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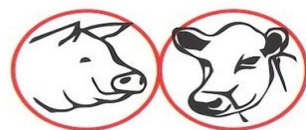
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### CONTACT US

# 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

## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

21 January 2024



#### 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

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month: 1:00pm - 1:30pm - Divine Mercy Devotions

1<sup>st</sup> 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

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month: 1:00pm - 3:00pm, 3:00pm - Holy Mass

#### BAPTISMS: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jonah

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: ‘Up!’ he said ‘Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.’ Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day’s journey. He preached in these words, ‘Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.’ And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

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

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

- Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. *(R.)*
- Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. *(R.)*
- The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. *(R.)*

### SECOND READING

**1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

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

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The kingdom of God is near:  
believe the Good News!  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

**Mark 1:14-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’ As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw


Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.’ And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

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

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

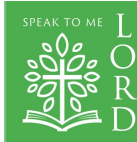
Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

### MEDITATION

 When Jesus preached the gospel message he called others to follow as his disciples and he gave them a mission - "to catch people for the kingdom of God." What kind of disciples did he choose? Smelly fishermen! In the choice of the first apostles we see a characteristic feature of Jesus' work: he chose very ordinary people. They were non-professionals, had no wealth or position. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these individuals, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not think we have nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. Do you believe that God wants to work in and through you for his glory? Jesus speaks the same message to us today: we will "catch people" for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the gospel. Do you witness to those around you the joy of the Gospel and do you pray for your neighbors, co-workers, and relatives that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and grow in the knowledge of his love? *Lord Jesus, you have called me personally by name, just as you called your first disciples, Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Help me to believe your word and follow you faithfully. Fill me with the joy of the gospel that your light may shine through me to many others.*

### NEXT WEEK’S READINGS 28 JANUARY 2024 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

*Deut 18:15-20; 1Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28*



### 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.*

### PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen



### 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.**



### Feast Day of St Paul the First Hermit SUNDAY - 21 JANUARY 2024

- ◆ Solemn Mass at 10:30am (special blessings for children & blessings of dates & apricots.
- ◆ Special 3rd collection at all Masses to support Seminarians of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit in Australia and overseas.
- ◆ *Parish Morning tea after 10:30am Mass (Most welcome to bring a plate to share)*



As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Australia Day on Friday, **26 January 2024**; let us remember to take a moment to pause and be thankful for the many blessings & cultures that our God has given to our land and its people; and to be grateful especially for the gift of peace and freedom of Religion.

### PRAYER TO MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PATRONESS OF AUSTRALIA

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers and under her protection, may the light of Christ shine over our land. May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Bless especially the men and women of the Australian Defence Forces and their families. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

*Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.*

### MASS 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 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

### 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:

**FRIDAY MORNING:** after 9:00am Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Novena to St. Margaret Mary.  
**SATURDAY MORNING:** 9:00am



### 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.



### 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 **\$2386.65**  
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3446.75**  
*Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.*



Thank you **Stephen Smith** for your loving devotion to provide our Parish with your beautiful music over the past many years. We have truly been blessed with your musical ability and we want you to know how much we appreciate your time and talent. You have helped make our church a very special place of worship. Wishing you all the very best in your future endeavours.



### YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

#### Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 09 February)

Our youth group for Primary School Students. It meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month starting at 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

#### Pauline Teen (Next Meeting: 09 February)

Our youth group for High School Students. It meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month starting at 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

For further information please contact Fr. Jeremy at [Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org](mailto:Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org)



### 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.

### 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.



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.

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.**

### Table Tennis social nights



Every Tuesday evening, in the Pastoral Centre from approx 7:30 pm after the evening Mass. All are welcome.