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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



Year C
 09 March 2025

SUNDAY MASSES		WEEKDAY MASSES		RECONCILIATION	
Saturday	6:00pm Vigil	Monday	9:15am	Tuesday	8:30am-8:55am 6:30pm-6:55pm
Sunday	7:30am	Tuesday	9:00am & 7:00pm	Wednesday	8:30am-8:55am
	9:00am	Wednesday	9:00am & 7:00pm	Thursday	8:30am-8:55am
Vespers	10:30am 5:15-5:45pm	Thursday	9:00am	Friday	8:30am-8:55am 6:30pm-6:55pm
	6:00pm	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
 4th Sunday of the month: 1:00pm - 1:30pm- Divine Mercy Devotions
 1st 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 - 1st Saturday of the month after 9:00am Mass
 Divine Mercy - 4th Sunday of the month: 1:00pm - 3:00pm (3:00pm - Holy Mass)

BAPTISMS:
 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
 (not during Advent, Month of January, 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

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement: "My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' *(R.)*
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. *(R.)*
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. *(R.)*
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

MEDITATION



The forty days of Lent is the annual retreat of the people of God in imitation of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. We are called to journey with the Lord in a special season of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, repentance, and renewal as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Easter, the Christian Passover. The Lord gives us spiritual food and supernatural strength to seek his face and to prepare ourselves for spiritual combat and testing. We, too, must follow in the way of the cross in order to share in the victory of Christ's death and resurrection. As we begin this holy season of preparation and renewal, let's ask the Lord for a fresh outpouring of his Holy Spirit that we may grow in faith, hope, and love, and embrace his will more fully in our lives. *Lord Jesus, your word is life and joy for me. Fill me with your Holy Spirit that I may have the strength and courage to embrace your will in all things and to renounce whatever is contrary to it.*

SPEAK TO ME LORD

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
16 MARCH 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)
First Reading: Gen 15:5 -12, 17-18
Second Reading: Phil 3:17 - 4:1
Gospel: Lk 9:28-36

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.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

WEDNESDAY - after 9:00am Mass
FRIDAY - after 7:00pm Mass

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

This Sunday, 09 March 2025 couples celebrating their wedding anniversary are invited for a special blessing at the 10:30am Mass.
We wish all these couples God's blessings and graces.

YOUTH GROUP @ STMM

Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 14 March)
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: 14 March)
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

AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (16 March 2025) there will be a Children's Mass at 10:30am.
All children are welcome to attend.

Solemnity of St. Patrick
Monday - 17 March 2025

Solemnity of St. Joseph
Wednesday - 19 March 2025

SUNDAY - 23 MARCH 2025

1:00 – 1:30pm *Silent Adoration*
1:30 – 3:00pm *Devotions*
3:00 pm *Holy Mass*

All are welcome to come and pray with us.

READERS MEETING
TUESDAY - 25 MARCH 2025

All Readers of our Parish are invited to attend a meeting with the Parish Priest on **Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at 7:45pm** in the Pastoral Centre.

NOVENA TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Novena to the Holy Family will be recited every **Wednesday evening after 7pm Mass.**

Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church - Parousia Academy
Wednesday after 7pm Mass in the Pastoral Centre

Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, presented by popular educator Fr John Flader, explains the principal teachings of the Church in a way anyone can understand and shows how they can be lived out in ordinary life.

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.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP @ STMM

The Parish is in the process of starting a Young Adults Group (**ages 18 to 35 years**), which will hold social and faith-based events, such as dinners, movies, charity fundraising etc.

Please indicate your interest and preferred meeting day/times along with your details (phone no and email) to Fr. Jeremy Santoso via email Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025

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 - \$2726.70
Last weekend Second Collection - \$3403.05
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

Catholic Weekly (\$2) at Piety Shop

Kindly support the Parish by purchasing a copy of the Catholic Weekly for **only \$2** available at our Piety Shop.

Caritas AUSTRALIA | PROJECT COMPASSION

First Sunday of Lent
8th and 9th of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Tosuaata'iga** - (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.

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
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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

YES (modest dress) NO (casual dress)

7 WAYS TO HAVE A GOOD LENT

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. This Lent do your best. Strive to root our sin and cultivate holiness. Let it be a lesson in humility that drives you back to the grace of God flowing from the pierced heart of Jesus - for that is the true heart of Lent.

1. Have a plan
2. Pray
3. Give alms
4. Fast
5. Examine yourself
6. Confess your sins
7. Read a good spiritual book

◆ Reuben Dias	◆ Charles Zammit	◆ Harry Mc Credie
◆ Shelly Barnes	◆ David O'Connor	◆ Tad Mejaja
◆ Robbie Barnes	◆ Marcelina Domingo	◆ Lily Ware
◆ Therese Nicolas	◆ Jacqueline Parr	
◆ Hermie Alves	◆ Cheryl Fortini	
◆ Mary Callagja	◆ Margaret Falzon	
◆ Rita Figueredo	◆ Karen Falzon	
◆ Chau Tran Chon Chau Maria	◆ Anthony Quach	
◆ Salam Awkar	◆ Jack Bartolo	
◆ Leila Rouhana	◆ Sarafino Enadio	

Prayer Requests