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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*

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**




**Year A**
**18 October 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 | **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:**
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

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

## FIRST READING — Isaiah 45:1.4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

*The Word of the Lord.*
**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

***(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.***

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
   sing to the Lord all the earth.
   Tell among the nations his glory
   and his wonders among all the peoples. ***(R.)***
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
   to be feared above all gods;
   the gods of the heathens are naught.
   It was the Lord who made the heavens. ***(R.)***
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
   give the Lord glory and power,
   give the Lord the glory of his name.
   Bring an offering and enter his courts. ***(R.)***
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
   O earth, tremble before him.
   Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
   He will judge the peoples in fairness. ***(R.)***

## SECOND READING — 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

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

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

*The Word of the Lord.*
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Alleluia, alleluia!***
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
***Alleluia!***

## GOSPEL — Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

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

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Son of Man has come
to give his life as a ransom for many.



## MEDITATION

What do we owe God and our neighbor? Scripture tells us to give to everyone whatever is their due and to "owe no one anything, except to love one another" (Romans 13:6-8). This story has another deeper meaning as well. We, too, have been stamped with God's image since we are created in his own likeness - "God created man in his own image ..male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27). We rightfully belong not to ourselves, but to God who created us and redeemed us in the precious blood of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ (see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul the Apostle says that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). Do you acknowledge that your life and everything you possess belongs to God and not to yourself? And do you give to God what rightfully belongs to him?

***Lord, because you have made me, I owe you the whole of my love; because you have redeemed me, I owe you the whole of myself; because you have promised so much, I owe you all my being. Moreover, I owe you as much more love than myself as you are greater than I, for whom you gave yourself and to whom you promised yourself. I pray you, Lord, make me taste by love what I taste by knowledge; let me know by love what I know by understanding. I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you. Draw me to you, Lord, in the fullness of love. I am wholly yours by creation; make me all yours, too, in love.***




### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
### 25 OCTOBER 2026
***30th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (Year A)***
***First Reading: Ex 22:20-26***
***Second Reading: 1Thess 1:5-10***
***Gospel: Mt 22:34-40***




### THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION OCTOBER 2026
***For mental health ministry***

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

### OUR PARISH PRAYER

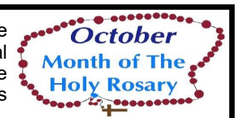


Father, through the intercession of St. Margaret Mary, pour out Your Spirit upon the people of this parish so that inspired by Your word, nourished at Your table and graced by Your empowering love, our lives may be devoted to the service of our brothers and sisters and the building up of Your Kingdom. May our parish community truly be, for this place and time, the Body of Christ Your Son, through whom we make this prayer. ***Amen.***

### +RIP TOLENTINO(JUN) GASINGAN

Funeral will be held in our Parish on **Friday, 23 October 2026** for Jun, our dedicated, devoted and long-time Acolyte and Parishioner. Lord, grant Jun eternal rest, and let the perpetual light shine upon Him. Amen.

**THE ROSARY** is a prayerful exercise comprised of both meditation and vocal prayer. While praying the prayers of the Rosary, meditation focuses on the lives of Jesus and Mary.




**There are four mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious.**
During the month of October, there will be recitation of The Holy Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of every Morning Mass ***(weekdays only)***.




### AT ST. MARGARET MARY'S PARISH

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month, **(18 October 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: 23 October)**
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: 23 October)**
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: 18 October)**
Our young adults group ***(ages 18 to 35 years),*** meets on 3rd Sunday of the month starting at 7:00pm to 8:30pm.
**Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre**
For further information please contact **parish@stmm.org.au**







### SUNDAY - 25 OCTOBER 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.***

### THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
### MONDAY - 2ND NOVEMBER 2026
### Mass at 9:15 am & 7:00pm




Join us as we celebrate the Eucharist on **All Souls Day**. A special remembrance offered for those who had funerals in our parish this past year. We also warmly invite parishioners who lost a close relative whose funeral was conducted outside the parish. A candle ceremony will be held at all Masses where a family member will be invited to place a candle on the sanctuary in memory of their loved one.You may bring a small framed photo of your loved one and place on the sanctuary before the commencement of Mass.
On this day a Plenary indulgence may be gained for the dead under the usual conditions by attending a church or cemetery.




### NOVEMBER MASS OFFERINGS FOR ALL DEPARTED SOULS

During the month of November, we will be celebrating **ONE (1) daily Gregorian Mass** during **weekdays and weekends** for all the deceased.
***On Thursdays (during November) there will be recitation of the Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of Morning Mass.***
We will continue with **"November Mass" yellow envelopes** for our daily Gregorian Masses in November. The envelopes will be kept on the church pews. Please write the name of your deceased loved ones for whom you wish to pray along with an offering inside the envelope. Kindly place the **"November Mass"** envelope in the basket at the altar or give it to the Priests or Parish Office.




### Sheen Gems - The best of Fulton J. Sheen
***Wednesday after 7pm Mass in the Pastoral Centre***

Bishop Sheen's eloquence portrays the sacred truth that in every human heart there is a struggle known only to the soul and God.




### JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE




**Matthew–The King and his Kingdom** portrays Jesus as the true King who fulfills the Law the people of Israel have failed to keep and who introduces the new law that will accompany the New Covenant.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

The Sacrament of Confirmation program will be taught by Monique Kairouz and assisted by Fr. Zachary.

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**
All preparation sessions held on **WEDNESDAYS** at **5:30 - 6:30pm**
**Session 2:** 21 OCTOBER
**Session 3:** 28 OCTOBER
**Session 4:** 04 NOVEMBER
**Venue:** Parish Pastoral Centre
***Confirmation Rehearsal** on **Wednesday, 11 November 2026 at 6:00pm** inside the Church.*




**Saturday, 14 November 2026 at 6:00pm**

### ONLINE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING
### To be completed by 31 October 2026

As part of the Diocese of Parramatta's commitment to ensuring all children and adults at risk are safe, respected, protected and supported in our care, all staff and volunteers in our parishes are required to complete Mandatory Safeguarding.
**Cycle 1** ***(New staff/volunteers who have not completed any training within the Diocese)***
**Cycle 2** ***(Renewal Training for staff/volunteers who have completed Cycle 1 two years ago)***
Please register online: https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/
Once completed kindly email your online certificates to
**safeguarding@stmm.org.au**

### 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.***

### EUCHARIST28

For more information please scan the QR code.

- Shelly Barnes
- Robbie Barnes
- Hermie Alves
- Mary Callagja
- Rita Figredo
- 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
- Carmen Casha

The Power of Prayer

Prayer Requests

### Save the Dates...

**15 November 2026 (Sunday) 10:30am Solemn Mass**
**Celebrant: Very Rev Fernando Montano**
**Morning Tea in Pastoral Centre**
**17 November 2026 (Tuesday) 7:00pm Solemn Mass**
**Celebrant: Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE**
**Refreshments in Pastoral Centre (please bring a plate to share)**
**22 November 2026 (Sunday) 1:00pm - 7:00pm**
**Parish Luncheon Banquet at Aria House**
***Tickets are on sale at the Piety Shop***