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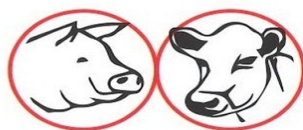
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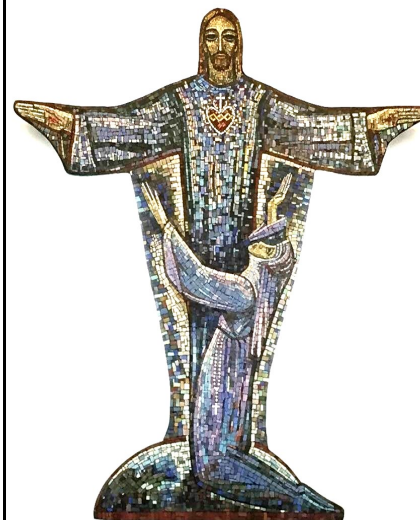
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CONTACT US

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



"We have found the Messiah."



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

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

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3:3-10.19

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ He answered, ‘Here I am’. Then he ran to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, since you called me.’ Eli said, ‘I did not call. Go back and lie down.’ So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, since you called me.’ He replied, ‘I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.’ Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, since you called me.’ Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, ‘Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Samuel answered, ‘Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.’ Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

1.

I waited, I waited for the Lord.
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. (R.)
2.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20

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

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 1:35-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, ‘Look, there is the lamb of God.’ Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, ‘What do you want?’ They answered, ‘Rabbi,’ – which means Teacher – ‘where do you live?’ ‘Come and see,’ he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas’ – meaning Rock.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

MEDITATION



Who is Jesus for you? John calls Jesus the Lamb of God and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. In Jesus John saw the true and only sacrifice which could deliver us from bondage to sin, death, and the powers of hell. How did John know the true identity of Jesus, as the Son of God and Savior of the world (John 1:29)? The Holy Spirit revealed to John Jesus' true nature, such that John bore witness that this is the Son of God. How can we be certain that Jesus is truly the Christ, the Son of the living God? The Holy Spirit makes the Lord Jesus Christ known to us through the gift of faith. God gives us freely of his Spirit that we may comprehend - with enlightened minds and eyes of faith - the great mystery and plan of God to unite all things in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. *Lord Jesus Christ, fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit that I may grow in the knowledge of your great love and truth. Let your Spirit be aflame in my heart that I may joyfully seek to do your will in all things.*

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

21 JANUARY 2024


Third Sunday In Ordinary Time (Year B)

Jon 3:1-5,10; 1Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

SPEAK TO ME

LORD

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.*

REVISED RECONCILIATION & MASS TIMINGS

(effective 01 February 2024)

RECONCILIATION:


TUESDAY - SATURDAY MORNINGS: 8:30am - 8:55am


TUESDAY & FRIDAY EVENINGS: 6:30pm - 6:55pm

SATURDAY EVENING: 4:30pm - 5:30pm

MASS:

SATURDAY MORNING: 9:00am





WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

This Sunday,14 January 2024 couples celebrating their wedding anniversary are invited for a special blessing at the 10:30am Mass.

We wish all these couples God’s blessings and graces.

JANUARY 2024

Feast Day of St Paul the First Hermit

Monday - 15 January

Our Lady Queen of Hermits

(Patroness of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit)

Tuesday - 16 January

Feast Day of Blessed Eusebius of Esztegom




(Founder of the Pauline Order)

Saturday - 20 January

Feast Celebration of St Paul the First Hermit – 21 January

Solemn Mass 10:30 am

Parish Morning tea (Most welcome to bring a plate to share)



Children’s Liturgy of the Word

AT ST. MARGARET MARY’S PARISH

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.

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

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.

St. Margaret Mary’s Parish Piety Corner Shop

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.

MASS TIMES

01 – 31 JANUARY 2024

09:15am - Monday

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

08:30am - Saturday

06:00pm - Saturday (Vigil)

07:30am, 09:00am, 10:30am , 06:00pm - Sunday

ALL DEVOTIONS & EVENING MASSES WILL RESUME ON 1st FEBRUARY 2024

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 \$2479.10

Last weekend Second Collection was \$3223.20

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

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,

Pray for us.

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

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.