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Zikar and Mary Mattar  
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[www.zimabtc.com.au](http://www.zimabtc.com.au)  
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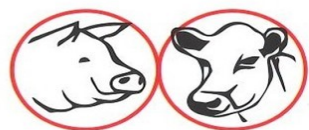
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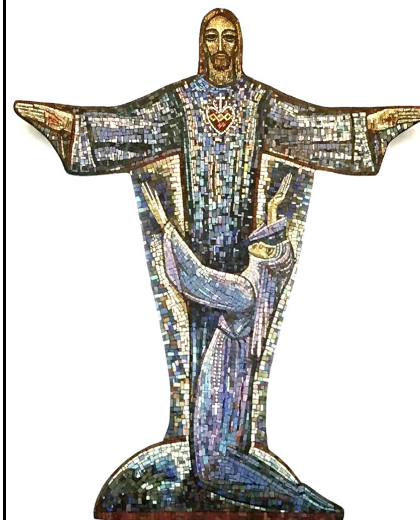
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## CONTACT US

# 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](mailto:parish@stmm.org.au)

Website: [stmm.org.au](http://stmm.org.au)



### PARISH GROUPS CO-ORDINATORS:

**Parish Pastoral Council:**

- ♦ Chair: Fr. Wojciech Sliwa & Belinda Tippetts
- ♦ Secretary: Rita Jacobson  
[parishcouncil@stmm.org.au](mailto:parishcouncil@stmm.org.au)

**Finance Committee:**

- ♦ Chair: Tony Bougoide
- ♦ Secretary: Priscilla Newman  
[financecommittee@stmm.org.au](mailto:financecommittee@stmm.org.au)

**Fundraising Committee:**

- ♦ Mike Jacobson - 0438 590 136

**Sacraments:**

- ♦ Monique Kairouz  
[sacraments@stmm.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stmm.org.au)

**Acolytes / RCIA**

- ♦ Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082

**Safeguarding Officer:**

- ♦ Alexandra Azzi  
[safeguarding@stmm.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@stmm.org.au)

**Catechists:**

- ♦ Sonia Abi-Rached

**Music:**

- ♦ Kerry van der Linden

**Readers:**

- ♦ Suzanne Mifsud  
[lectors@stmm.org.au](mailto: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

First Sunday of Lent  
18 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

### RECONCILIATION

**Tuesday** 8:30am-8:55am  
6:30pm-6:55pm

**Wednesday** 8:30am-8:55am

**Thursday** 8:30am-8:55am

**Friday** 8:30am-8:55am  
6:30pm-6:55pm

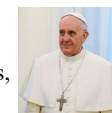
**Saturday** 8:30am-8:55am  
4:30pm-5:30pm

### 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

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

**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

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

God spoke to Noah and his sons, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.’ God said, ‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.’

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

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.*

- 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

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people ‘by water’, and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God’s right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. 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.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

## MEDITATION

How do we enter the kingdom of God? In announcing the good news of the Gospel Jesus gave two explicit things each of us must do in order to receive the kingdom of God: **repent and believe**. Repent means to turn away from sin and wrong-doing in order to follow God's way of love, truth, and moral goodness. Repentance means to change - to change my way of thinking, my attitude, my disposition, and the way I choose to live my life - so that the Lord Jesus can be the Master and Ruler of my heart, mind, and will. To believe is to take Jesus at his word and to recognize that God loved us so much that he sent his only begotten Son to free us from bondage to sin and harmful desires. He is our Father and he wants us to live in joy and freedom as his beloved sons and daughters. God loved us first and he invites us in love to surrender our lives to him. Do you believe in the Gospel - the good news of Jesus Christ - and in the power of the Holy Spirit who transforms each one of us into the likeness of Christ? **Lord Jesus, your word is life, joy, wisdom, and strength for me. Fill me with your Holy Spirit that I may have the strength and courage to embrace your will in all things and to renounce whatever is contrary to your will for me.**



### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 25 FEBRUARY 2024

**Second Sunday of LENT (Year B)**

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31-34; Mk 9:2-10



### 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.**



### 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



### 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.**

### 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**

### YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

**Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 23 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: 23 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)



### 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.**



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

### 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.



### 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

### 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.



### MASS COLLECTION CO-ORDINATORS

The Parish would like to appoint collection co-ordinators for the weekend Masses. The role is to ensure there are four collection wardens at each mass, and to be the contact person when there are special collections. If you regularly attend a particular weekend mass and would like to perform this role, please contact **Mike Jacobson (0438 590 136)** or the Parish Office.

## 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



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

Sacrament of Reconciliation Enrolments commence from **Tuesday, 27 February** until **Friday, 26 April 2024**.

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or available at our Parish Office during working hours. **(Enrolment Fee \$50 per child).**



**Parents Night: Monday, 08 April at 7pm.**  
**Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre**

Sacrament of Reconciliation program is divided into two groups taught by Monique Kairouz & assisted by Fr. Jeremy Santoso.

## RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

All preparation sessions will be held on **WEDNESDAYS** with two time slots to choose from: **5:30 - 6:30pm or 7:00 - 8:00pm**

**Session 1: 01 MAY**

**Session 2: 08 MAY**

**Session 3: 15 MAY**

**Session 4: 22 MAY**

**Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre**



**Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Monday, 27 May 2024 at 6:00pm inside the Church.**



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.**



## 'Return & Earn' Parish Fundraising



The parish is trialling a fundraising initiative based on the 'Return & Earn' recycling cash-back scheme. Parishioners are invited to put their unwanted EMPTY drink containers labelled with the “10c” refund logo in the 'Return & Earn' wheelie bin outside the western entrance of the Pastoral Centre.

**All proceeds will go to the parish.**



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.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes or by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

## 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 **\$2558.30**

Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3451.00**

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



## Table Tennis social nights

Our table tennis social nights will pause for Lent and Easter. The resumption date will be published in a future edition of the Bulletin.