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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 Tippets
- ♦ 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: JANUARY

For the gift of diversity in the Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.



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





Please remember to
switch off your mobile phone

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPOHON

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.



MEDITATION

To know and to encounter Jesus Christ is to know God personally. In the encounter of the wise men with Jesus we see the plan of God to give his only Son as King and Savior, not just for the Jewish people but for all the nations as well. The Lord Jesus came that both Jew and Gentile might find true and lasting peace with God. Let us pray today that Jew and Gentile alike will find the Lord and Savior on their journey of life. Do you bring the light of Jesus Christ to those you meet through the witness of your life and testimony? **Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for bringing salvation to all the nations. May the gospel of salvation be proclaimed to every nation today and to every person on the face of the earth. Help me to be a good witness of the joy of the gospel to all I meet.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

14 JANUARY 2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)
1Sam 3:3-10,19; 1Cor 6:13-15, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42



OUR PARISH PRAYER

Father, through the intercession of St. Margaret Mary, 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.

Welcome 2024

As the beginning of 2024 is upon us, St. Margaret Mary's Parish would like to take this opportunity to thank all of its faithful parishioners, benefactors and visitors who have supported the Parish in 2023, both spiritually and financially. To all our volunteers, members of our devotional and Parish groups and those who are always ready to lend a hand to maintain our Church and its grounds, the unsung heroes of this community. Without their constant help and dedication, our Parish would not be as beautiful and vibrant as it is today. We pray that with the help and guidance of our Triune God and Our Blessed Mother that 2024 will be equally successful.

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

20 C + M + B 24

(Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year)

On **Sunday, 07 January 2024**, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We rejoice that the light of Christ has come into our world. Today, we invite families to take home a piece of this chalk to mark the front door of your homes as a blessing for the New Year. 

Kindly ensure one pack per family is taken. Thank you.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday 8th January 2024

MASSES - 9:15AM & 7:00PM

The Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or Epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan; when God his father revealed His love and favour for his Son – Jesus Christ our Lord. During the Mass there will be a special Blessing of Water. 

Please bring your own bottle of water to be blessed during the Mass.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

On **2nd 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, 14 January 2024**. Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office.

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (21 January 2024) there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.
All children are welcome to attend.

RCIA PROGRAM

RCIA is an ongoing Apostolate in this Parish. The RCIA Apostolate consists of a dedicated team of volunteers who have received instructions to guide anyone who wishes to join the Catholic Church through weekly preparations classes and regular Mass attendance.

If you know of anyone who wishes to enter the Catholic Faith, who has been baptised in another Faith or unbaptised and wishes to complete the Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church; Please see our Priests after Mass during the weekends or contact the **RCIA Coordinator Peter Carroll on 0414 070 082** or the Parish Office.



STMM PIETY SHOP

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

A variety of religious products and Piety Shop gift cards are available for purchase.

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

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.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◆ Reuben Dias | ◆ Rita Figredo |
| ◆ Shelly Barnes | ◆ Chau Tran Chon Chau Maria |
| ◆ Robbie Barnes | ◆ Jacqueline Parr |
| ◆ Therese Nicolas | ◆ Salam Awkar |
| ◆ Hennie Alves | ◆ Cheryl Fortini |
| ◆ Mary Callaja | ◆ 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

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



SOLEMNITY OF ST. PAUL THE FIRST HERMIT

MONDAY - 15 JANUARY 2024

To prepare for this Solemnity, the Novena to St. Paul will be recited after morning Mass commencing on **Saturday, 06 January** & concluding on **Sunday, 14 January 2024**. We ask all our Parishioners to pray for all the Priests, brothers & seminarians in the order of St Paul the First Hermit and for an increase in vocations to the order.

Invocations to St. Paul the First Hermit

Pray for us.

Saint Paul, Patriarch of our Order,

Saint Paul, faithful follower of Christ

Saint Paul, man of strong and lively faith,

Saint Paul, lover of solitude,

Saint Paul, persevering in prayer and penance,

Saint Paul, patient in bearing the difficulties of the eremitical life,

Saint Paul, embracing with your devoted love the Church of Christ and the whole mankind,

Saint Paul, model of perseverance in your chosen way of life,

Saint Paul, prepared to meet God at the time of death, That we may be faithful to our monastic vocation,

Intercede to God for us

That through the observance of our religious vows, we may become more Christ-like, That we may fulfil Christ's command to love all men, That we may pray well and unceasingly, That we may participate in the saving love of Christ through a penitential life, That we may not succumb to the temptation of mediocrity, That we may prudently profit from the fruits of the land and from technical and cultural achievements; That we may fearlessly strive to attain that love exemplified in the Gospel, That we may feel responsible for our Order and its apostolic works, That we may persevere in our Order until death, Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Hermits and Patroness of our Order,

We beg you Lord, hear us!

Through the merits of all the Saints of our Order, That you may graciously grant our monastic community an increase in number and an enrichment of virtues, That you may generously provide graces for our families, confraters and benefactors, That you may show your mercy to our brothers, who have left our community, That you may remedy the failures and defects of our love, That you may grant the grace of conversion to the enemies of the Church, That you may grant eternal happiness to our deceased brothers, parents, relatives, confraters and benefactors.

L. Pray for us St. Paul the First Hermit,

All That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

L: Let us pray:

O God, who willed that St. Paul, our Father, reach a high degree of sanctity through a life of solitude in the desert, grant that, through this intercession, we who are striving to develop in ourselves a spirit of prayer and service, may come ever closer to you in love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Our Parish office will be closed until **Monday, 08 January 2024** to celebrate the season of Christmas.

Reopens - Tuesday, 09 January 2024

