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Parish Priest
Fr Janusz Pawlicha

Assistant Priest
Fr Joseph Maria Buckley



Ordo Sancti Pauli Primi Eremitae

PARISH INFORMATION

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:
Secretary: Denise Fernandes
Finance Committee: TBA
Parish Council:
♦ **Chair:** Fr Janusz Pawlicha, OSPPE
♦ **Secretary:** TBA

Fundraising Committee:
♦ Mike Jacobson - 0438 590 136

Catechists: Sonia Abi-Rached

Music: Kerry van der Linden

Sacraments: Fr Joseph Maria Buckley

Acolytes / RCIA: Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082

Readers: Gwen D'Silva

YOUTH GROUP:
Pauline Teen: Fr Joseph / Rita Jacobson

Legion of Mary: Merwyn D'Souza - 0478 109 569

Playgroup: Nicole Gadd - 0402 350 170

St Vincent de Paul: 88619757

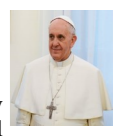


The Epiphany of the Lord

02nd January 2022

WEEKEND MASSES:		WEEKDAY MASSES:	
Saturday:	6:00pm Vigil	Monday:	9:15am
Sunday:	7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	Tuesday:	9:00am & 7:00pm
		Wednesday:	9:00am & 7:00pm
		Thursday:	9:00am
		Friday:	9:00am & 7:00pm
		Saturday:	8:30am

PRAYER: HOLY FATHER-POPE FRANCIS'
MONTHLY INTENTION: JANUARY
For true human fraternity
We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



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: 9:30 am - 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
5:15 pm - 5:45pm

RCIA SESSIONS- SUNDAY MORNINGS
9am Mass followed by Session 10 am - 11am

DEVOTIONS:

- ♦ **Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**
Tuesday: after morning Mass
Wednesday: 6:30pm before 7:00pm 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

RECONCILIATION:
Tues - Fri 8.30 - 8.55am
Sat - 9am - 9.30am and 4.30pm-5.30pm (or by appointment)

MARRIAGES: By appointment only (6 months required)

SICK CALLS: 9637 2526- option 3 or 0412 625 187 - any time



Please remember to
switch off your mobile phone

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 60 1 – 6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

- O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
- In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**
- For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 2: 1 - 12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He

called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

MEDITATION



If Jesus truly is who he claims to be, the eternal Son of God and Savior of the world, then why is he not recognized by everyone who hears his word and sees his works? John the Evangelist states that when Jesus came into the world the world knew him not and his own people received him not (John 1:10-11). Jesus was born in obscurity. Only the lowly shepherds recognized him at

his birth. Some wise men also found their way to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn King of Israel. These men were not Israelites, but foreigners. They likely had read and discussed the Messianic prophecies and were anxious to see when this Messianic King would appear. God led them by means of an extraordinary star across the desert to the little town of Bethlehem where Jesus was born. To know and to encounter Jesus Christ is to know God personally. In the encounter of the wise men with Jesus we see the plan of God to give his only Son as King and Savior, not just for the Jewish people but for all the nations as well. The Lord Jesus came that both Jew and Gentile might find true and lasting peace with God. Let us pray today that Jew and Gentile alike will find the Lord and Savior on their journey of life. Do you bring the light of Jesus Christ to those you meet through the witness of your life and testimony? **Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for bringing salvation to all the nations. May the gospel of salvation be proclaimed to every nation today and to every person on the face of the earth. Help me to be a good witness of the joy of the gospel to all I meet.**

NEW YEAR 2022 GREETINGS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our faithful parishioners and visitors who have supported our parish during the year 2021, both spiritually and financially.

To all our volunteers, Acolytes, the leaders of our devotional and Parish teams and those who are always ready to lend a hand to maintain our Church and its grounds, the unsung heroes of this community. Without their constant help and dedication, our Parish would not be as beautiful and vibrant as it is today.

We thank all who give up their time to decorate our Church during our major feast days and whenever required. A special thanks of appreciation to Vivian & Belinda Tippetts.



We pray that with the help and guidance of our Triune God and of our Blessed Mother that after the challenge of 2021, enable a truly life-giving 2022.

Fr. Janusz

PRAYER REQUESTS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ◆ Tony Ostojic | ◆ Giovanna Prestipino | ◆ Barbara Hanna |
| ◆ Shelly Barnes | ◆ Ireneo Vicencio | ◆ Anthony Hanna |
| ◆ Teresa Saad | ◆ Alice Said | ◆ Carlos Rivanar |
| ◆ Christopher Oldham | ◆ Diab Baysari | ◆ Josephine Hanna |
| ◆ Simon Khoury | ◆ Mario & Tereza Cutajar | ◆ Leonardo Pedavoli |
| ◆ Sonia & Pierre Abi-Rached | ◆ Mary Essey | ◆ Smiljana Milina |
| ◆ Therese Nicolas | ◆ Katrina & Maria Smith | ◆ Roneth Jaro |
| ◆ Nikola Jerkovic | ◆ Carolina Morante | ◆ Jayden Jong |
| ◆ Susan Pace | ◆ Alex Habis | ◆ Reuben Dias |
| ◆ Branko Soric | ◆ Ramona Sassine | |
| ◆ Gloria Lavitoria | ◆ Laura Anisse | |
| ◆ Jocelyn Santos | ◆ John Bartolo | |
| ◆ Joanna Essey | ◆ Bob Sinclair | |



**ON
7TH JANUARY 2022
WITH (ALLIANCE OF
THE TWO HEARTS)
MASS AT 7:00PM**

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"

SUPPORT

We request our generous Parishioners, if possible to kindly continue to financially support our Parish by contributing towards their Planned giving, Sunday Collections or donations to the Church.

Payment options are:

QUEST Tap to Donate (3 devices inside the Church)

Cash (Parish Office during office hours)

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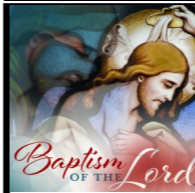
St Margaret Mary's Parish –Merrylands
PO Box 757, Merrylands NSW 2160

Direct Debit: BSB: 067 950

Account Number: 00438

Account Name: Merrylands Catholic Church

(Please specify details of your contribution i.e. Envelope Number or First Collection or Second Collection).



On Sunday 09 January 2022, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or Epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan; when God his father revealed His love and favour for his Son – Jesus Christ our Lord.

During our weekend Masses there will be a special Blessing of Water.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE OF WATER TO BE BLESSED DURING THE WEEKEND MASSES

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 09 JANUARY 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C
Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

OUR
PARISH
PRAYER

Father, 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**



Masks: The NSW Government has announced that as of midnight tonight, masks are required to be worn in all indoor settings, including places of worship.

COVID19 Safe Check-In and Record Keeping: Check-in using the NSW QR

Code and record keeping of all attendees are still required for places of worship and remain important for NSW Health contact tracing.

Other Measures: In an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the NSW government is also asking people to consider moving events outdoors where possible and discouraging mingling and singing.

Parishes should consider measures to manage the spread including:

- The possibility of having Masses outdoors, weather permitting;
- Discouraging congregational singing; and
- Limiting social gatherings where possible.



**01ST – 31ST
JANUARY 2022**

- ◆ 09:15 am - Monday
- ◆ 09:00 am - Tuesday to Friday
- ◆ 08:30 am - Saturday
- ◆ NO Evening Weekday Masses
- ◆ Weekend Masses as usual
- ◆ 06:00 pm - Saturday (Vigil)
- ◆ 07:30 am, 09:00am, 10:30am - Sunday
- ◆ 06:00 pm - Sunday

ALL DEVOTIONS, ADORATIONS & EVENING MASSES WILL RESUME ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2022



Renew and Rejoice

Welcome Back to
Sunday Mass

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION RESUMES

On 20 March 2020 Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta were dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice (Canon 1248 §2 and Catechism 2181) by virtue of a Decree issued by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv.

From 15 December 2021 this Decree is now revoked and the Sunday obligation is now imposed once again given that public health orders no longer require adherence to density limits in our church buildings.

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING 20 C + M + B 22

(Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year)

This Sunday, 02 January 2022, we will be celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We rejoice that the light of Christ has come into our world.

Today, we invite families to take home a piece of this chalk to mark the front door of your homes as a blessing for the New Year.

Kindly ensure one pack per family is taken. Thank you



2022
happy new year.