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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:
♦ Franklin Lamin
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. Zachary Lewis
zachary.lewis@parracatholic.org
Pauline Junior: Rita Elbayeh
Pauline Teen: Lizi Alegria
Young Adults: Fr. Zachary Lewis

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. Zachary Lewis



Ordo Sancti Pauli Primi Eremitae



Year A
09 August
2026

<u>SUNDAY MASSES</u>		<u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u>		<u>RECONCILIATION</u>	
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
		Wednesday	9:00am & 7:00pm	Thursday	8:30am-8:55am
Vespers	10:30am 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:

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

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9.11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.’ Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the

crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. ‘It is a ghost’ they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, ‘Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.’ It was Peter who answered. ‘Lord,’ he said ‘if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.’ ‘Come’ said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. ‘Lord! Save me!’ he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. ‘Man of little faith,’ he said ‘why did you doubt?’ And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

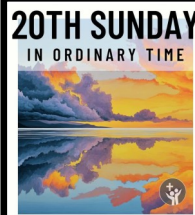
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

MEDITATION

Do you look for the Lord's presence when you encounter difficulty or challenges? The Lord keeps watch over us at all times, and especially in our moments of temptation and difficulty. Do you rely on the Lord for his strength and help? Jesus assures us that we have no need of fear if we trust in Him and in his great love for us. When calamities or trials threaten to overwhelm you, how do you respond? With faith and hope in God's love, care and presence with you? **Lord Jesus, help me to trust you always and to never doubt your presence and your power to help me. In my moments of doubt and weakness, may I cling to you as Peter did. Strengthen my faith that I may walk straight in the path you set before me, neither veering to the left nor to the right.**



20TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
16 AUGUST 2026
20th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME
(Year A)
First Reading: Is 56:1, 6-7
Second Reading: Rom 11:13-15, 29-32
Gospel: Mt 15:21-28



THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION
AUGUST 2026
For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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.**



PRAYER TO
ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam through the world seeking the ruin of souls. **Amen.**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

On **2nd 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 August 2026.**
Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary may contact the Parish office.



YOUTH GROUP @ STMM

Pauline Junior (Meeting: 14 August)

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: 14 August)

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: 16 August)

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 8: The Language of Sexual Love

Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre

For further information please contact **parish@stmm.org.au**



Youth Group

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday 15 August 2026

The Solemnity of the Assumption will be celebrated on **Saturday 15 August** in our Parish. This is a **Holy Day of Obligation** which means that **every Catholic must attend this Mass.**



MASS TIMES

7:00pm (14 Aug - Friday) : Vigil for the Assumption
9:00am (15 Aug) : Solemn Parish Mass
11:30am (15 Aug) : Exposition, Holy Rosary & Litany
12:00 noon (15 Aug) : Solemn Parish Mass

Please note that 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 15 August 2026 is a Sunday Vigil Mass.



AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, (**16 August 2026**) there will be a Children's Mass at 10:30am followed by Morning Tea in the Pastoral Centre.

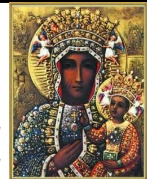
NOVENA IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

17 AUGUST - 25 AUGUST 2026

Novena will commence from **Monday, 17 August** and conclude on **Tuesday, 25 August** during Mass.

The Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa will be celebrated on Wednesday 26 August 2026.

The Pauline Fathers are the official custodians of this icon. Throughout history, the icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa has been a source of inspiration and courage to many; including Polish leaders of the army and royalty. She has helped them to achieve miraculous victories & feats, against all odds.



THERE WILL BE NO
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
ON 23 AUGUST 2026
DUE TO FIRST HOLY
COMMUNION IN THE PARISH

JESUS: The Way, The Truth, and The Life

Wednesday after 7pm Mass in the Church



Christ will inspire and empower you to center your life on Him as you come to know and love him in a deeper & more intimate way.



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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026



Sacrament of First Holy Communion program is divided into two groups taught by the Sacramental Coordinator.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM:

All preparation sessions will be held on **WEDNESDAYS** with two time slots to choose from: **5:00 - 6:30pm** or **7:00 - 8:30pm**

Session 4: 12 AUGUST

Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.

Rehearsal: Thursday, 20 August at 6pm - 7pm



Mass on Sunday, 23 August at 3pm.

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.



FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE TICKETS

We request our Parishioners to purchase as many raffle tickets for **\$5 only.**

Raffle draw will be held on Father's Day, Sunday 06 September 2026 after 10:30am Mass.

Raffle tickets are available in the Piety Shop.

EUCCHARIST28

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◆ Robbie Barnes
◆ Hermie Alves
◆ Mary Callagja
◆ Rita Figueredo
◆ Salam Awkar
◆ Leila Rouhana
◆ Cheryl Fortini
◆ Margaret Falzon

◆ Karen Falzon
◆ Anthony Quach
◆ Sarafino Enadio
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◆ Connie Cordeiro
◆ Lorraine Phillips
◆ Marcelina Domingo
◆ Margaret Tockuss
◆ James Bartolo

◆ Sam Bartolo
◆ Tony Bartolo
◆ Merwyn D'Souza



Prayer Requests

Save the Dates...

15 November 2026 (Sunday) 10:30am Solemn Mass

Celebrant: Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv

17 November 2026 (Tuesday) 7:00pm Solemn Mass

Celebrant: Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE

22 November 2026 (Sunday) 1:00pm - 7:00pm

Parish Luncheon Banquet at Aria House

