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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS

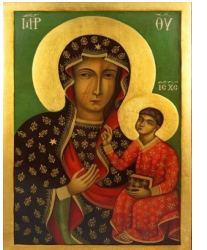


Our Parish is under the Pastoral Care of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit (known as the Pauline Fathers) who for more than 630 years are renowned Custodians of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, Poland.



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



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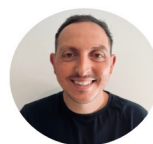
(M) 0421 118 882

(E) theng@hupfatt.com.au

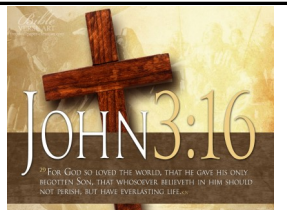
Ben Gebran
Finance Broker

0417 260 868
1300 761 197
ben@sumplus.com.au
www.sumplus.com.au

Benjamin Gebran is a credit representative (Credit Representative No. 553721) of QED Credit Services Pty Ltd (Australian Credit License 387856)



Fourth Year B
SUNDAY IN LENT 10 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

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

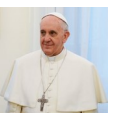
- ♦ Divine Mercy Devotions

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

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’ And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

- By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. *(R.)*
- For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
‘Sing to us,’ they said,
‘one of Zion’s songs.’ *(R.)*
- O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! *(R.)*
- O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! *(R.)*

SECOND READING Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith;

not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSEL John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John


Jesus said to Nicodemus: ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

MEDITATION

 How do we know, beyond a doubt, that God truly loves us and wants us to be united with him forever? For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). God proved his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer - his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world. Jesus shows us the paradox of love and judgment. We can love the darkness of sin and unbelief or we can love the light of God's truth, beauty, and goodness. If our love is guided by what is true, and good and beautiful then we will choose for God and love him above all else. What we love shows what we prefer. Do you love God above all else? Do you give him first place in your life, in your thoughts, decisions and actions?

Lord Jesus Christ, your death brought life for us. May your love consume and transform my life that I may desire you above all else. Help me to love what you love, to desire what you desire, and to reject what you reject.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
17 MARCH 2024
Fifth Sunday of LENT (Year B)
Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-30



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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

This Sunday, **10 March 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.



AT ST. MARGARET MARY’S PARISH

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.

Solemnity of St. Patrick

Monday - 18 March 2024



Solemnity of St. Joseph

Tuesday - 19 March 2024

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.



YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 22 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: 22 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



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 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 **\$2774.35**

Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3285.90**

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 youth groups

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



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.



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.*