
Granville

Catholic Church Record

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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

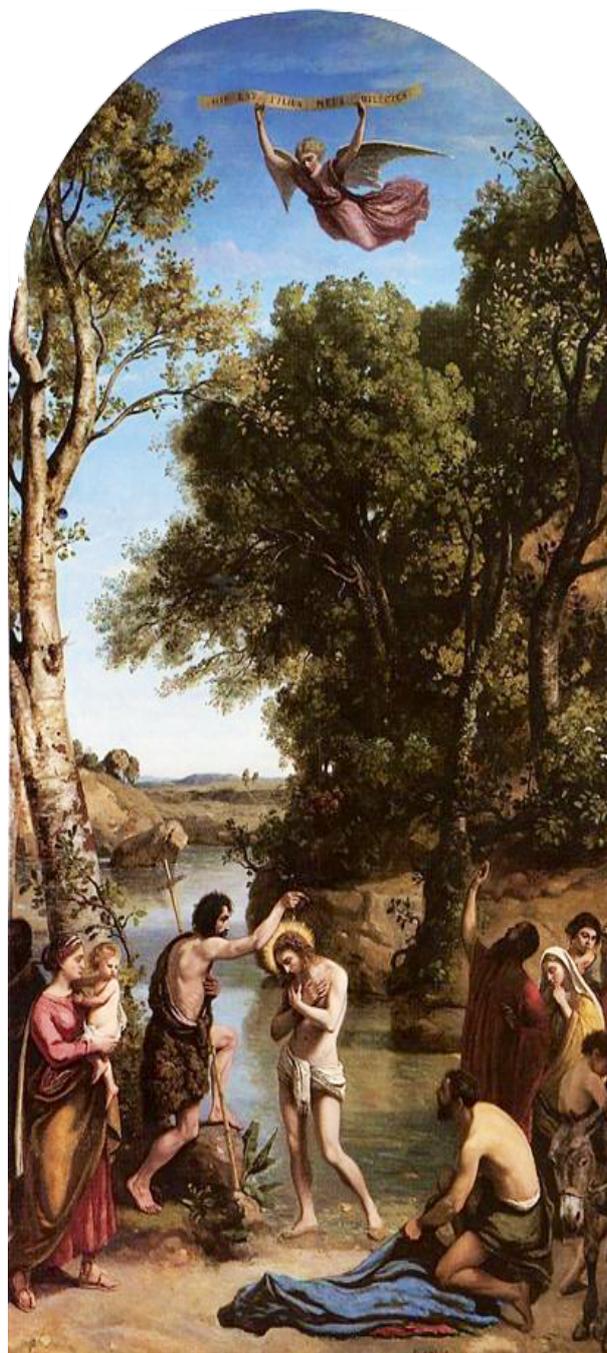
The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

With the feast today of the Baptism of the Lord we mark the close of Christmastide and the beginning of Ordinary Time—the thirty-four weeks in which the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ in all aspects.

In Advent we prepared ourselves for the coming of Christ, remembering His birth two-thousand years ago and in expectation of His coming again. At Christmas we celebrated the glory of God made incarnate—the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. At Epiphany we celebrated the revelation of God to the Gentiles—to the people of all the world as imaged in the Magi or three wise men. At the Baptism of the Lord the manifestation of God on earth and the beginning of His mission to draw all men and women back to Himself is fulfilled.

Each of these three events—Christmas, Epiphany, and the Baptism—is a theophany or the realisation of God's in-breaking into human history. First with the birth of God as a child, second with the star that led the Magi to the infant Christ, and with the Baptism by the voice from heaven and the showing of the Holy Spirit in the shape of a dove. These things tell us of the intimacy of God and His absolute desire to live with us so that we might live with Him.

We believe that we are baptised for the remission of



our sins, in particular, original sin. Our Lord, however, despite being fully human, like us in all things, was free of sin, so it is argued that there was no need for Him to be baptised. But the Lord sought to be baptised because He identified completely with the human condition; He felt our struggle with pain and suffering and death, our alienation from God and from each other and the isolation and loneliness we so often feel. He, as God, desired to share our life and our death with us so that by His utter reliance on His father, we might share in His divinity just as He shared in our humanity. Through His Baptism by St. John the Baptist in the waters of the Jordan River He accepted His human condition so that we might accept our condition and so become completely and wholly reliant on the grace of God as we were intended to from the beginning. In part it was the way that God sought to restore us to our original condition, to the life He had always intended for us to live—in peace, in joy, and without death.

The Lord's acceptance of Baptism was His acceptance of the human condition, which by His life, passion and death was transformed by the resurrection—the moment when God showed Himself to be greater than all things, even death itself.

THE BAPTISM *of* CHRIST

THE PARISH OFFICE

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Shauna Nash

Acting Principal of Delany College

Shauna Nash

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.

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.

Holy Mass in Latin

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.

Rosters

Church Cleaning Group 3: Mary Dao
and the Vietnamese community

Readers

Vigil Racquel La Rosa, Rosette Chidiac

10:00 a.m. Ingrid Bifulco,

Pierre Mariasson, Belinda Martin

SOCIAL MEDIA



holycrossgranville.org.au



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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, Therese Khalil, Kay King, Ruth La Rosa, 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.



*Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
by the grace of your Holy Spirit
cure the weaknesses of your servants,
and mercifully restore them to full health.
St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.*

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Fr. Les Campion, Rev. Fr. James Stack, Pius Ari, Lorenza Atwill, Miklina Azzopardi, Vic Azzopardi, Betty Borg, Kathleen Bradbery, Paul Bradbery, Charles Bugeja, Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vince Cahill, Christine Derwin, Carmelo Galea, Carmen Galea, Maria Gambin, Maureen Gardiner, Joseph Gibrine, John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Simon Haddad, Keegan family, Nouhad Khoury, Betty McGrath, Jack McIntyre, Giovanni Molinaro, Sam Moussa, Samantha Moussa, Des Miller, Neville O'Sullivan, Doris Pickering, Emmanuel Tabone, Phil Thompson, Francis Tran, Peter Doan Van Tran, Peter Tuu Van Tran, Bernadette Ulbrich, Joseph Vella, Miriam Welangoda, Dib Zaiter.



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

First Collection and Second Collection Contributions

With the current situation we are unable to take up our usual collections during Mass. Because of this, we have placed two boxes by the doors of the church for the first collection and the second collection. Your support of these collections is greatly appreciated. The money raised in the first collection supports some of the works of the diocese. The money raised in the second collection directly supports the works of the parish and helps us to meet our expenses and to continue to meet the costs and expenses of operating the parish. Thank you, especially, to those who are a part of the planned giving programme and use their envelopes to contribute each week to the parish. Your regular contributions are a great support.

You can also financially support the parish by arranging a direct debit. If you would like to set up a regular contribution, let us know and we will be happy to assist you with this. Or, if you would like to be part of the planned giving programme, we will be pleased to arrange a set of envelopes for you for regular contributions which greatly assist the parish in planning the work we carry out.

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 reinstated and the Sunday obligation is imposed.

Security at Holy Family Church

As many of you are aware, rubbish is illegally dumped on the grounds of Holy Family Church regularly. In addition to this, rose bushes have been repeatedly removed from the garden and deliveries of packages stolen from outside of the presbytery.

Unfortunately, many parishes are subjected to these problems and they have sought to do their best to protect their properties by different means available.

It is important that the churches and the buildings of the parish are properly protected and secured.

In order to address these issues, we will be looking into the best measures available to offer security to the church. These include the possibility of security fencing or additional security cameras as well as other measures which may be suggested.

In order to assist the parish and to protect it, please be on the alert for any suspicious behaviour or activity which seems to be out of place. If we are all vigilant we can do our part in ensuring that the churches and the parish buildings remain protected.



In a world where we suffer the loss of the sacred and the profane becomes all too commonplace, we, as the faithful of the Church, must ensure that we honour, respect and protect all that is given to us by almighty God as good and sacred. From the churches to the parish buildings, to the sacred vessels of the Holy Mass, to the Sacraments, and to our very souls.

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

On Wednesday, 15 December, the N.S.W. Government amended public health restrictions

Please use hand sanitiser and note that **face masks are mandatory**. Checking-in by use of the government QR code or by manually completing the sign-in sheets is also compulsory as it is for other places in order to assist with notifications of case alerts and contact tracing when necessary.

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.

Current Government Public Health Requirements

1. Check-in using the QR code.
2. Wear a face mask indoors.
3. Maintain social distancing.

Please assist the churches to remain open by following these simple requirements which are for our sake and for the sake of the common good.

Holy Trinity Church Cleaners' Roster

The cleaners' roster for Holy Trinity Church for January to June of this 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.

Christmas

APPEAL

*Please support the good works
of our parish by your gift this Christmas
so that we can continue to offer to the glory of God
worship and service
for our salvation
and for the salvation of all the world.*

The money you give to the second collection each Mass supports the day to day running costs of the parish and helps us to meet our repairs and maintenance costs to look after our churches, our halls, and our other buildings.

Like every family and every organisation the parish has many expenses to meet including electricity and water, telephone and internet, office and printing costs, and especially insurance.

These are in addition to the other costs which further support the works of the parish in public schools and the broader community.

Your gifts are a sign of your love and care for Our Lord and His holy Church in this place.

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Saints & STUFF

THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

The month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

In Philippians 2, St. Paul tells us that "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Small wonder, then, that the Church sets aside the first month of the year in honour of the Holy Name of Jesus. Through this devotion, the Church reminds us of the power of Christ's Name and encourages us to pray in His Name. In our society, of course, we hear His Name uttered quite often, but all too frequently, it is used in a curse or blasphemy. In the past, Christians would often make the Sign of the Cross when they heard Christ's Name uttered in such a manner, and that's a practice that would be worthwhile to revive.

This month, why not take a few minutes to memorise the Jesus Prayer, and pray it during those moments of the day when you are between activities, or travelling, or simply taking a rest?

Keeping Christ's Name always on our lips is a good way to ensure that we draw ever nearer to Him.

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Baptism of Christ

1223 All the Old Covenant prefigurations find their fulfillment in Christ Jesus. He begins his public life after having himself baptised by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan. After his resurrection Christ gives this mission to his apostles: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

1224 Our Lord voluntarily submitted himself to the baptism of St. John, intended for sinners, in order to "fulfil all righteousness." Jesus' gesture is a manifestation of his self-emptying. The Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude of the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as his "beloved Son."

1225 In his Passover Christ opened to all men the fountain of Baptism. He had already spoken of his Passion, which he was about to suffer in Jerusalem, as a "Baptism" with which he had to be baptised. The blood and water that flowed from the pierced side of the crucified Jesus are types of Baptism and the Eucharist, the sacraments of new life.

CATHOLIC Trivia

THE FAITH OF A FIGHTER UFC LEGEND BAS RUTTEN

For MMA and UFC fans Bas Rutten needs no introduction. But for those who may not be familiar with the sport, he is one of the most legendary fighters in the game, known for his devastating strikes, aggressive and versatile style, and long string of victories.

What many may not realise, however, is that Bas Rutten is a devout, daily rosary praying, Mass-attending Catholic who brings all the intensity of a fighter to his spiritual life. He prays in Latin just because it makes the demons squirm, quotes St. Thomas Aquinas, studies the faith constantly, and can't wait to tell anyone who will listen about the riches the Catholic faith has to offer.

In a recent interview he said: "A real man sacrifices himself for others. Praying right and learning about our faith and living right is hard work. It is manly."

To read more of his interview go to www.catholicgentleman.net.



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PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



This Christmas will you show your Christian kindness to homeless young mothers and children?



\$25

Can provide **nappies or baby formula** for a young mum and baby.



\$50

Can provide **financial counselling** or a session on **parenting and living skills, education and employment support**.



\$75

Can provide **psychological counselling** for a mother in turmoil.



\$100

Can provide a **high chair**.



\$200

Can provide a homeless young mum with a **mattress, cot sheets, and blanket**.



\$250

Can give mums a **newborn hamper** with **basic essentials** like nappies, muslin wraps, bottles and baby shampoo.



\$500

Can provide two homeless young mums with a **baby bassinet/cot**.



\$600

Can provide three homeless young mums with a **mattress, cot sheets, and a blanket**.



\$1,000

Can provide four homeless young mums with a **maternity kit** including sleep wear, underwear, sanitary pads, and baby clothing.



\$2,000

Can provide a month's **shelter** for new mothers and babies fleeing domestic violence.

Your gift today will help homeless young families to find a place to call home.

Your gifts to Parramatta Catholic Foundation support the charitable works of the Diocese of Parramatta and CatholicCare across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, and are not limited to those described in this appeal.

How Early Christians Carefully Protected the Eucharist

Early Church Fathers instructed priests and laypeople to not let any crumb of the Eucharist fall on the ground.

During the first few centuries of the Church, bishops and priests were diligent in their care of the Eucharist. Many of the Early Church Fathers insisted that not even a crumb should fall on the ground.



St. Hippolytus of Rome, a bishop of the second century, writes these instructions in The Apostolic Tradition:

“ But let each of the faithful be zealous, before he eats anything else, to receive the Eucharist... let each one take care that no unbeliever taste the Eucharist, nor a mouse nor any other animal, and that nothing of it fall or be lost; for the Body of Christ is to be eaten by believers and must not be despised. The cup, when thou hast given thanks in the name of the Lord, thou hast accepted as the image of the Blood of Christ. Therefore let none of it be spilled, so that no strange spirit may lick it up, as if thou didst despise it; thou shalt be guilty of the blood, as if thou didst scorn the price with which thou hast been bought.”

St. Cyril of Jerusalem in the fourth century reiterates this teaching in his “Mystagogical Catecheses”, comparing the care of the Eucharist to care of gold-dust:

“ Carefully hallow your eyes by the touch of the sacred Body, and then partake, taking care to lose no part of It. Such a loss would be like a mutilation of your own body. Why, if you had been given gold-dust, would you not take the utmost care to hold it fast, not letting a grain slip through your fingers, lest you be by so much the poorer? How much more carefully, then, will you guard against losing so much as a crumb of that which is more precious than gold and precious stones! ”

There is even evidence of a special cloth being used to collect any pieces of the Eucharist that may fall from the priest distributing the Sacrament.



This tradition is maintained in Orthodox churches, where a red cloth, called a *maktron*, is held underneath the each person’s mouth while receiving communion, to catch any crumbs of the Eucharist .

Similar traditions in the Roman Rite were later adopted, such as the communion paten that was invented in the 19th century.



These practices of early Christians highlight the reality that the bread received at communion is not ordinary bread, but the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Source: written by Philip Kosloski and originally published on Aleteia (www.aleteia.org) on 7 August 2021.

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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Year C

The Readings

Introit

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading

The Prophet Isaiah (40:1-5, 9-11)

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God.
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her
time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that
she has received from the hand of the Lord double
punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in
the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight
highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley
be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every
cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the
glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall
see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a
high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a
loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without
fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here
is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all
things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his
trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding
his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them
against his breast and leading to their rest the mother
ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. *R.* see v. 1)

R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. *R.*

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. *R.*

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. *R.*

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. *R.*

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. *R.*

Second Reading

The Letter of St. Paul to Titus (2:11-14; 3:4-7)

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made
salvation possible for the whole human race and taught
us that what we have to do is to give up everything that
does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we
must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives
here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope
for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of
the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He
sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all
wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his
very own and would have no ambition except to do
good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for
mankind were revealed, it was not because he was
concerned with any righteous actions we might have
done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own
compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing
water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit
which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus
Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be
justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to
inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation (See Lk 3:16)

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

Gospel of Luke (3:15-16, 21-22)

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,
who were beginning to think that John might be the
Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you
with water, but someone is coming, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the
strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit and fire.’

Now when all the people had been baptised and
while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven
opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily
shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You
are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.’

Communio (Jn 1:32, 34)

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.