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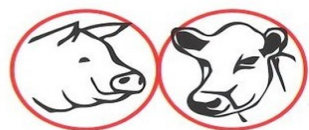
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Ben Gebran

Finance Broker

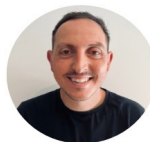
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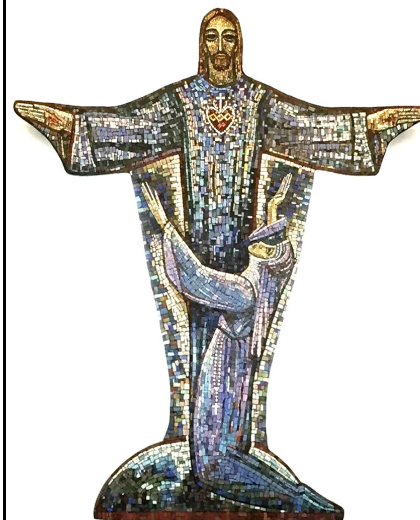
ben@sumplus.com.au

www.sumplus.com.au

Benjamin Gebran is a credit representative (Credit Representative No.
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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS

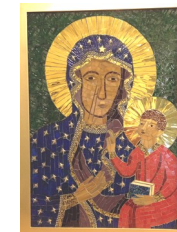


Our Parish is under the Pastoral Care of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit
(known as the Pauline Fathers) who for more than 630 years are renowned
Custodians of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, Poland.



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

Year B

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
25 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

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

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

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. ‘Abraham, Abraham,’ he called.’ Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’ When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.)I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

- I trusted, even when I said:
‘I am sorely afflicted.’
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**
- Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord’s name. **(R.)**
- My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father’s voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

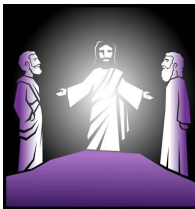
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

MEDITATION



How spiritually awake are you to Christ's presence and word of life for you? Peter, James, and John were privileged witnesses of the glory of Christ. We, too, as disciples of Christ are called to be witnesses of his glory. We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18). The Lord wants to reveal his glory to us, his beloved disciples. Do you seek his presence with expectant faith, reverence, and willing obedience? ***Lord Jesus, keep me always alert and awake to you, to your word, your action, and your daily presence in my life. Let me see your glory.***

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
03 MARCH 2024
Third Sunday of LENT (Year B)
Ex 20:1-17; 1Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25



**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.***



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.



ON 01 MARCH 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 - 02 MARCH 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, 02 March, 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.



YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 08 March)

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: 08 March)

Our youth group for High School Students. It meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month starting at 8:00pm to 9:00pm.

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



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.

**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 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

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	◆ 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	



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.



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 **\$3618.40**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3969.50**

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



'Return & Earn' Parish Fundraising

The parish is trialling a fundraising initiative during week-ends based on the 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.



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Open Morning

Wednesday 6th March 2024

9:00am– 10:30am

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Merrylands**

Enrolling Now

2025

*Enrolments are now taking place for
Kindergarten 2025.*

Enrolments also accepted for other grades.

*If your child was born between 1st August 2019 and 31st July 2020, you can
collect an enrolment form from the school office or download a form from the school
website.
Interviews will begin in April. Places are filling fast.*

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Website: www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au



OPEN NIGHT
5TH MARCH 2024

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