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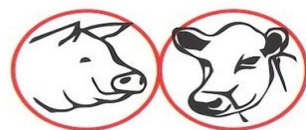
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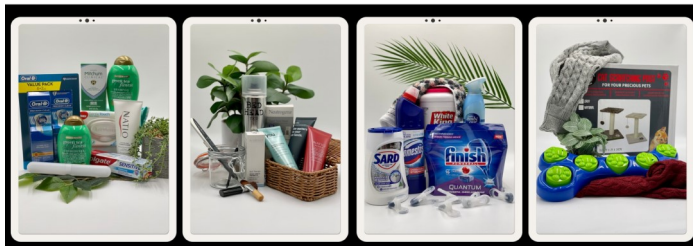
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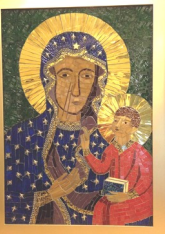


Our Parish is under the Pastoral Care of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit
(known as the Pauline Fathers) who for more than 630 years are renowned
Custodians of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, Poland.



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



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: DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



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 (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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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

- 1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. *(R.)*
- 2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. *(R.)*
- 3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. *(R.)*

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!’

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

MEDITATION



How does the Lord want us to be watchful and vigilant for his return? The kind of watching the Lord has in mind is not a passive "wait and see what happens" approach to life. The Lord urges us to vigilance and to active prayer that his "kingdom may come" and his "will be done on earth as it is in heaven". We are not only to watch for Christ, but to watch with Christ. The Lord wants us to have our hearts and minds fixed on him and his word. He wants us to be ready for his action and work of grace in our lives and in our world. Those who "wait" for the Lord will not be disappointed. He will surely come with his grace and saving help. Do you watch for the Lord's action in your life with expectant faith and with joyful hope? The season of Advent is a time for rousing our minds and hearts for the Lord's coming. As his servants we watch for his will - continually seeking him. We watch for his word and his power - that he may act now to save and to deliver. And we watch for his visitation - he will surely come again! Servants of the Lord rouse yourselves! Be vigilant, be alert, be "watchmen" for the Lord pointing the way for his coming. *Lord Jesus, awaken my heart and mind to receive your word and to prepare for your coming again. Free me from complacency, from the grip of sin and worldliness, and from attachments to things which pass away. May I always be eager to receive your word and be ready to meet you when you come again.*

SPEAK TO ME



LORD

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
10 DECEMBER 2023
Second Sunday of ADVENT (Year A)

Is 40:1 - 5;9 - 11; 2 Pet 3:8 - 14; Mk 1:1 - 8

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



Truly GREAT PRINCIPAL is HARD to find DIFFICULT to part with & IMPOSSIBLE to forget

Happy farewell Mr. Kevin Mills!

Your presence created an impact on every part of our school and Parish. Mr. Mills, you have been instrumental in the success of St. Margaret Mary's Primary school and a beacon of inspiration and dedication.

As you embarks on a new journey, our Parishioners express their deepest gratitude, not just for your years of service, hard work and commitment but also for the constant support towards the Church as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavours and may God shower you with joys and prosperities.



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

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
FRIDAY - 8 DECEMBER 2023
Mass Timings:9:00am & 7:00pm

'Hour of Grace' will be held from 12:00pm - 01:00 pm

The Blessed Virgin promised that whatever a person asked her for during this Hour of Grace would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the Will of the Eternal Father.



YOUTH GROUP @ SMM
Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 08 December)

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: 08 December)

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





WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

On 2ndSunday 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, 10 December 2023**. Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (17 December 2023) there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass. **All children are welcome to attend.**



CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS
Tuesday - 12 December
7:30pm

Christmas Confessions will be held on **Tuesday,12 December** after 7:00pm Mass.

We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare for Christmas and to avoid the Christmas week Confession rush.

Simbang Gabi
The devotional nine-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas



Dawn Mass at 5:00am
St. Margaret Mary's Parish
16 - 24 December 2023

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It is a series of nine dawn masses on the days leading to Christmas. It begins on 16 December & ends on 24 December. **ALL ARE WELCOME**



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**

THERE WILL BE *NO* SCRIPTURE STUDY ON THURSDAY - 07 DECEMBER 2023



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.

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?



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	◆ 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 **\$2583.50**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3266.15**
Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.



WELCOME

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Let us welcome and pray for our newly elected members of our Parish Finance Committee.

Introducing our new members...

1. **Fr. Wojciech Sliwa**
2. **Tony Bougoide (Chairperson)**
3. **Manny Blas**
4. **Maroun Saleh**
5. **Mike Jacobson**
6. **Vivian Tippetts**
7. **Priscilla Newman (Secretary)**

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**



Christmas Celebration

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

- * Free admission (donations welcome)
- * Free sausage sizzle, soft drinks, bottled water, tea & coffee (donations welcome)
- * Raffle draws (tickets \$2 each now on sale)
- * Christmas traditions from other lands
- * Your favourite Christmas carols
- * Special visit by Santa, with treats for the youngsters
- * Coin tosses - children & adults
- * Mystery auction
- * Playground equipment (primary school children only)

The next volunteer helpers' meeting will be on **Monday, 11 December** 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.

Help to brighten the lives of those whom society has forgotten by donating non-perishable food items for Christmas hampers.

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 will also be gratefully received.

Food donations can be placed in the marked baskets and cartons in the church, Piety Shop or Parish Office during office hours.

STMM PIETY SHOP

We request our Parishioners to support our Parish Piety Corner Shop with their generous purchase.

A variety of Advent & Christmas decorations and Piety Shop gift cards are available for purchase.

