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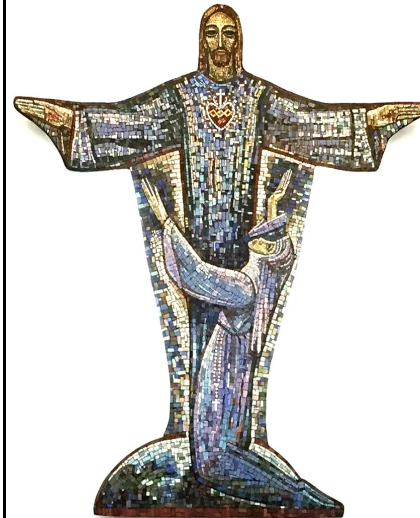


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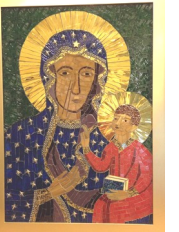


Our Parish is under the Pastoral Care of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit (known as the Pauline Fathers) who for more than 630 years are renowned Custodians of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, Poland.



Parish Priest
Fr. Wojciech Sliwa

Assistant Priest
Fr. Jeremy Santoso



Ordo Sancti Pauli Primi Eremitae

PARISH 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:

Parish Pastoral Council:

- ♦ Chair: Fr. Wojciech Sliwa & Belinda Tippetts
- ♦ Secretary: Rita Jacobson
parishcouncil@stmm.org.au

Finance Committee:

- ♦ Chair: Tony Bougoide
- ♦ Secretary: Priscilla Newman
financecommittee@stmm.org.au

Fundraising Committee:

- ♦ Mike Jacobson - 0438 590 136

Sacraments:

- ♦ Monique Kairouz
sacraments@stmm.org.au

Acolytes / RCIA

- ♦ Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082

Safeguarding Officer:

- ♦ Alexandra Azzi
safeguarding@stmm.org.au

Catechists:

- ♦ Sonia Abi-Rached

Music:

- ♦ Kerry van der Linden

Readers:

- ♦ Suzanne Mifsud

Scripture Study:

- ♦ Gwen D'Silva

YOUTH GROUP:

- ♦ Fr. Jeremy Santoso
- Pauline Junior/Teen:** Rita Elbayeh/Rita Jacobson

Legion of Mary:

- ♦ Merwyn D'Souza - 0478 109 569

Playgroup:

- ♦ Kathy-lynn Azzi - 0416 225 815



Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
November 26, 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: 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

4th Sunday of the month: 1:00pm - 1:30pm - Divine Mercy Devotions

1st Friday of the month: approx. 8:30pm - midnight

VESPER-SUNDAY EVENINGS 5:15pm - 5:45pm

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 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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switch off your mobile phone

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

- The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. *(R.)*
- Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. *(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

1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

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

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.” Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.” Next he will say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.’

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

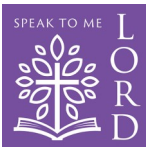
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.



MEDITATION

When the Lord Jesus comes again as Judge and Ruler over all, he will call each one of us to stand before his seat of judgment to answer the question - who did you love and put first in this life? Inordinate love of self crowds out love of God and love of neighbor. Those who put their faith in Jesus Christ and follow his way of love and righteousness will not be disappointed. They will receive the just reward - life and peace with God in his everlasting kingdom. If we entrust our lives to the Lord Jesus today, and allow his Holy Spirit to purify our hearts and minds, then he will give us the grace, strength, and freedom to walk and live each day in the power of his merciful love and goodness. Let us entrust our lives into the hands of the merciful Savior who gave his life for us. And let us ask the Lord Jesus to increase our faith, strengthen our hope, and enkindle in us the fire of his merciful love and compassion for all. *Lord Jesus, be the Master and Ruler of my life. May your love rule in my heart that I may only think, act, and speak with charity and good will for all.*



NEXT WEEK’S READINGS 03 DECEMBER 2023 First Sunday of ADVENT (Year A)

Is 63:16 -17;64:1,3 - 8; 1Cor 1:3 - 9; Mk 13:33 - 37



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



SUNDAY - 26 NOVEMBER 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.

**PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL (25 - 26 NOVEMBER)**
This weekend, our Parish is proud to support the Bishop's Christmas appeal raising funds for our Catholic Care chaplaincy services. *Our Parish quota is approx. \$8000 for this Appeal therefore we request our Parishioners for their generous contributions.* Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our 15 Catholic Care chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to seriously ill, lonely, and distraught people this Christmas. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal via envelopes *(on the church pews)* or scan this QR code or at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



God Comes to Us at Christmas
Infant Narrative of St. Matthew & St. Luke
Guest speaker - Dr. Andrew Wood
Session 1: Thursday, 30 November 2023 at 7:00pm
Session 2: Thursday, 07 December 2023 at 8:15pm



**THERE WILL BE NO
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION & SCRIPTURE STUDY
ON THURSDAY - 30 NOVEMBER 2023**



**ON 01 DECEMBER 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 - 02 DECEMBER 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 on the first Saturday of each month to pray the five Joyful Mysteries of The Holy Rosary. **On Saturday, 02 December**, 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. Afterwards there'll be fellowship and morning tea in the Pastoral Centre, so please bring a plate to share.



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.
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?



Let us welcome and pray for our newly elected members of our Parish Pastoral Council.
We thank the outgoing members of the Pastoral Council who have shared their talent with our parish over the past years.
Introducing our new members...

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ◆ Fr. Wojciech Sliwa | ◆ Suzanne Mifsud | ◆ Alexandra Azzi |
| ◆ Fr. Jeremy Santoso | ◆ Monique Kairouz | ◆ Felise Lafaele |
| ◆ Kevin Mills | ◆ Rita Jacobson | ◆ Rita Elbayeh |
| ◆ Belinda Tippetts | ◆ Franklin Lamin | |
| ◆ Peter Carroll | ◆ Aldwin Lassiter | |



PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| ◆ Reuben Dias | ◆ Rita Figredo | ◆ Marcelina Domingo |
| ◆ Shelly Barnes | ◆ Chau Tran Chon Chau Maria | ◆ Jacqueline Parr |
| ◆ Robbie Barnes | ◆ Salam Awkar | ◆ Cheryl Fortini |
| ◆ Therese Nicolas | ◆ Leila Rouhana | ◆ Margaret Falzon |
| ◆ Hermie Alves | ◆ Charles Zammit | |
| ◆ Mary Callagja | ◆ David O'Connor | |



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 **\$2463.30**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3406.80**
Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.



Our Parish requests Volunteers to kindly come forward and help decorate the Church for Advent & Christmas on **Saturday, 02 December 2023** from 10:00am onwards.
THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

CHURCH GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Volunteers needed to clean church grounds & car park area once every fortnight for at least 3 hours.
Please leave your details at the Parish Office.



VOICES NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

We are seeking **CHILDREN & ADULTS** to join the Choir and be part of our festive celebration for the Christmas Vigil Mass at 6pm on 24 December 2023. Please contact Kerry at k.dainer1@gmail.com

FHC 2023 PHOTOGRAPHS

The families of the First Holy Communicants are requested to collect their respective photographs on **Sunday, 03 December from 8:30am - 10:00am** in the Pastoral Centre.
For any further enquires please contact Maria @ 0407662535



Let's celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!
Sunday, December 17 after the 6pm Vigil Mass
at St Margaret Mary's school grounds

- * Hear parishioners from other cultures describe their Christmas traditions
- * Free admission (donations welcome)
- * Free sausage sizzle, soft drinks, bottled water, tea & coffee (donations welcome)
- * Playground equipment for primary school children
- * Raffle draws (tickets \$2 each now on sale from the Piety Shop and at week-end masses)

The next volunteer helpers' meeting will be on **Monday, 27 November at 7pm in the Pastoral Centre.** All welcome – no experience necessary!

HELP THE POOR THIS CHRISTMAS MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY FOOD COLLECTION

Our Parish is collecting food items for the Sydney chapter of the Missionaries of Charity (**Mother Teresa's Sisters www.missionariesofcharity.org**), who are dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor, irrespective of social class, creed or colour. Help to brighten the lives of those whom society has forgotten by donating non-perishable food items for Christmas hampers (e.g. chocolates, fruit cakes, nuts, biscuits, snacks, drinks) and general foodstuffs (e.g. rice, oats, barley, canned fish & vegetables, dried fruits, soup packets).
Please note: Food items must be in their original sealed packaging, and marked with a Best Before or Use By Date after 29 February 2024. Cash donations and new or as-new empty hampers and baskets will also be gratefully received.
Items can be left at the Piety Shop before and after most weekend masses and some weekday masses, or at the Parish Office (during working hours) until **Sunday, 10 December.**
A Missionaries of Charity representative will accept our gift and speak about the Sisters' work at our Christmas Celebration after the 6pm mass on **Sunday, 17 December.**