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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.

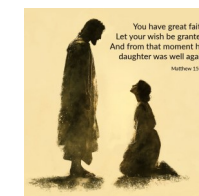


Parish Priest
Fr. Wojciech Sliwa

Assistant Priest
Fr. Zachary Lewis



Ordo Sancti Pauli Primi Eremitae



Twentieth Sunday
in
Ordinary Time

Year A
16 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

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

- O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. *(R.)*
- Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. *(R.)*
- Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, ‘Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.’ But he answered her not a word. And his

disciples went and pleaded with him. ‘Give her what she wants,’ they said ‘because she is shouting after us.’ He said in reply, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.’ But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. ‘Lord,’ she said ‘help me.’ He replied, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the house-dogs.’ She retorted, ‘Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master’s table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.’ And from that moment her daughter was well again.

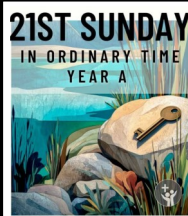
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

MEDITATION

 Jesus praises a Gentile woman for her faith and for her love. She made the misery of her child her own and she was willing to suffer rebuff in order to obtain healing for her loved one. She also had indomitable persistence. Her faith grew in contact with the person of Jesus. She began with a request and she ended on her knees in worshipful prayer to the living God. No one who ever sought Jesus with earnest faith - whether Jew or Gentile - was refused his help. Do you seek the Lord Jesus with expectant faith? *Lord Jesus, your love and mercy knows no bounds. May I trust you always and pursue you with indomitable persistence as this woman did. Increase my faith in your saving power and deliver me from all evil and harm.*



NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

23 AUGUST 2026

**21st SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME
(Year A)**

First Reading: Is 22:19-23

Second Reading: Rom 11:33-36

Gospel: Mt 16:13-20



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.*

+RIP NICANOR TUGADE

Funeral was held in our Parish on Wednesday, 12 August 2026 for Nicanor, our dedicated, devoted and long-time Parishioner. Thanks to all those who attended his funeral. Lord, grant Nicanor eternal rest, and let the perpetual light shine upon Him.



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.

YOUTH GROUP @ STMM

Pauline Junior (Meeting: 28 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: 28 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)

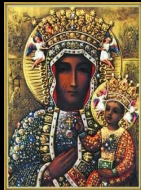
Our young adults group (*ages 18 to 35 years*), meets on 3rd Sunday of the month starting at 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

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



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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026



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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM:

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



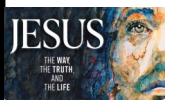
Mass on Sunday, 23 August at 3pm.

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.



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.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Saturday 29 August 2026 at the Pastoral Centre

Time: 10:00am to 1:30pm

(Lunch included)



It is ***mandatory*** for all volunteers involved in the parish ministries to attend and complete the appropriate Safeguarding Training. The Parish is holding a face-to-face training. For further information kindly contact your group coordinator.

PARISH MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE!

Our St Margaret Mary’s Parish T-shirts, hoodies and zip-up hoodies are now available to order from the Piety Shop.

Come in, have a look at our new parish merchandise, check out the styles and sizes, and place your order today!

A great way to support our parish and proudly represent our St Margaret Mary’s community.



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.

EUCHARIST28

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**For more
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◆ Shelly Barnes
◆ Robbie Barnes
◆ Hermie Alves
◆ Mary Callagja
◆ Rita Figueredo
◆ Salam Awkar
◆ Leila Rouhana
◆ Cheryl Fortini
◆ Margaret Falzon
◆ Karen Falzon
◆ Anthony Quach

◆ Sarafino Enadio
◆ Lily Ware
◆ Connie Cordeiro
◆ Lorraine Phillips
◆ Marcelina Domingo
◆ Margaret Tockuss
◆ James Bartolo
◆ Sam Bartolo
◆ Tony Bartolo
◆ Merwyn D’Souza



Save the Dates...

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

Celebrant: Very Rev Fernando Montano

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

