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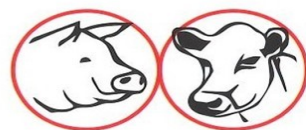
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## CONTACT US

# 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:**

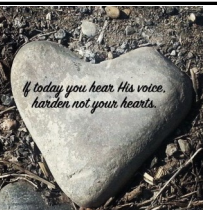
- ♦ Kathy-lynn Azzi - 0416 225 815

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)*

## THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

Mark 1:21-45

**28 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

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  
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

Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: ‘Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”’

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

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(R.) If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

- Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. *(R.)*
- Come in, let us kneel and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. *(R.)*
- O that today you would listen to his voice!  
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ *(R.)*

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord’s affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world’s affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord’s affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world’s affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
A people in darkness have seen a great light:  
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority. In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus said sharply, ‘Be quiet! Come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.’ And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

## MEDITATION

Do you believe that God's word has power to set you free and to transform your life? When Jesus taught he spoke with authority. He spoke the word of God as no one had spoken it before. Faith is both a free gift of God and the free assent of our will to the whole truth that God has revealed. To live, grow, and persevere in the faith to the end, we must nourish it with the word of God. The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds that we may grow in his truth and in the knowledge of his great love for each of us. If we approach God's word with trust and submission, and with an eagerness to do what the Lord desires for us, then we are in a much better position to learn what God wants to teach us through his word. Are you eager to be taught by the Lord and to conform your mind, heart, attitude, and intentions according to his word of truth, goodness, and love? *Lord Jesus, your word is power and life. May I never doubt your love and mercy, and the power of your word that sets us free, and brings healing and restoration to body, mind, heart, and spirit.*



## NEXT WEEK’S READINGS 04 FEBRUARY 2024

5th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Year B)

Job7:1-4, 6-7; 1Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39



## 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

## 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



## FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Friday - 02 February 2024 9:00am Mass (Blessing of Candles)



The Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus. As is the tradition, candles will be blessed during Mass.

*Devotional candles will be sold at the Piety Shop for \$4 each. Please place your order as limited stock available.*



## ON 02 FEBRUARY 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"**

## MEN'S ROSARY CRUSADE (SATURDAY - 03 FEBRUARY 2024)

St Margaret Mary's parish has joined the Men's Rosary Crusade! For several years, Catholic men from around the world have been gathering outside churches on the first Saturday of each month to pray the five Joyful Mysteries of The Holy Rosary.

On Saturday, 03 February, at 10:00am, our men are invited to participate in this powerful prayer in our church forecourt – rain, hail or shine! - in a public demonstration of devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Afterwards there'll be fellowship and morning tea in the Pastoral Centre, so please bring a plate to share.



## 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**



## 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

## 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 **\$2562.80**  
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3063.65**  
*Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.*

## SUPPORT OUR PARISH PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

We request our generous Parishioners to financially support our Parish by enrolling in the Planned Giving Program. Sign up by simply filling the Planned Giving Form.

Choose a PAYMENT option of:

- ♦ WEEKLY CASH ENVELOPES
- ♦ MONTHLY DEDUCTION BY CREDIT CARD
- ♦ WEEKLY / MONTHLY DIRECT TRANSFER TO:  
BSB: 067 950  
Account Number: 00438  
Account Name: Merrylands Catholic Church  
(Please specify details of your contribution i.e. Planned Giving).



## 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.Santos@parracatholic.org](mailto:Jeremy.Santos@parracatholic.org)



## 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.



## 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.



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.**