institute.

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.



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 3: 01 NOVEMBER 2023
Session 4: 08 NOVEMBER 2023
Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.
Rehearsal on Wednesday, 08 November at 6pm inside the Church.

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