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www.zimabtc.com.au  
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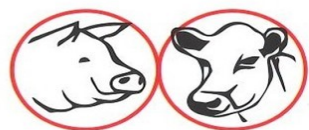
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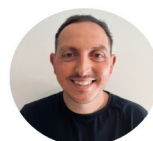


## Ben Gebran

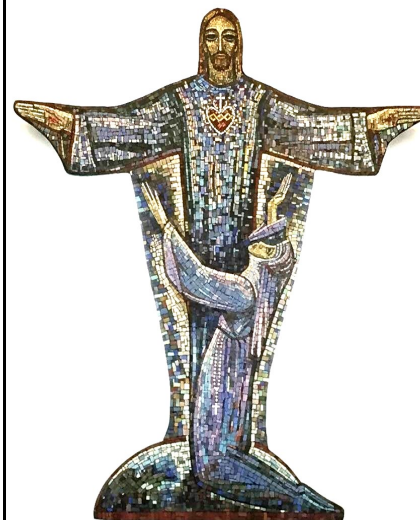
Finance Broker

0417 260 868  
1300 761 197  
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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of  
LENT, Year B



Lord, you  
have the  
words of  
everlasting  
life.

03 March 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-5:55pm

### PRAYER: HOLY FATHER-POPE FRANCIS

#### MONTHLY INTENTION: MARCH

##### For New Martyrs

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the  
world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.



##### 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

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

God spoke all these words. He said, ‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ‘You shall have no gods except me. ‘You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father’s fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ‘You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. ‘Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred. ‘Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. ‘You shall not kill. ‘You shall not commit adultery. ‘You shall not steal. ‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. ‘You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.’

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

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. *(R.)*
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. *(R.)*
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. *(R.)*
4. They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb. *(R.)*

## SECOND READING

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

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, ‘Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.’ Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, ‘What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?’ Jesus answered, ‘Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

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

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring welling up to eternal life.

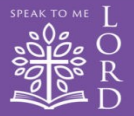
## MEDITATION

Through his death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus has reconciled us with God and made us adopted sons and daughters of our heavenly Father, and he fills us with his Holy Spirit and makes us living temples of our God. Do you recognize the indwelling presence of God within you through the gift and working of his Holy Spirit? The Lord Jesus wants to renew our minds and to purify our hearts so that we may offer God fitting worship and enjoy his presence both now and forever. Ask the Lord Jesus to fill you with a holy desire and burning zeal for his holiness and glory to grow in you and transform the way you think, act, and live as a son or daughter of God. *Lord Jesus Christ, you open wide the door of your Father's house and you bid us to enter confidently that we may worship in spirit and truth. Help me to draw near to your throne of mercy with gratitude and joy.*

### NEXT WEEK’S READINGS 10 MARCH 2024

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

**2Chron 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21**



### 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.**

### YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

**Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 08 March)**

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: 08 March)**

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 8:00pm to 9:00pm.

For further information please contact Fr. Jeremy at [Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org](mailto:Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org)



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

On 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 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, 10 March 2024**. Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office.



Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (17 March 2024) there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.

**All children are welcome to attend.**

### 2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

**Wednesday 20 March 2024**

**after 7:00pm MASS**

The 2nd rite of Reconciliation will be held on **20 March after 7:00pm Mass** in preparation for Easter.



**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- CELEBRATION OF THE SCRUTINIES

It is with great joy to announce one adult will celebrate the SCRUTINIES of the Elect on the **3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays of Lent at 9:00am Mass**. Please in your charity pray that they will receive the grace of Purification and Enlightenment and be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



### 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 **\$2767.10**

Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3419.55**

**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.**

### VOICES NEEDED FOR EASTER VIGIL MASS

We are seeking **Children & Adults** to join the Choir and be part of our festive celebration for the Easter Vigil Mass at 6:30pm on 30 March 2024.

Please contact Kerry at [k.dainer1@gmail.com](mailto:k.dainer1@gmail.com)



### CHURCH GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

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

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.



**St Margaret Mary's School**

**Merrylands**

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### Enrolling Now

For Kindergarten 2025

*You are invited to our*

**Open Morning**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

9:00am – 10:30am

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[www.stmargarymerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmargarymerrylands.catholic.edu.au)



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