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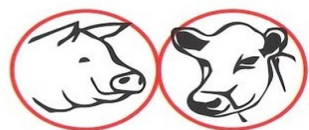
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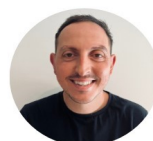


Ben Gebran

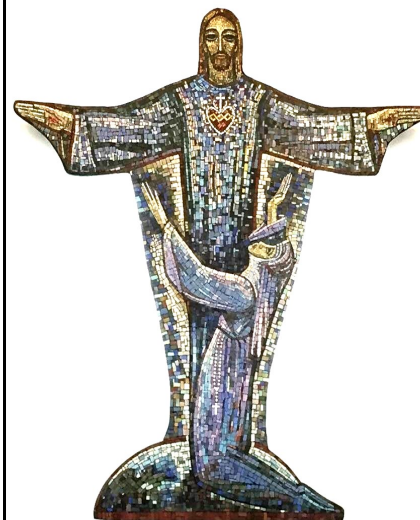
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ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH MERRYLANDS



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



HE WHO LOVES HIS LIFE
WILL LOSE IT,
AND HE WHO HATES HIS LIFE
IN THIS WORLD
WILL KEEP IT
FOR ETERNAL LIFE

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

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

- Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt.
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
- A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
- Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together

went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: ‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’ A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. ‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’ By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

MEDITATION


How can I practically "die" to myself so that the Lord Jesus can live in me and transform me into his likeness and holiness? It certainly means that what is contrary to God's will must be "put to death" within me. God gives us grace to say "yes" to his will and the strength we need to reject whatever is contrary to his commands and plan for our lives. The Lord Jesus promises that we will bear much "fruit" for him, if we choose to deny ourselves for his sake and embrace his will for our lives. Jesus used strong language to describe the kind of self-denial he had in mind for his disciples. "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25). What did Jesus mean when he said that a follower of Christ must hate himself or herself? The expression to hate something often meant to prefer less. Jesus says that nothing should get in the way of our preferring him and the will of our heavenly Father above all else. Paul the Apostle reminds us that "what is sown in the earth is subject to decay, what rises is incorruptible" (1 Corinthians 15:42). Do you believe in the power and victory of Christ's saving cross and resurrection? And are you ready to reject whatever is contrary to God's commands and to trust him for the strength and joy to embrace his will for your life?



Lord Jesus, let me be wheat sown in the earth, to be harvested for you. I want to follow wherever you lead me. Give me fresh hope and joy in serving you all the days of my life.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**
24 MARCH 2024
PALM SUNDAY
of the Passion of the LORD (Year B)
Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

**WEDNESDAY - after 9:00am Mass**
FRIDAY - after 7:00pm Mass
GOOD FRIDAY - 10:00am

**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.*

**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
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



**Holy Week Timeline**
PALM SUNDAY {Passion of the Lord}
Saturday (23 March) - 6:00pm - Vigil
Sunday (24 March) - 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 6:00pm
(Blessings of palms and olive branches at all Masses)
Monday (25 March) - 9:15am
Tuesday (26 March) - 9:00am & 7:00pm
Wednesday (27 March) - 9:00am **{NO 7:00pm Mass}**
Thursday (28 March) - No Morning Mass
Thursday of the LORD'S SUPPER - 7:00pm
Friday of the PASSION of the LORD {Good Friday} (29 March)
Stations of the Cross - 10:00am
Celebration of the Passion of the Lord - 3:00pm
Holy Saturday (30 March) - No Morning Mass
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (Saturday 30 March) 6:30pm
SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION {EASTER} (09 April)
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 6:00pm


**SUNDAY - 24 MARCH 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.


PARISH MOVIE NIGHT
Tuesday - 26 March (Holy Week)
Please come join us inside the Church to watch *'The Passion of Christ'* after 7pm evening Mass.



The Case for JESUS - Dr. Brant Pitre
Thursday (21 March) at 7pm 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 **5th Sunday of Lent at 9:00am Mass**. Please 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.

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 **\$2534.25**
Last weekend Second Collection was **\$3281.05**
Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.

'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 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. *Contact Kerry at k.dainer1@gmail.com*

STMM PIETY SHOP
We request our Parishioners to support our Parish Piety Corner Shop with their generous purchase.
A variety of Easter products including Solid Chocolate Lambs are available for purchase.


**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.

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	

