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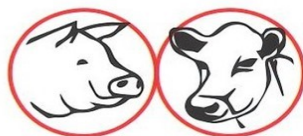
3 Grace Cres, Merrylands

02 9788 2845 | grace4kids.com.au

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Chris & Rhonda Malone are here to assist you when you need it most with over 35 years of experience in funerals across Sydney. Catering for all nationalities and customs, with a sincere respect in the community. The utmost in attention is always important for your loved one at a difficult time. We can also provide pre-paid services for your peace of mind & a no-obligation quote.

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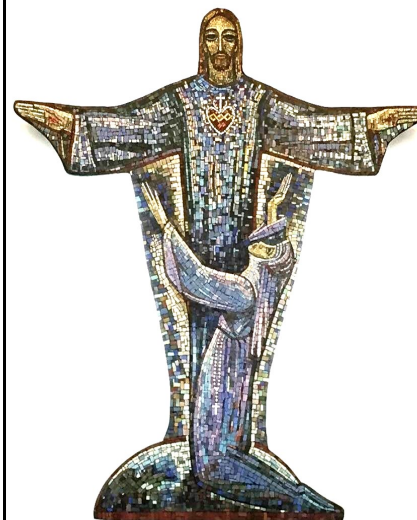
A 206 Merrylands Road,
Merrylands 2160

T 02 9637 2888

M 0421 118 882

E theng@hupfatt.com.au

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

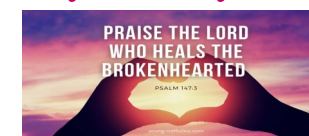
Legion of Mary:

- ♦ Merwyn D'Souza - 0478 109 569

Playgroup:

- ♦ Kathy-lynn Azzi - 0416 225 815

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)



04 February 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

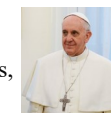
Saturday: 9:00am

PRAYER: HOLY FATHER-POPE FRANCIS

MONTHLY INTENTION: FEBRUARY

For The Terminally Ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.



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

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Job

Job began to speak: Is not man’s life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, ‘When will it be day?’ Risen I think, ‘How slowly evening comes!’ Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver’s shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

- 1. Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving: to him our praise is due. *(R.)*
- 2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel’s exiles, he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds. He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name. *(R.)*
- 3. Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust. *(R.)*

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23

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

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me. So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon’s mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He


went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, ‘Everybody is looking for you.’ He answered, ‘Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.’ And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON


Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

MEDITATION


 Do you allow Jesus to be the Lord and healer in your personal life, family, and community? Approach the Lord with expectant faith. God's healing power restores us not only to health but to active service and care of others. There is no trouble he does not want to help us with and there is no bondage he can't set us free from. Do you take your troubles to him with expectant faith that he will help you? *Lord Jesus Christ, you have all power to heal and to deliver from harm. There is no trouble nor bondage you cannot overcome. Set me free to serve you joyfully and to love and serve others generously. May nothing hinder me from giving myself wholly to you and to your service.*

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
11 FEBRUARY 2024
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)
Lev13:1-2, 44-46; 1Cor 10:31 - 11:1; Mk 1:40-45

SPEAK TO ME




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.*

7 WAYS TO HAVE A GOOD LENT



Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. This Lent do your best. Strive to root out sin and cultivate holiness. Let it be a lesson in humility that drives you back to the grace of God flowing from the pierced heart of Jesus - for that is the true heart of Lent.

1. Have a plan

3. Give alms

5. Examine yourself

7. Read a good spiritual book

2. Pray


4. Fast

6. Confess your sins

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



 **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

On 2ndSunday 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, 11 February 2024**. Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office.

 Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, **(18 February 2024)** there will be a Children’s Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.
All children are welcome to attend.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS
13 FEBRUARY 2024 - 9:00AM & 7:00PM

Solemn Mass for the **Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus is on Shrove Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at 9:00am and 7:00pm.**
Morning tea will be provided after the 9:00am Mass at the Pastoral Centre.

Copy of 9 Day Novena available www.holyface.com

LORD, SHOW US YOUR FACE and WE SHALL BE SAVED



 **WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2024**
Day of Fast and Abstinence

09:00am - Parish Mass
07:00pm - Parish Mass

Fasting: 1 main meal, 2 light snacks to be observed by those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year.

Abstinence: from meat products & sweet treats to be observed by those who have completed their fourteenth year.

Why do Catholics have their foreheads marked with a cross on Ash Wednesday?

In the Bible a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. By having their foreheads marked with the Sign of a Cross, this symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, Who died on a Cross. This is in imitation of the spiritual mark or seal that is put on a Christian in baptism, when he is delivered from slavery to sin and the devil, and made a servant of righteousness and Christ.




The Case for JESUS - Dr. Brant Pitre
Every Wednesday commencing from 07 February after 7pm Mass in the Pastoral Centre.

Can we trust the Gospels? Do we really know who wrote them? Do the Gospels communicate truth – or fabricated fables? Who is Jesus? Who did Jesus claim to be? Join Dr. Brant Pitre as he draws evidence from both early Christian and non-Christian writings attesting to the authenticity, authorship, and dating of the Gospels, and as he gives an in-depth look at the Gospel accounts of Jesus's Crucifixion, Resurrection, and the proclamation of Christ's divinity.


THE CASE FOR JESUS

DR. BRANT PITRE



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**



 **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



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 **\$2505.20**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3488.10**
Special Collection for Seminarians of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit was **\$1340.40**

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

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.



YOUTH GROUP @ SMM
Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 09 February)
Our youth group for Primary School Students. It meets on the 2nd& 4th 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 2nd& 4th Friday of the month starting at 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

For further information please contact Fr. Jeremy at Jeremy.Santoso@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.

WEEKLY CHILDREN’S BULLETINS

 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.

