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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS

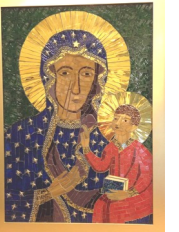


Our Parish is under the Pastoral Care of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit (known as the Pauline Fathers) who for more than 630 years are renowned Custodians of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, Poland.



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 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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

**THE
HEALING TOUCH
OF CHRIST**

11 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



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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man’s skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons. ‘The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, “Unclean, unclean”. As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

- Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. *(R.)*
- But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: ‘I will confess
my offence to the Lord.’
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. *(R.)*
- Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. *(R.)*

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1

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

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: ‘If you want to’ he said ‘you can cure me.’ Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. ‘Of course I want to!’ he said. ‘Be cured!’ And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus


immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, ‘Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.’ The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life.


MEDITATION

 How do you approach those who are difficult to love, or who are shunned by others because they are deformed or have some defect? Do you show them kindness and offer them mercy and help as Jesus did? The Lord is always ready to show us his mercy and to free us from whatever makes us unclean, unapproachable, or unloving towards others. *Lord Jesus, inflame my heart with your love and make me clean and whole in body, mind, and spirit. May I never doubt your love nor cease to tell others of your mercy and compassion.*

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
18 FEBRUARY 2024
First Sunday of LENT (Year B)
Gen 9:8-15; 1Pet 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15




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 our 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**

This **Sunday,11 February 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.

**Project Compassion Sunday**
10 - 11 February 2024

**PROJECT COMPASSION**
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations.** With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**
You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

On **Monday,12 February** our Parish will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and during 9:15 am Mass there will be **Anointing of the Sick** for all our Parishioners.

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.


**AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH**

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.**

SUNDAY - 25 FEBRUARY 2024

1:00 – 1:30pm Silent Adoration
1:30 – 3:00pm Devotions
3:00 pm **Holy Mass**
All are welcome to come and pray with us.



**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 Lenten discussion on Thursdays at **7:00pm** 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



The Case for JESUS - Dr. Brant Pitre
Every Wednesday 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.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Lent**
2024

WEDNESDAY - after 9:00am Mass
FRIDAY - after 7:00pm Mass


YOUTH GROUP @ SMM
Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 23 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: 23 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



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.

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.**




CHURCH GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Volunteers needed to clean church grounds & car park area once every fortnight.
Please leave your details at the Parish Office.



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 **\$2696.10**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3171.30**
Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.

Andrew Wood First Theology Course

The Four Last Things (*Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell*) will commence on:
Monday - 19th February (8 weeks)
Time: 7-9pm
Where: St Patrick's Cathedral Cloister Hall, Parramatta

Table Tennis social nights

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

