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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



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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:
♦ Secretary:

Fundraising Committee:
♦ Mike Jacobson - 0438 590 136

Catechists: Sonia Abi-Rached

Music : Kerry van der Linden

Sacraments: Monique Kairouz

Acolytes / RCIA : Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082

Readers: Gwen D'Silva

YOUTH GROUP:
Pauline Junior / Teen: Fr. Jeremy Santoso

Legion of Mary: Merwyn D'Souza - 0404 863 564

Playgroup: Kathy-lynn Azzi - 0416 225 815

St Vincent de Paul: 88619757

Grow with Christ

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
16TH JULY 2023

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

PRAYER: HOLY FATHER-POPE FRANCIS
MONTHLY INTENTION: JULY
For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

FIRST FRIDAY:
11:00am: Maltese Mass
06:30pm: Confession
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 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

RECONCILIATION: Tues - Fri 8:30 - 8:55am
Sat 8:30am - 9:30am and 4:30pm - 5:30pm

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

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING

Is 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **(R.)**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds

fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. 'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it. 'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young;
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

MEDITATION

What is the best and easiest way to help people understand God's kingdom? Like the rabbis of his time, Jesus very frequently used parables, short stories and images taken from everyday life to convey hidden truths about the kingdom of God. The parables of Jesus will enlighten us if we approach them with an open mind and heart, ready to let them challenge us. If we approach them with the conviction that we already know the answer, then we, too, may look but not see, listen but not understand. God's word can only take root in a receptive heart that is ready to believe and willing to submit. Do you submit to God's word with trust and obedience? One lesson from this parable is clear: the harvest is sure to come. While some seed will fall by the wayside and some fall on shallow ground and never come to maturity, and some be choked to death by the thorns; nonetheless a harvest will come. The seed that falls on good soil, on the heart that is receptive, will reap abundant fruit. God is always ready to speak to each of us and to give us understanding of his word. Are you hungry for his word? And do you allow anything to keep you from submitting to God's word with joy and trusting obedience? **Lord Jesus, faith in your word is the way to wisdom, and to ponder your divine plan is to grow in the truth. Open my eyes to your deeds, and my ears to the sound of your call, that I may understand your will for my life and live according to it**



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 23 JULY 2023 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Wis 12:13, 16 - 19; Rom 8:26 - 27; Mt 13:24 - 30



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

NOVENA TO ST. CHARBEL (15 JULY - 23 JULY 2023)

Commencing from Saturday - 15 July there will be Novena prayers to St. Charbel after Mass which will conclude on Sunday - 23 July.
Feast of St. Charbel will be on Monday - 24 July 2023.



AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH



Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (16 July 2023) there will be a Children's Liturgy during the 10:30am Mass.
All children are welcome to attend.

23 JULY 2023

1:00 - 1:30pm Silent Adoration
1:30 - 3:00pm Devotions
3:00 pm **Special Holy Mass**
All are welcome to come and pray with us.



PARISH CAR BLESSING & MORNING TEA SUNDAY - 30 July 2023

St. Christopher known as the patron saint of travelers protecting them from danger and illness. Through his intercession of safe travel and protection, for all our Parishioners who wish to have their car blessed, after 10:30am Mass please enter through the school entrance church carpark from **Davies St.** and drive through the school grounds and exit to **Henson St.** A request to kindly follow instructions from our volunteers, who will be there to guide the drivers in a systematic manner from the entrance to the exit. Thank you.
After blessing of the cars, please join the Parish for **Morning Tea** in the Pastoral Centre. All are welcome.
We request our Parishioners to kindly bring a plate to share.

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. If you can spare 1/2 hour or more, 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 discussion meeting on Thursdays at 7pm at St. Margaret Mary's Pastoral Centre.
For further queries, contact Gwen on 9632 9097

RCIA PROGRAM

RCIA is an ongoing Apostolate in this Parish. The RCIA Apostolate consists of a dedicated team of volunteers who have received instructions to guide anyone who wishes to join the Catholic Church through weekly preparations classes and regular Mass attendance.

If you know of anyone who wishes to enter the Catholic Faith, who has been baptised in another Faith or unbaptised and wishes to complete the Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church; Please see our Priests after Mass during the weekends or contact the **RCIA Coordinator Peter Carroll on 0414 070 082** or the Parish Office.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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



DIOCESAN SYNOD 2023



A synod of the Parramatta Diocese comprising clergy, religious and laity, chaired by Bishop, will be held from **12-15 October 2023**, to decide issues to form the basis of a pastoral plan.

Parishioners are invited to suggest ideas to help form issues considered by the synod. Ideas should relate to "**How can we improve community and devotional life and missionary activity in parishes and diocese?**" Example ideas are: establish groups of under-represented parishioners (e.g. men, youth), closer parish-school links, more processions, longer adoration times, etc. Submissions can be made by **31 July** at <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023> submissions/or by mail to: Synod C/- Bethany Centre, 470 Church Street. Parramatta, NSW 2150.

YOUTH GROUP @ SMM

Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 28 July)

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: 28 July)

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



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

Thank you for you continued support and generosity. God bless.



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.**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023



Sacrament of First Holy Communion Enrolments commence from **Tuesday, 06 June 2023** until **Friday, 21 July 2023.**
(Enrolment Fee \$50 per child)

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or are available at our Parish Office during working hours.

Parents Night: Monday - 17 July at 7pm.
Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion program is divided into two groups taught by Monique Kairouz & assisted by Fr. Jeremy Santoso.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM:

All preparation sessions held on **MONDAY** or **TUESDAY** at **5:30-7:00pm**

Session 1: 24 JULY or 25 JULY 2023
Session 2: 31 JULY or 01 AUGUST 2023
Session 3: 07 AUGUST or 08 AUGUST 2023
Session 4: 14 AUGUST or 15 AUGUST 2023
Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.

Rehearsal Group 1: Thursday - 24 August at 6:00pm
Rehearsal Group 2: Thursday - 31 August at 6:00pm



Group 1: Sunday - 27 August at 10:30am
Group 2: Sunday - 03 September at 10:30am