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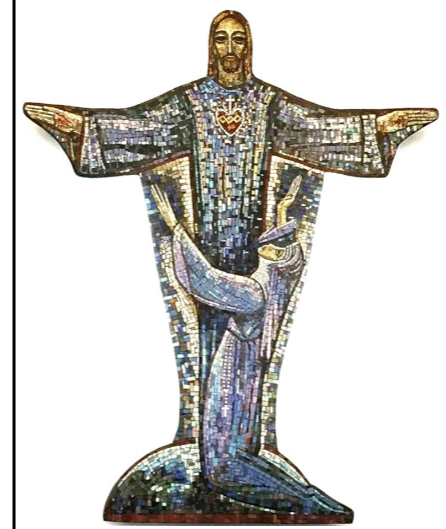
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Benjamin Gebran is a credit representative (Credit Representative No. 553721) of QED Credit Services Pty Ltd (Australian Credit License 387856)

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

Events Committee:
♦ Mike Jacobson - 0438 590 136

Sacraments:
♦ Monique Kairouz
sacraments@stmm.org.au

Acolytes / RCIA / Baptism
♦ 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:
♦ 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

5th Sunday of Easter Year B

I am the vine you are the branches
John 15:1-8

28th April 2024

SUNDAY MASSES	WEEKDAY MASSES	RECONCILIATION
Saturday 6:00pm Vigil	Monday 9:15am	Tuesday 8:30am-8:55am 6:30pm-6:55pm
Sunday 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am Vespers 5:15-5:45pm 6:00pm	Tuesday 9:00am & 7:00pm Wednesday 9:00am & 7:00pm Thursday 9:00am Friday 9:00am & 7:00pm Saturday 9:00am	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

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2024
For The Role of Women
Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.



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

- DEVOTIONS:**
- ♦ Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Succour)
Wednesday: after morning Mass
 - ♦ Marian Movement Cenacle
Saturday: 8:00am before 9:00am Mass
 - ♦ 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 (not during Advent, Lent, Divine Mercy Sunday & Corpus Christi Sunday)
Baptism Preparation: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month - 10:30am Mass followed by session.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
Sunday morning: 9:00am Mass followed by session 10:00am - 11:00am

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

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) *I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.*

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. (R.)
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' (R.)

SECOND READING 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John
My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 10:11-18


A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

MEDITATION

 Jesus offers true life - the abundant life which comes from God and which results in great fruitfulness. How does the vine become fruitful? The vine dresser must carefully prune the vine before it can bear good fruit. Vines characteristically have two kinds of branches - those which bear fruit and those which don't. The non-bearing branches must be carefully pruned back in order for the vine to conserve its strength for bearing good fruit. Jesus used this image to describe the kind of life he produces in those who are united with him - the fruit of "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17). Jesus says there can be no fruit in our lives apart from him. The fruit he speaks of here is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23). There is a simple truth here: We are either fruit-bearing or non-fruit-bearing. There is no in-between. But the bearing of healthy fruit requires drastic pruning. The Lord promises that we will bear much fruit if we abide in him and allow him to purify us. Do you trust in the Lord's healing and transforming power to give you the abundant life and fruit of his heavenly kingdom? *Lord Jesus, may I be one with you in all that I say and do. Draw me close that I may glorify you and bear fruit for your kingdom. Inflame my heart with your love and remove from it anything that would make me ineffective or unfruitful in loving and serving you as my All.*

SPEAK TO ME LORD
NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
05 MAY 2024
SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (Year B)
Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

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.*

REGINA CAELI
Let us pray, O God, who gave joy to the world through the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.
R. For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia.
V. Has risen, as He said, Alleluia.
R. Pray for us to God, Alleluia.
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.
R. For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

MAY DEVOTIONS
During the month of May, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after all Morning Masses and recitation of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Act of Consecration.
Within the cycle of a year, the Church unfolds the whole of the mystery of Christ from His incarnation and birth until His ascension, the day of Pentecost and the expectation of Blessed hope and of the Lord's return.
In celebrating this annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honours with special love **Mary, the Mother of God** who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son. In her, the Church holds up and admires the most excellent effect of the redemption and joyfully contemplates, as in a flawless image, that which the Church itself desires and hopes wholly to be. (SC102,103)

FIRST FRIDAY
ON 03 MAY 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 - 04 MAY 2024)
St Margaret Mary's parish has joined the Men's Rosary Crusade!
On Saturday, 04 May, 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: 10 May)
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: 10 May)
Our youth group for High School Students. It meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month starting at 7:30pm to 9:00pm.
For further information please contact Fr. Jeremy at Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org

Pilgrimage to Penrose Park
Our Lady of Fatima Day (Monday 13 May)
The Parish Piety Shop is planning to organise a Pilgrimage to Penrose Park to celebrate Fatima Day on **Monday, 13 May 2024**. Kindly contact Lydia or Santy as soon as possible at the Piety Shop if you are interested in attending the Pilgrimage.

The New Eve - Mary with Dr. Brant Pitre
Wednesday after 7pm in the Pastoral Centre
Why is Mary so important to Catholics, and why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries?
In this 8-part series, Dr. Brant Pitre examines what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about the life and identity of Mary.

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**

JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE
You are invited to experience the joy of **"The Bible and the Church Fathers"** on **Thursdays at 7:00pm** at St. Margaret Mary's Pastoral Centre.
For further queries, contact Gwen on 9632 9097

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024
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 - \$2921.70
Last weekend Second Collection - \$3427.35
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

STMM PIETY SHOP
We request our Parishioners to support our Parish Piety Corner Shop with their generous purchase of a variety of available products. These items are perfect for your own personal needs or as a treasured gift to share with others.
Purchases may be done from the Parish Office as well during working hours. **Thank you.**

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE TICKETS
We request our Parishioners to purchase as many raffle tickets for \$2 only. **Raffle draw will be held on Mother's Day, Sunday 12 May 2024 after 10:30am Mass.** Raffle tickets are available in the Piety Shop.

We request our Parishioners to please be reminded that parking in disabled designated spots are only for people who have less mobility and difficulty walking.
We truly appreciate your kind consideration by not parking in the disabled spaces.

Table Tennis social nights
Every Tuesday evening, in the Pastoral Centre after 7:00pm Mass. **All are welcome.**

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

◆ Reuben Dias	◆ Chau Tran Chon Chau Maria	◆ Cheryl Fortini
◆ Shelly Barnes	◆ Salam Awkar	◆ Margaret Falzon
◆ Robbie Barnes	◆ Leila Rouhana	
◆ Therese Nicolas	◆ Charles Zammit	
◆ Hermie Alves	◆ David O'Connor	
◆ Mary Callagja	◆ Marcelina Domingo	
◆ Rita Figredo	◆ Jacqueline Parr	