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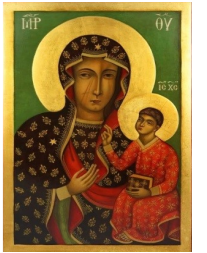


Our Parish is under the Pastoral Care of the Order of St Paul the First Hermit (known as the Pauline Fathers) who for more than 630 years are renowned Custodians of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, Poland.



Parish Priest
Fr. Wojciech Sliwa

Assistant Priest
Fr. Jeremy Santoso



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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

YEAR B
MAY 5, 2024
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Love one ANOTHER as I have LOVED you - JOHN 15:12

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	Tuesday 9:00am & 7:00pm	Wednesday 8:30am-8:55am
Vespers 10:30am 5:15-5:45pm	Wednesday 9:00am & 7:00pm	Thursday 8:30am-8:55am
	Thursday 9:00am	Friday 8:30am-8:55am 6:30pm-6:55pm
	Friday 9:00am & 7:00pm	Saturday 8:30am-8:55am 4:30pm-5:55pm
	Saturday 9:00am	

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2024 For The Formation of Men and Women Religious and Seminarians

Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

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

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26.34-35.44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.' While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

- Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. *(R.)*
- The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. *(R.)*
- All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

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 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's

commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

MEDITATION

What is the greatest act of love which one can give for the sake of another? Jesus defines friendship - the mutual bond of trust and affection which people choose to have for one another - as the willingness to give totally of oneself - even to the point of laying down one's life for a friend. How is such love possible or even desirable? God made us in love for love. That is our reason for being, our purpose for living, and our goal in dying. The Lord Jesus tells us that he is our friend and he loves us whole-heartedly and unconditionally. He wants us to love one another just as he loves us, whole-heartedly and without reserve. His love fills our hearts and transforms our minds and frees us to give ourselves in loving service to others. If we open our hearts to his love and obey his command to love our neighbor, then we will bear much fruit in our lives, fruit that will last for eternity. Do you wish to be fruitful and to abound in the love of God? *Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



SPEAK TO ME LORD
NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
12 MAY 2024
The ASCENSION of the LORD (Year B)
Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20

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.*

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)*

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

HAPPY Mother's DAY.
12 May 2024
As we honour the special role of motherhood; St Margaret Mary's Parish invites all mothers, grand-mothers and carers to receive a **special Mother's Day blessing** during all Sunday Masses on 11-12 May 2024.

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.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES
On 2nd 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, 12 May 2024**. Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office.

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (19 May 2024) there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.
All children are welcome to attend.

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.

ROSARY PROCESSION - 25 MAY 2024
The Legion of Mary, in conjunction with the Prospect Curia, is organizing a rosary procession on **Saturday (25 May)** of the Marian Month of May.
The procession will commence immediately after the 9am Mass and will go around the Church and Primary School block. We encourage all parishioners and families to participate in this public witness of praying the rosary. Thank you all Marian devotees.

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 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) Pauline Fathers
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 - \$2588.15
Last weekend Second Collection - \$3476.50
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.**

Legion of Mary - Home Visits in May
The Legion of Mary would like to encourage families to pray the rosary. With this in mind, we invite families to call **Peter Carroll (0414070082) & Mary Issac (0430687512)** to book a date and time.
The legionaries will bring the Pilgrim Mother to your home and pray the rosary with the family and leave the statue in your home for a week before returning to conclude.
May Our Blessed Mother protect us all!

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

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

Child SAFETY
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.

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	

