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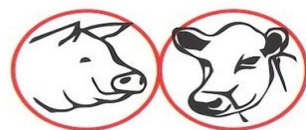
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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS



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 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
lectors@stmm.org.au

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

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

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent’. Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’ But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. *(R.)*
2.

‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.’ *(R.)*
3.

He will say to me: ‘You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.’
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. *(R.)*

SECOND READINGRomans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

MEDITATION

How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man". What is the key that unlocks the power and grace of God's kingdom in our personal lives? Faith and obedience for sure! God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willing obedience and heartfelt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace? *Heavenly Father, you offer us abundant grace, mercy, and forgiveness through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Help me to live a grace-filled life as Mary did by believing in your promises and by giving you my unqualified 'yes' to your will and plan for my life.*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

31 DECEMBER 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Year B)

Gen15:1-6; 21:1-3; Heb11:8,11-12,17-19; Lk2:22 - 40

SPEAK TO ME

LORD

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

CHRISTMAS MASS 2023

Sunday - 24 December

6:00pm - Family Mass

(children are welcome to dress as shepherds, angels or kings)

11:00pm - Christmas Carols

followed by midnight Mass


Monday - 25 December

12:00am - Midnight Mass


7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am

NO Evening Mass

FEAST DAYS

26 December - Tuesday

* St Stephen, the first martyr

27 December - Wednesday

* St John, apostle, evangelist (Blessing of Wine)


28 December - Thursday

* The Holy Innocents, martyrs

31 December - Sunday

* The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God



Monday 1st January 2024

MASSES - 9:15AM & 7:00PM

The Church puts the feast of this solemnity on the first day of the New Year to emphasize the importance of Mary's role in the life of Christ and of the Church. We commemorate the various saints on different days of the year, but Mary is the most prominent of them all. She has a special role and mission given to her by God. As Mother of our Redeemer and of the redeemed, she reigns as Queen at the side of Christ the King.

FIRST FRIDAY

ON 05 JANUARY 2024 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"

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



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

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.

Purchases may be done from the Parish Office as well during working hours.



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

◆ Margaret Falzon



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 \$2389.00

Last weekend Second Collection was \$3295.55

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

Sisters of Providence Sri Lanka




The Sisters fo Providence in Sri Lanka, Tewatte express their sincere gratitude to our Parishioners for giving them a warm & loving welcome and generous support towards the missions of their congregation.

“Best wishes for a joyous Christmas filled with love, happiness and prosperity. May God Bless you! Thank you all so much for your generous hearts.”

Christmas Celebration

A huge thanks to the Fundraising Team and our Parish group volunteers who helped to make our Christmas event an outstanding success!



The proceeds will go towards the Parish current expenses and future projects.

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.

Child SAFETY

For safety and safeguarding reasons, we kindly request all parents / carers to ensure to accompany their children to the toilets and the play area in the school premises at all times. Thank you for your cooperation.

MASS TIMES

01 – 31 JANUARY 2024

◆ 09:15 am - Monday

◆ 09:00 am - Tuesday to Friday (NO Evening Weekday Masses)

◆ 08:30 am - Saturday

◆ 06:00 pm - Saturday (Vigil)

◆ 07:30 am, 09:00am, 10:30am - Sunday

◆ 06:00 pm - Sunday

ALL DEVOTIONS, ADORATIONS & EVENING MASSES

WILL RESUME ON 1st FEBRUARY 2024

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Our Parish office will be closed from Tuesday, 26 December 2023 to Monday, 08 January 2024 to celebrate the season of Christmas.

Happy holidays!

Reopens - Tuesday, 09 January 2024

