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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 Group:
♦ TBA
events@stmm.org.au

Sacraments:
♦ Monique Kairouz
sacraments@stmm.org.au

Acolytes / RCIA / Baptism
♦ Peter Carroll - 0414 070 082

Safeguarding Officer:
♦ Suzanne Mifsud
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
jeremy.santoso@parracatholic.org
Pauline Junior: Rita Elbayeh
Pauline Teen & Adult: Fr. Jeremy Santoso

Legion of Mary:
♦ Anthony Sammut

Playgroup:
♦ Maryanne - 0416116707

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

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE
ASCENSION OF THE LORD
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

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

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING *Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

- All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. *(R.)*
- God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. *(R.)*
- God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. *(R.)*

SECOND READING *Ephesians 1:17-23*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 28:16-20*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

MEDITATION

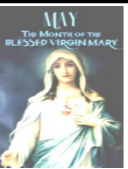
Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time. He assured them of his power -- a power which overcame sin and death. Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Savior, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to give them the power of his Holy Spirit, which we see fulfilled ten days later on the Feast of Pentecost (Luke 24:49 and Acts 2:1-4). When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left alone or powerless. Jesus assured them of his presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' last words to his apostles point to his saving mission and to their mission to be witnesses of his saving death and his glorious resurrection and to proclaim the good news of salvation to all the world. Their task is to proclaim the good news of salvation, not only to the people of Israel, but to all the nations. God's love and gift of salvation is not just for a few, or for a nation, but it is for the whole world -- for all who will accept it. The gospel is the power of God, the power to forgive sins, to heal, to deliver from evil and oppression, and to restore life. Do you believe in the power of the gospel? This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole church. All believers have been given a share in this task -- to be heralds of the good news and ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of his Holy Spirit. Today we witness a new Pentecost as the Lord pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people to renew and strengthen the body of Christ and to equip it for effective ministry and mission world-wide. Do you witness to others the joy of the gospel and the hope of the resurrection? *"Lord Jesus, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, you fill us with an indomitable spirit of praise and joy which no earthly trial can subdue. Fill me with your resurrection joy and help me to live a life of praise and thanksgiving for your glory. May I witness to those around me the joy of the gospel and the reality of your resurrection."*



PENTECOST YEAR A

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
24 MAY 2026
PENTECOST SUNDAY (Year A)
First Reading: Acts 2:1-11
Second Reading: 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13
Gospel: Jn 20:19-23

MAY DEVOTIONS

 During the month of May, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after all Morning Masses and recitation of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Act of Consecration.

Within the cycle of a year, the Church unfolds the whole of the mystery of Christ from His incarnation and birth until His ascension, the day of Pentecost and the expectation of Blessed hope and of the Lord's return.

In celebrating this annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honours with special love **Mary, the Mother of God** who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son. In her, the Church holds up and admires the most excellent effect of the redemption and joyfully contemplates, as in a flawless image, that which the Church itself desires and hopes wholly to be. (SC102,103)

Bishop's Good Works Appeal 16 - 17 May 2026

Through the Bishop's Good Works Appeal, our Diocese supports vital ministries. Your generosity provides education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation for seminarians as they answer God's call. Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church.

AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (17 May 2026) there will be a Children's Mass at 10:30am followed by Morning Tea in the Pastoral Centre.

YOUTH GROUP @ STMM

Pauline Junior (Meeting: 22 May)
Our youth group for Primary School Students, meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month starting at 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Pauline Teen (Meeting: 22 May)
Our youth group for High School Students, meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month starting at 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

Pauline Young Adults (Meeting: 17 May)
Our young adults group (ages 18 to 35 years), meets on 3rd Sunday of the month starting at 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

An Introduction to the Theology of the Body
Session 6: Celibacy for the Kingdom
Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre

For further information please contact Fr. Jeremy at Jeremy.Santoso@parracatholic.org

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be held inside the Church on:
MONDAY – 18 MAY 2026 at 6:00pm
Parents are welcome to get their Reconciliation done by the priests on the day as well.

SUNDAY - 24 MAY 2026

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.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF FR. WOJCIECH SLIWA

Date: Saturday, 30 May 2026
Time: 6pm Mass
Followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall

We request all our generous Parishioners to kindly bring a plate to share and celebrate this significant milestone with our Parish Priest.

Wisdom: God's Vision for Life

Wednesday after 7pm Mass in the Pastoral Centre

Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church provide an abundance of wisdom, though it can often be challenging to apply it to our lives. In this eight-part study, Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith examine biblical wisdom as it relates to daily life. Drawing on the wisdom literature of the Bible—Proverbs, Wisdom, Sirach, and Ecclesiastes—*Wisdom: God's Vision for Life will teach you how to actively seek sound guidance and increase your sense of peace in navigating life.*

JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

In the *Psalms: The School of Prayer*, discover how these sacred hymns become our heartfelt response to God's loving and wondrous deeds for us. All are welcome on Thursdays at 7:00pm in the Pastoral Centre.

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

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

ST MARGARET MARY'S LITTLE ANGELS PLAYGROUP

EVERY TUESDAY FORTNIGHT DURING SCHOOL TERM
FROM 9:30AM TO 11:30AM IN THE PASTORAL CENTRE.

Bring your child (*newborn to pre-school age*) along with their morning tea for some Parish fun! They will enjoy singing songs, craft, story time, structured play and meeting new friends.
For enquiries contact Maryanne Pickering (0416116707)

HOLY COMMUNION (LOW GLUTEN HOST) AVAILABLE ON SATURDAYS VIGIL 6PM MASS

Effective from 06 June 2026

Commencing from **Saturday, 06 June 2026**, low gluten host will be available during Holy Communion at every 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass.

EUCHARIST28

For more information and regular updates, please scan the QR code.

STMM PIETY SHOP

We request our Parishioners to support our Parish Piety Shop with their generous purchase of a variety of available products. Kindly support the Parish by purchasing the *Catholic Weekly* for **only \$2** available at our Piety Shop.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION MAY 2026

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

- ◆ Reuben Dias
- ◆ Shelly Barnes
- ◆ Robbie Barnes
- ◆ Hermie Alves
- ◆ Mary Callagia
- ◆ Rita Figueredo
- ◆ Salam Awkar
- ◆ Leila Rouhana
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- ◆ Tony Bartolo

