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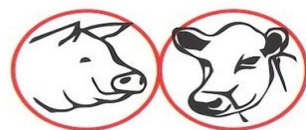
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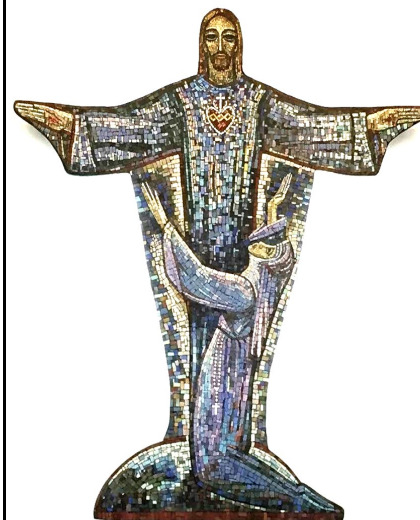
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# ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS



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



**NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

Year A

**31ST SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

*"You have but one Father in heaven and one master, the Christ."*

Matthew 23:11-12

*"But he that is greatest among  
you shall be your servant.  
And whosoever shall exalt  
himself shall be abased; and he  
that shall humble himself shall  
be exalted."*

### 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: NOVEMBER

#### For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to  
accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

#### 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



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## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!

## FIRST READING

**Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10**

A reading from the prophet Malachi

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration. Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

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

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.**

- O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me. **(R.)**
- Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. **(R.)**
- O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and for ever. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

**1 Thessalonians 2:7-9**

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

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you. Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You have one Father, your Father in heaven;  
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 23:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided

by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi. 'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**


**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Just as the living Father sent me  
and I have life because of the Father,  
so whoever feeds on me  
shall have life because of me, says the Lord.

## MEDITATION

Who doesn't desire the praise and respect of others? We want others to see us at our best with all of our strengths and achievements - rather than at our worst with all of our faults and shortcomings. God sees us as we truly are - sinners and beggars always in need of his mercy, help, and guidance. True respect for God inclines us to humble ourselves and to submit to his wisdom and guidance. We cannot be taught by God unless we first learn to listen to his word and then obey his instruction. Humility frees us to love and serve others willingly and selflessly, for their own sake, rather than for our own. Paul the Apostle gives us the greatest example and model of humility in the person of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and... who humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross (Phil 2:7-8). Do you want to be a servant as Jesus loved and served others? The Lord Jesus gives us his heart - the heart of a servant who seeks the good of others and puts their interests first in his care and concern for them.

 **Lord Jesus, you became a servant for my sake to set me free from the tyranny of selfish pride and self-concern. Teach me to be humble as you are humble and to love others generously with selfless service and kindness.**



## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 12 NOVEMBER 2023 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Wis 6:12 - 16; 1Thess 4:13 - 18, 13; Mt 25:1 - 13

## 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.



We encourage our Parishioners to come forward and be a part of **St. Margaret Mary's Parish Pastoral Council.**

PPC Nomination Forms are available at the entrance and foyer of the Church.  
**Last date for submission of forms is 19 November 2023.**  
Kindly return the forms to either the Parish Office during office hours or email: parish@stmm.org.au or to the Priests of the Parish.

## YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

**Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 10 November)**

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: 10 November)**

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)



## 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, 12 November 2023.**  
Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office.

\*\*\*\*\*



Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, **(19 November 2023)** there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.

**All children are welcome to attend.**

## 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.

**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?



## 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



## 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.

## 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



## 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 4: 08 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.**

Rehearsal: Wednesday, 08 November at 6pm inside the Church.



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

## 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 **\$2287.20**

Last weekend Second Collection was **\$2773.65**

**Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.**



Our International Food Festival on **21 October 2023** was a resounding success!

The attendance on the evening, which was our major social and fundraising event for the year, numbered over 500, filling the Parish Hall to an overflow of people.

There was ample food, with large servings of delicious cuisines generously provided by parishioners from a range of cultures: Africa, Australia, Croatia, Lebanon, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Malta, Pacific Islands, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand and Vietnam. Drinks were served from the canteen by members of our Pauline Teen Youth Group.

The happy throng was entertained by talented performers showcasing the cultures of Sierra Leone, Lebanon, Malta, Philippines, Poland, Tonga and Vietnam. Adding to the spectacle was a dazzling light show and voluminous sound system provided by parishioner DJ Ross Buultjens (0404 009 913).

An unexpected highlight was the impromptu cameo appearance by Fr Wojciech wearing a large sombrero!

In-between the cultural performances were multiple raffle draws, coin-tosses and lucky door draws for prizes donated by parishioners and local businesses: BP Merrylands West, Bunnings Smithfield, B'z Hair Stylez, Cake It Away, Cincotta Chemist Merrylands, Coolibah Hotel, Craft Supplies, CTS Tobacconist, Dolly's Catering, Eastern Delights Merrylands, Essey Brothers, Family Pharmacy, Finianos Meat, Flamingo Car Wash & Café, Flower City, Food Choice Family Restaurant (Club Merrylands Bowling), Hilltop Fruit, Hilltop Oven, Hup Fatt Butchery, Immaculate Gardens, Ivan's Butchery, Jax Tyres & Auto, Joe Lichaa Menswear, John's Quality Meat, Kate Nails, Keepinitcustom, La Mono Merrylands, La Rosha Happy Manoosh, Louis Mechanical Services, M. Kanaan & Co, Solicitor & Attorney, Merrylands RSL, Mr Candy, Nawa Thai Restaurant, Officeworks Wentworthville, Optical Clinique, Physio Solutions, Radiance Body Studio, Rosaries For Life, Sanity Hair & Beauty, SMD Electrical Services, Temple Clothing, The Biscuit House, The Spectacle Spot, Tony Francis Meats, Villaggio Restaurant (Club Merrylands Bowling), Ultimate Health, Woolworths Granville, Zag Seafood Merrylands, Zahara Hair Braids & Extensions...and the many generous parishioners and friends who provided raffle prizes and cash donations.

There was never a dull moment with MC Mary-Anne Graham keeping proceedings moving at a brisk pace.

The 2023 International Food Festival raised more than \$21,000 – believed to be a record – for the parish. Funds raised (at the time of publication) Admission tickets \$9,150, Raffle tickets \$8320, Donations \$3827.20. **Total \$21,297.20**

Thanks to the many volunteers who donated their time and energy during the preceding months and on the night to ensure that this major event achieved its aim of bringing the parish together for an evening of fine food and entertainment while raising a substantial amount of money for the parish.

On behalf of the Fundraising Committee, thank you everyone for attending. We hope to see you all again next year!

**Mike Jacobson (Secretary, Fundraising Committee)**