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**PARISH OFFICE:**  
 1-5 Chetwynd Rd,  
 Merrylands NSW 2160  
 PO Box 757 Merrylands  
 Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am - 3:30pm  
 Phone: 02 9637 2526 9637 2014  
 Fax: 9637 2442  
 Email: parish@stmm.org.au  
 Website: stmm.org.au

**OUR SCHOOLS:**  
**St. Margaret Mary's Primary School**  
 7 Chetwynd Rd, Merrylands NSW 2160  
 Phone: 02 8633 8400

**Cerdon College**  
 74 Sherwood Rd, Merrylands NSW 2160  
 Phone: 02 8724 7300

**PARISH GROUPS COORDINATORS:**  
**Parish Pastoral Council:**  
 ♦ Chair: Fr. Wojciech Sliwa  
 ♦ Chair: 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  
 events@stmm.org.au

**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:** Rita Elbayeh  
**Pauline Teen:** Rita Jacobson

**Legion of Mary:**  
 ♦ Anthony Sammut - 0449 794 147

**Playgroup:**  
 ♦ TBA

# 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**

**Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time**

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."  
 Luke 6:40

**Year C - 02 March 2025**

**THE MOUTH SPEAKS FROM THAT WHICH FILLS THE HEART**  
 Luke 6:45

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

**FIRST FRIDAY:**  
 11:00am: Maltese Mass  
 07:00pm: Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition

**ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT:**  
**Thursday-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  
**Every Saturday Adoration:** 4:30pm-5:45pm

**DEVOTIONS:**  
**Veneration of the Holy Face of Jesus - Tuesday:** 7:30pm - 8:30pm  
**Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Succour) - Wednesday** after 9:00am Mass  
**Novena to St. Margaret Mary every Friday morning mass**  
**Marian Movement Cenacle - Friday:** 5:00pm (*Children's Rosary*)  
**Saturday:** 8:00am before 9:00am Mass  
**Men's Rosary Crusade - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month** after 9:00am Mass  
**Divine Mercy - 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  
 (not during Advent, Month of January, Lent, Divine Mercy Sunday & Corpus Christi Sunday)  
**Baptism Preparation:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

The Lord became my protector.  
He brought me out to a place of freedom;  
he saved me because he delighted in me.

**FIRST READING**

**Sirach 27:4-7**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.*

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. *(R.)*
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. *(R.)*
3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. *(R.)*

**SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 15:54-58**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.  
*Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 6:39-45**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no

sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, singing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

**MEDITATION**

Jesus states a heavenly principle we can stake our lives on: *what you give to others (and how you treat others) will return to you* (Mark 4:24). The Lord knows our faults and he sees all, even the imperfections and sins of the heart which we cannot recognize in ourselves. Like a gentle father and a skillful doctor he patiently draws us to his *seat of mercy* and removes the cancer of sin which inhabits our hearts. Do you trust in God's mercy and grace? Ask the Lord to flood your heart with his loving-kindness and mercy that you may only have room for charity, forbearance, and kindness towards your neighbor. *O Father, give us the humility which realizes its ignorance, admits its mistakes, recognizes its need, welcomes advice, accepts rebuke. Help us always to praise rather than to criticize, to sympathize rather than to discourage, to build rather than to destroy, and to think of people at their best rather than at their worst. This we ask for your name's sake. (Prayer of William Barclay, 1907-1978)*



**SPEAK TO ME LORD**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**09 MARCH 2025**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)**  
First Reading: Deut 26:4-10  
Second Reading: Rom 10:8-13  
Gospel: Lk 4:1-13

**PRAYER INTENTION - MARCH 2025**  
**Universal Intention - For families in crisis**  
Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

**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.*

**Caritas AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION**  
**Project Compassion Sunday**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

**UNITE AGAINST POVERTY**  
this Lent  
Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.  
Or online at [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)  
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

**LET'S COME DRESSED IN OUR SUNDAY BEST**  
For Catholics, the Mass is a very solemn and sacred event in which they are renewed in faith by their encounter with the real presence of Jesus Christ and grow as a community together with the universal Church. *We should dress in a modest manner, wearing clothes that reflect our reverence for God and that manifest our respect for the dignity of the liturgy and for one another.*

**Church Dress Code**

**THE PROPER ATTIRE INSIDE THE CHURCH**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS**  
**04 MARCH 2025 - 9:00AM & 7:00PM**  
Solemn Mass for the Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus is on **Shrove Tuesday, 04 March 2025 at 9:00am and 7:00pm.**  
*Morning tea will be provided after the 9:00am Mass at the Pastoral Centre.*  
Copy of 9 Day Novena available [www.holyface.com](http://www.holyface.com)  
**LORD, SHOW US YOUR FACE and WE SHALL BE SAVED**

**ASH WEDNESDAY, 05 MARCH 2025**  
**Day of Fast and Abstinence**

**09:00am - School Mass**  
**12:00pm - School Mass**  
**07:00pm - Parish Mass**

**Fasting:** 1 main meal, 2 light snacks to be observed by those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year.  
**Abstinence:** from meat products & sweet treats to be observed by those who have completed their fourteenth year.  
**Why do Catholics have their foreheads marked with a cross on Ash Wednesday?**  
In the Bible a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. By having their foreheads marked with the Sign of a Cross, this symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, Who died on a Cross. This is in imitation of the spiritual mark or seal that is put on a Christian in baptism, when he is delivered from slavery to sin and the devil, and made a servant of righteousness and Christ.

**FIRST FRIDAY**  
**ON 07 MARCH 2025 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"**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**FRIDAY - after 7:00pm Mass**

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**  
On 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 09 March 2025**. Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office.

**YOUTH GROUP @ SMM**  
**Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 14 March)**  
Our youth group for Primary School Students. It meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month starting at 5:30pm to 6:30pm.  
**Pauline Teen (Next Meeting: 14 March)**  
Our youth group for High School Students. It meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month starting at 7:30pm to 9:00pm. For further information please contact Fr. Jeremy at [Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org](mailto:Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org)

**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 *Metanoia*—meaning *transformation* which reflects the deep change of heart that God invites us into during Lent. Every Thursdays at **7:00pm** in the Pastoral Centre.

**READERS RECRUITMENT**  
Our Parish is calling for dedicated people who wish to read during the weekdays and weekend Masses. All interested may contact Suzanne Mifsud at [lectors@stmm.org.au](mailto:lectors@stmm.org.au) or Parish Office at [parish@stmm.org.au](mailto:parish@stmm.org.au)

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025**

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion Enrolments commence from **Tuesday, 11 February** until **Friday, 07 March 2025**.  
Enrolment forms are available on our website or at our Parish Office during working hours.  
**(Enrolment Fee \$100 per child).**

Parents Night for Reconciliation & First Holy Communion  
**Monday, 10 March at 7pm.**  
Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre  
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: 12 MARCH**      **Session 2: 19 MARCH**  
**Session 3: 26 MARCH**      **Session 4: 02 APRIL**  
Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre  
Sacrament of First Reconciliation on **Monday, 07 April 2025 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 - \$2626.85**  
**Last weekend Second Collection - \$3286.85**  
**Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless.**

**VOICES NEEDED FOR GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER VIGIL MASS**  
We are seeking **Children & Adults** to join the Family Choir and be part of the celebration of the Passion of the Lord and Easter Vigil Mass at 6:30pm on 19 April 2025. Please contact Kerry at [k.dainer1@gmail.com](mailto:k.dainer1@gmail.com)

**St Margaret Mary's School**  
*A Dynamic Community of Learners in Action*  
7 Chesham Road, Merrylands 2160 Tel: (02) 98633 8400  
Email: [stmmargaretmary@stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmmargaretmary@stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)  
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Enrolling now for 2026  
Children born between 1 August 2020 and 31 July 2021 can commence school in 2026.  
Enrolment forms can be collected from the school office or downloaded from the school website [www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)  
Interviews will commence in March 2025.

**JOIN US FOR TERM 1 OPEN DAYS**

**TERM 1 2025**  
Wednesday 5 March - 3:30pm-5pm  
Friday 7 March - 9:30am-10:30am  
Enrolling now for 2026

[stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)  
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◆ Salam Awkar      ◆ Anthony Quach

**The Power of Prayer**  
*Prayer Requests*