
Granville

Catholic Church Record

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December 19, 2021

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

Advent

SIGNS *and* SYMBOLS

The Advent Wreath

The four candles that light the wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, totalling the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ. Three candles are violet and one is rose. The violet candles in particular symbolise the prayer, penance, and sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. The wreath is usually made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning: the laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, mean immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: the prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells us that the cross on which Christ hung was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ.

The Nativity Scene

On Christmas Eve in 1223, St. Francis of Assisi created the first nativity in the Italian city of Greccio. St. Francis celebrated the birth of Our Lord in a cave outside the town with a scene of a hay-filled manger with an ox and a donkey.

The figures which make up these scenes are themselves symbols of our faith and tell us the story of the birth of Christ. The crib filled with hay tells us of the feeding trough for animals in which our Lord was born. The Blessed Virgin Mary kneels beside her Son, adoring Him, and St. Joseph stands by them to guard them and to protect them as He protects the Church. The angels above, the messengers of God on high, who revealed to the shepherds, the lowest of the low, of the birth of the Saviour of Israel. The three kings from the East, a sign that this was also the birth of the Saviour of the world. And then there are the figures of the ox and the donkey, taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah who wrote: "The ox knows his owner, and the donkey his master's crib: but Israel has not known me, and my people have not understood."

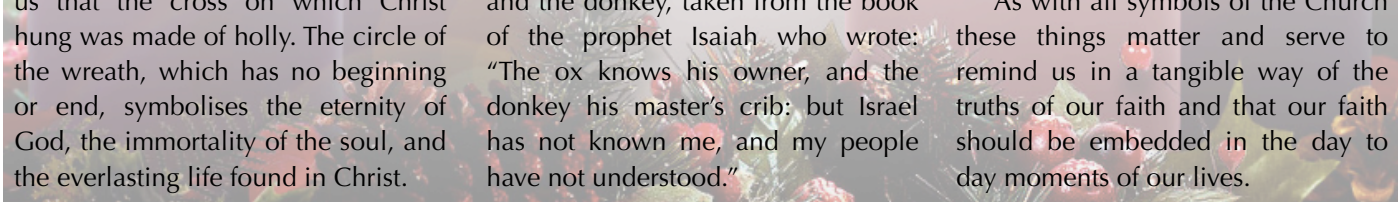
The Christmas Tree

Legend tells us that the first Christmas tree came from St. Boniface, 1,300 years ago, in the 8th century.

The tree itself is also a reminder of the tree in the Garden of Eden from which Eve took the forbidden fruit and tempted Adam and so caused the downfall of mankind. It is a reminder of the irony of our faith. That from death comes life, from darkness comes light, and that the tree that caused our damnation became the tree on which hung our salvation.

The Christmas tree, traditionally an evergreen tree, symbolises eternal life, the immortality of the soul. The tree, reaching upwards to the sky, points to heaven, from where our salvation comes. The lights that decorate the tree are a sign of that light that came into the world, to break through the darkness of sin and to illuminate the world with the light of truth.

As with all symbols of the Church these things matter and serve to remind us in a tangible way of the truths of our faith and that our faith should be embedded in the day to day moments of our lives.



THE PARISH OFFICE

Address

200 The Trongate,
South Granville, N.S.W. 2142

T 0497 190 444

E granville@parracatholic.org

Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Parish Priest

Rev. Fr. Andrew Bass PP

Business and Projects Manager

John Portelli

Director of Music

John Portelli

Acolytes Co-ordinator

Jim Newell

Catechist Co-ordinators

Joe Elias

Lana Leatherby

Sacraments and T.Y.M. Co-ordinator

Rosette Chidiac

Online and Social Media Co-ordinators

Rosette Chidiac

John Portelli

Piety Shop

Wanda Krasinski

Claudette Takchi

Christine Tembo

Thorie Tembo

Annette Wirz

Missionary Sisters of Mary,

Queen of the World — Australia

Sr. Justina Pham | **T** (02) 9637-1827

Principal of Holy Family School

Cheryl Fortini

Principal of Holy Trinity School

Philip Mahony

Principal of Delany College

Paul Easton

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Holy Mass

Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 9:15 a.m.

Friday, 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, 9:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Confessions

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Holy Rosary Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Rosters

Altar Society

Readers

8:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

Counters

Bus Driver

SOCIAL MEDIA



holycrossgranville.org.au



HolyCrossGranville



Holy Cross Parish App



@holycrossgranville

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Holy Mass

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 8:15 a.m.

Thursday, 8:15 a.m.

Friday, 8:15 a.m.

Saturday, 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Confessions

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

First Friday of the month, 6:15 p.m.

Holy Mass and Adoration

of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Traditional Latin Mass

First Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

Ghanaian Chaplaincy Mass

Second and last Sunday of the month,
11:30 a.m.

Vietnamese Chaplaincy Mass

Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

Children's Liturgy

Rosters

Church Cleaning

Readers

10:00 a.m. Jake Fili, Belinda Martin,
Sisters

Children's Liturgy

Counters

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton, John Augustus, Frank Azzopardi, Ann Blesson, Vincenzo Colosimo, Lucy Farrugia, Carmel Galea, Evangeline Grabato, John Graham, Thomas Hayek, Elizabeth Hicks, Peter Higgins, Ruth La Rosa, Kay King, Jacob Lee, Josephine Magro, Ester Matos, Sid Morgan, Scott Moulton, Tony Moussa, Ben Nursoo, Haydee Nursoo, Sarah-Joy O'Connor, Flory Pinto, Don Provest, Anna Saunig, Therese Smeal, Ricardo Tognini, Lorraine Vella, Sam Wardan.

St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

IN MEMORIAM

Alwan family, Michael Alwan, Semaan Alwan, Pius Ari, Lorenza Attwill, George Azzi, Miklina Azzopardi, Vic Azzopardi, Betty Borg, Kathleen Bradbery, Paul Bradbery, Charles Bugeja, Carmelo Galea, Maria Gambin, Maureen Gardiner, Joseph Gibrine, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Simon Haddad, Maria Kim Hoang, Nouhad Khoury, Betty McGrath, Jack McIntyre, Giovanni Molinaro, Sam Moussa, Samantha Moussa, Des Miller, Neville O'Sullivan, Edward Pidgeon, Emmanuel Tabone, Phil Thompson, Francis Tran, Peter Doan Van Tran, Peter Tuu Van Tran, Bernadette Ulbrich, Joseph Vella, Miriam Welangoda, Dib Zaiter.

Parish Office Hours Next Week

The parish office will be closed next week so that the churches can be decorated and prepared for the Masses for Christmas.

If you need to contact the parish office during this time, please call during the usual parish office hours and leave a message or send an email to the parish office.

Revocation of the Dispensation from the Obligation to Attend Mass

As of Wednesday, 15 December, the Bishop of Parramatta has revoked the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass. The dispensation was granted during the time of public health restrictions, but with the lifting of most restrictions, the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday has been re-instated and the Sunday obligation is imposed.

Tuesday Evening Holy Mass at Holy Trinity Church

As the Carols by Candlelight will be celebrated on Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church, the usual Mass at 6:30 p.m. will not be offered. The Tuesday evening Mass will resume the following week on 28 December, the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Please join us for this solemn Carols by Candlelight service and celebrate the birth of Our Lord with this traditional festival of nine readings and carols all lit by candlelight.

Holy Family Church Readers

If you would like to be rostered as a reader for Holy Mass at Holy Family Church for the Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass or the 5:00 p.m. Mass, please speak with Fr. Andrew or call the parish office.



THIS TUESDAY EVENING
at 8:00 p.m.

We will be holding our annual solemn Carols by Candlelights service at Holy Trinity Church this Tuesday evening at 8:00 p.m.

The service is one of stunning traditional and contemporary carols with readings telling the history of our salvation and the coming of the Messiah with images of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the baby Jesus projected in the church.

Those who have attended in previous years have said it was one of the most beautiful carols services they have seen and so make sure that you come along that evening as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. To see videos of previous year's carols, check out our Facebook page under the videos tab.

The evening will also include the blessing of the nativity scene, which itself has become a well known attraction across the diocese and even in Sydney.

Holy Trinity Church and Holy Family Church Piety Shops

With Christmas only a few weeks away this is the time to visit the piety shops at Holy Trinity Church and Holy Family Church and to have a look at the wonderful arrangement of gifts.

Have a look to see if there is anything you would like to give as a gift for someone or maybe you would like to have as decoration for your home this Christmas season. Sales from the piety shop support the parish.

N.S.W. Government Public Health Restrictions from 15 December

From Wednesday, 15 December, the N.S.W. Government public health restrictions will be amended.

Face masks will no longer be required in churches but be highly recommended. Checking-in by use of the government QR code or by manually completing the sign-in sheets will remain **mandatory** for churches. Whilst it will no longer be required for other places, such as shops, the government has stated that it will remain in place for places of worship.

Please be aware that if you do not check-in on arrival that the N.S.W. Government can impose fines on individuals. N.S.W. Police and N.S.W. Health officials may conduct spot checks on individuals to ensure compliance.

How to Check-In

1. Download the Service NSW app
2. Select "Covid Safe Check-in"
3. Follow the prompts

If you do not have the app, write your full name and telephone number on the manual sign-in sheets.

Holy Trinity Church Cleaners' Roster

The cleaners' roster for Holy Trinity Church for January to June of next year is now available in the piety shop.

Thank you to all those who regularly volunteer to clean the church. Your generous service is very much appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer to help clean the church once a month either on a Friday or Saturday morning, please contact the parish office and we will be grateful for your support.

Prepare a Way!

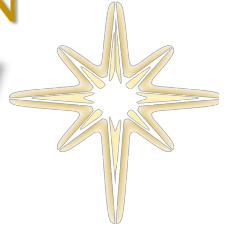
A HOLY CROSS PARISH RESOURCE
FOR A SPIRITUALLY NOURISHING ADVENT SEASON





MAKING THIS ADVENT SEASON

Meaningful!



'Prepare a Way!' is an Advent resource designed to assist the reader set aside some time each day throughout the 4 weeks of Advent to reflect and allow the grace of this holy season to be ingrained into our daily lives. The resource offers daily reflections including antiphons, scripture and prayer.

The resource also makes use of the '*O Antiphons*' 7 in total, traditionally prayed in the 7 days leading to the Solemnity of Christmas. These Antiphons have been described as a "unique work of art...filled with the Spirit of the Word of God."

This resource is ideal for families, who may wish to meditate on each day in a family setting by sharing around the readings or alternatively for individuals seeking an exercise to help them further contemplate on the season by spending quiet time in solitude and prayer to focus deeper on each day's scripture.

It is hoped that this resource will help add an extra layer of prayer to your personal preparation for Christmas.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR A SPIRITUALLY NOURISHING ADVENT

- * Attend Sunday Mass
- * Acts of Good Works (Almsgiving in support of the church and in support of those in need),
- * Fast one day each week or fast from one meal
- * Seek the Sacrament of Penance (Confession)
- * Add a Weekday Mass to your spiritual devotions
- * Attend the December First Friday of the Month Devotions (including Adoration)
- * Attend the December Traditional Latin Mass
- * Pray the Holy Rosary in your homes as a family
- * Set up a prayer space in your home which can help to focus thoughts on Advent
- * Create or set up an Advent wreath in your home and light a candle each week of Advent
- * Pray daily for the Souls of the Faithful Departed, the Holy Souls in Purgatory and all Forgotten Souls.
- * Pray for Persecuted Christians who are forbidden from celebrating Christmas.
- * Pray the Litany of St. Joseph
- * Set up a nativity scene in your homes

AVAILABLE IN PRINT
or DOWNLOAD FROM
www.holycrossgranville.org.au

HOLY CROSS PARISH PRESENTS

CAROLS

BY CANDLELIGHT

Holy Trinity Church, Granville

Tuesday 21st December

8 p.m.



Christmas

HOLY MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. *Holy Family Church*

7:00 p.m. *Holy Trinity Church*

CHRISTMAS DAY

Midnight *Holy Family Church*

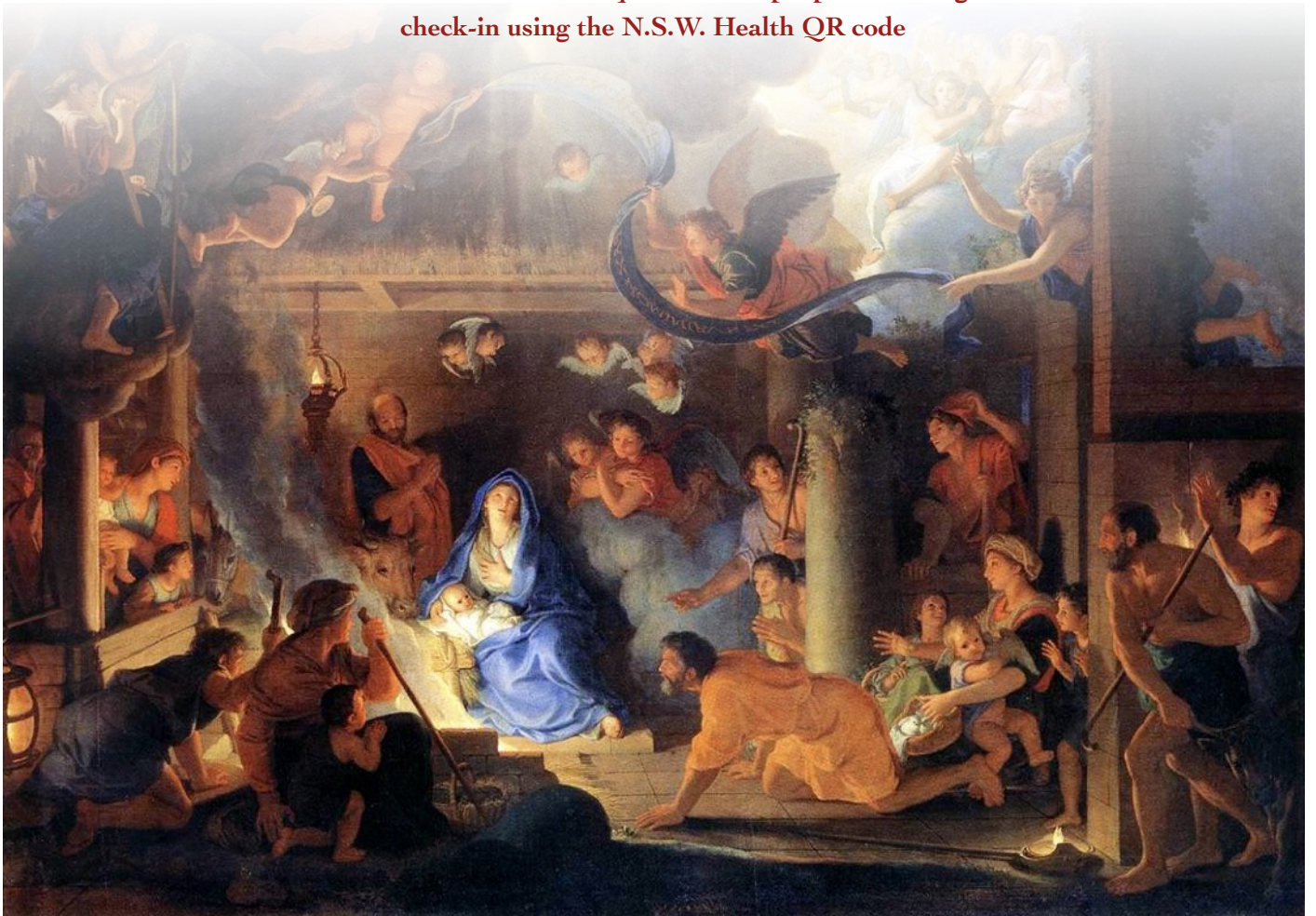
Midnight *Holy Trinity Church*

8:30 a.m. *Holy Family Church*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Trinity Church*

5:00 p.m. *Holy Family Church*

Public health restrictions will require that all people attending a church
check-in using the N.S.W. Health QR code



The Readings

Introit (Cf. Is 45:8)

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

The Prophet Micah (5:1-4)

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure,
for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4)

R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. R.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. R.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. R.

Second Reading

The Letter to the Hebrews (10:5-10)

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts
or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation (Lk 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel of Luke (1:39-45)

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Communio (Is 7:14)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

“*To an open house in the evening
Home shall men come,
To an older place than Eden
And a taller town than Rome.*

*To the end of the way of the wandering star,
To the things that cannot be and that are,
To the place where God was homeless
And all men are at home.*”

—G.K. Chesterton, “The House of Christmas”