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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



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Year C
23 March 2025

Draw close, dear
Remove your sandals from your feet,
for the place where you stand is
holy ground. Exodus 33

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
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 The Holy Family - Wednesday after 7:00pm 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

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. *(R.)*
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. *(R.)*
3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. *(R.)*
4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

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

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they

were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?"' "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

MEDITATION



God, in his mercy, gives us time to get right with him, but that time is now. We must not assume that there is no hurry. A sudden and unexpected death leaves one no time to prepare to settle one's accounts when he or she must stand before the Lord on the day of judgment.

Jesus warns us that we must be ready at all times. Tolerating sinful habits and excusing unrepentant sin and wrongdoing will result in bad fruit, painful discipline, and spiritual disease that leads to death and destruction. The Lord in his mercy gives us both grace and time to turn away from sin, but that time is right now. If we delay, even for a day, we may discover that grace has passed us by and our time is up. Do you hunger for the Lord's righteousness and holiness? *Lord Jesus, increase my hunger for you that I may grow in righteousness and holiness. May I not squander the grace of the present moment to say "yes" to you and to your will and plan for my life.*

SPEAK TO ME LORD

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
30 MARCH 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)
First Reading: Jos 5:9-12
Second Reading: 2Cor 5:17-21
Gospel: Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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.

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.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
TUESDAY - 25 MARCH 2025

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.

YOUTH GROUP @ STMM
Pauline Junior (Next Meeting: 28 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: 28 March)
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

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL
29 - 30 MARCH 2025
Dear Parishioners, next weekend, our Parish is proud to support the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal.
The appeal will raise funds to support Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains' chaplaincy services; offering hope and comfort to those experiencing brokenness in our hospitals and prisons. *Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal.*

FIRST FRIDAY **ON 04 APRIL 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"

MEN'S ROSARY CRUSADE
SATURDAY - 05 APRIL 2025 @ 10:00AM
St Margaret Mary's parish has joined the Men's Rosary Crusade! Our men are invited to participate in this powerful prayer in our church forecourt in a public demonstration of devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Afterwards there'll be fellowship and morning tea in the Pastoral Centre, so please bring a plate to share.

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION
TUESDAY - 08 April 2025 after 7:00pm Mass
The 2nd rite of Reconciliation will be held on **08 April after 7:00pm Mass** in preparation for Easter.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
WEDNESDAY - after 9:00am Mass
FRIDAY - after 7:00pm 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.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025
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 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 - \$2888.45
Last weekend Second Collection - \$3436.55
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 Parish 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

Pilgrimage to Penrose Park - Fatima Day (Tuesday 13 May 2025)
The Parish Piety Shop is organising a Pilgrimage to Penrose Park to celebrate Fatima Day on **Tuesday, 13 May 2025**.
Cost \$35 (return trip inclusive of sandwich & bottled water).
Limited seats available. Kindly contact Lydia or Santy to pay and guarantee your spot by 30 April 2025 and for further details.

Caritas Australia | PROJECT COMPASSION
Third Sunday of Lent
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.

Please donate today.
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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, respectful attire.
NO: Inappropriate, revealing, or disrespectful attire.

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 Madeja
◆ 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