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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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| WEEKEND MASSES                                      | WEEKDAY MASSES  | RECONCILIATION  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Saturday</b> 6:00pm Vigil                        | <b>Monday</b> 9:15am  | <b>Tuesday</b> 8:30am-8:55am<br>6:30pm-6:55pm   |
| <b>Sunday</b> 7:30am<br>9:00am<br>10:30am<br>6:00pm | <b>Tuesday</b> 9:00am & 7:00pm<br><b>Wednesday</b> 9:00am & 7:00pm<br><b>Thursday</b> 9:00am<br><b>Friday</b> 9:00am & 7:00pm<br><b>Saturday</b> 9:00am | <b>Wednesday</b> 8:30am-8:55am<br><b>Thursday</b> 8:30am-8:55am<br><b>Friday</b> 8:30am-8:55am<br>6:30pm-6:55pm<br><b>Saturday</b> 8:30am-8:55am<br>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

**COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM**

*"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark **11:1-10**



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: \* Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. \* Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

**FIRST READING** **Isaiah 50:4-7**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
*(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' *(R.)*
2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. *(R.)*
3. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! *(R.)*
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' *(R.)*

**SECOND READING** **Philippians 2:6-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians  
His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**GOSPEL** **Mark 14:1 – 15:47**

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
*The Gospel of the Lord.*  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

**MEDITATION**

Does the King of glory find a welcome entry in your home and heart? Jesus went to Jerusalem knowing full well what awaited him - betrayal, rejection, and crucifixion. The people of Jerusalem, however, were ready to hail him as their Messianic King! Little did they know what it would cost this king to usher in his kingdom. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem astride a colt was a direct fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Zechariah (9:9) Jesus Christ came to bring us the kingdom of God. He is the true King who offers peace, joy, and everlasting life for those who accept his kingship. Does the King of glory find a welcome entry in your heart and home? Do your walls echo with the praise of his glory?  
*Lord Jesus, be the King and Ruler of my heart, mind, life, and home. May my life reflect your meekness and humility that you may be honored as the King of glory!*

**SPEAK TO ME LORD**  
**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**31 MARCH 2024**  
**EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD - (Year B)**  
*Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col 3:1- 4; Jn 20:1- 9*

**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.*

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**WEDNESDAY - after 9:00am Mass**  
**GOOD FRIDAY - 10:00am**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
Please remember that fasting and abstinence is to be observed on **Good Friday**. **All adults between the age of 18 & 60** are expected to observe the laws of fasting - 1 main meal and simple snacks (no sweet).  
Those **14 years and over** to observe the law of abstinence- (3 simple meals -no meat or treats).  
**Good Friday Collection For The Holy Land**  
Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land this Good Friday. Please also pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the 'Prince of Peace'.  
Your donations will support the missionary work in the Holy Land.  
**Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.**

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**  
**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.*

**Holy Week Timeline**  
Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday  
**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} (31 March)**  
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 6:00pm

**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.

**During HOLY WEEK**  
**There will be NO**  
\* Dr. Brante Pitre Talk (will resume Wednesday, 03 April)  
\* Eucharistic Adoration (will resume Thursday, 04 April)  
\* Scripture Study (will resume Thursday, 04 April)

**DIVINE MERCY NOVENA**  
**29 March to 06 April 2024**  
**Divine Mercy Sunday on 07 April 2024**  
29 March - Good Friday - 2:30pm  
30 March - Easter Vigil - 6:00 pm  
31 March - Easter Sunday - 10:00am  
01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06 April - after Morning Mass

**CYP GOOD FRIDAY WALK**  
**29 MARCH 2024**  
For all those who are interested to part of the Good Friday Walk please register at <https://parracatholic.org/events/gfnw/>

**The Association of the Holy Shroud**  
Invites you to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holy Shroud Fiesta Celebration  
**Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 @2:45 PM**  
Con-celebrated Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction, and Eucharistic Procession followed by refreshments at the Pastoral Centre St Margaret Mary's Catholic Church  
**FAMILY DAY OUT AT PENROSE PARK**  
Where: 120 Hanging Rock Road, Berrima  
When: 6th April  
Time: 11am mass followed by lunch  
RSVP RITA ELBAYEH 0415516564

**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 Santos.  
**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 \$2647.40  
Last weekend Second Collection was \$3804.00  
*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' cage outside the western entrance of the Pastoral Centre. **NO glass bottles please.**  
*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](mailto: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.**  
To commemorate **Divine Mercy Sunday (07 April)**, our Piety Shop is selling beautifully wrapped boxes of Divine Mercy candles for **\$7 each. (burns more than 15 hours).** These candles are perfect for your own personal devotion or as a treasured gift to share with others.

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.**

**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