
Granville Catholic Church Record

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December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent, Year A

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 A.D. 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

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T 0497 190 444

E granville@parracatholic.org

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

Parish Priest

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Business and Projects Manager

John Portelli

Director of Music

John Portelli

Catechist Co-ordinator

Lana Leatherby

Sacraments and Youth Co-ordinator

Rosette Chidiac

Online and Social Media Co-ordinators

Rosette Chidiac

John Portelli

Piety Shop

Claudette Takchi

Annette Wirz

Missionary Sisters of Mary,

Queen of the World — Australia

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

Holy Family Primary School

T (02) 8633-8200

Holy Trinity Primary School

T (02) 8633-8500

Delany College

T (02) 8633-8100

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

Sunday, 5:30 p.m.

Nigerian Community Mass

Second and fourth Sunday of the month,

11:00 a.m.

Rosters

Readers

8:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

DONATIONS

BSB: 067-950

Account: 00007247

Name: Granville Catholic Parish

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.

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 4: A. Quinlan,

G. Pinto, M. Asiedu, M. Moses,

G. Dankwah, S. Martin, M. Magpayo,

C. Elegado, J. Puni, A. and J. Osei-

Yamoah, L. Tordilla, J. Fili, J. John,

A. Abosh, O. Ifeyani, J. Raj, S. Joseph

Readers

Vigil Ingrid Bifulco, Rosette Chidiac

Midnight Reanne Chidiac,

Raphaella Chidiac

10:00 a.m. Jasmine Miranda,

Wadzi Mushininga

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton, John Augustus, Frank Azzopardi, Antonio Bifulco, Ann Blesson, Vincenzo Colosimo, Marcus El-Khoury, Lucy Farrugia, Carmel Galea, Evangeline Grabato, 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, Sarah-Joy O'Connor, Flory Pinto, Don Provest, 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

Susan Abdallah, Teresa Akkary, Ercilia Apap, Vincent Apap, Attard family, Lorenza Attwill, Axiak family, Victor Azzopardi, Basil Benjamin, Bonello family, Betty Borg, Kathleen Bradbery, Paul Bradbery, Charles Bugeja, Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vince Cahill, Maria Gambin, John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Clair Karaki, Daoud Karaki, Nouhad Khoury, Jacob Malkoun, Ofimia Malkoun, Jack McIntyre, Crising Mendoza, Magdalena Mendoza, Joseph Nammour, Haydee Nursoo, Edward Pidgeon, Boutros Rahme, Saliba family, Anna Saunig, Garry Smith, Andrea So, Emmanuel Tabone, Darren Thornton, Peter Tuu Van Tran, Joseph Vella, Dib Zaiter.



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

Important Notice Regarding Holy Mass and Confession Times in December

Tuesday, 20 December: there will not be the usual Holy Mass at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church as the parish will be holding a BBQ at 6:30 p.m. followed by Carols by Candlelight at 8:00 p.m. Please join us for the BBQ and for the solemn carols service to follow.

Saturday, 24 December: the usual confessions at Holy Trinity Church from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. will be heard outside of the church to allow for the church to be decorated for the Christmas Masses.

Parish Office Next Week

In preparation for Christmas and so to allow time for the decorating of the churches and to prepare for Carols by Candlelight and for the many Masses, the parish office will be unattended next week.

If needed, please leave a voicemail or send a message to the parish office email.

Important Holy Mass Intentions Reminder

A reminder that if you would like a particular Mass offered for an intention, please speak with Fr. Andrew at least 4 weeks in advance. Please do not write your request for a specific day and time on an envelope and leave it in a collections box, but speak directly with Fr. Andrew to make your request. Without doing this there is no guarantee that the Mass can be offered at that time but instead will be offered at the next available opportunity. Also note that it is not the custom of the Roman rite to announce the intention of the Mass. If you want the name said aloud, you will need to speak with Fr. Andrew in regard to this.



THIS TUESDAY EVENING

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 based on the festival of nine readings and carols and is one of beautiful traditional and contemporary carols, with readings telling the history of our salvation and the coming of the Messiah.

Those who have attended in previous years have said it was one of the most beautiful carols services they have attended, so make sure that you come along as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord.

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.

And for the first time, we will be holding a BBQ beforehand from 6:30 p.m. So please join us and enjoy this and then the carols at 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed for Carols by Candlelight BBQ

Before our annual Carols by Candlelight service, we will be holding a BBQ for people to enjoy a light supper beforehand.

We are asking for parishioners to help with serving. Please speak with Fr. Andrew if you can, as we would be grateful for your help.

Online Donations in Support of the Parish

Online donations can be made through the Holy Cross Parish website (holycrossgranville.org.au) using our BPoint facility by visiting the website or scanning the QR code below.

Thank you to all those who regularly support the parish by your contributions. Whether through the planned giving programme and your envelopes or through the second collection. Your regular support of the parish is greatly appreciated and is of tremendous assistance to the parish in undertaking our works.



2023 Columban Art Calendars for Sale in our Piety Shops

The 2023 Columban Art Calendar is on sale for \$10 from our piety shops.

The Columban Art Calendar is a major fundraiser for the Missionary Society of St. Columban—an order of priests who work with the poor and the exploited around the world.

The calendars are available for sale in our piety shops and the sale of these supports the work of the Columban Missionaries and of the parish.

While you are there, be sure to have a look at the beautiful items available as gifts and decorations for Christmas.



PARRAMATTA
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

No one should be without a place to call home.

Help Catholic Care end homelessness in our community.



Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal

DONATE NOW



\$25

Can provide **homeless people with fellowship support and social inclusion** over a cuppa.



\$50

Can fund **essential groceries for a vulnerable person** facing housing stress and food insecurity.



\$75

Can fund **transport costs to take homeless people with limited mobility to vital appointments.**



\$200

Can provide **four homeless people with gift cards to buy essential personal care items.**



\$600

Can provide **three homeless families with kitchen essentials.**



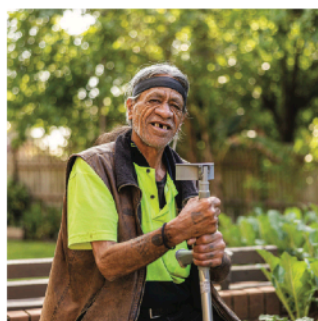
\$1,000

Can provide **five homeless people with basics and bedding to start a new home life.**



\$2,000

Provides **50 caseworker hours of practical and emotional support for vulnerable people** facing housing stress and homelessness.



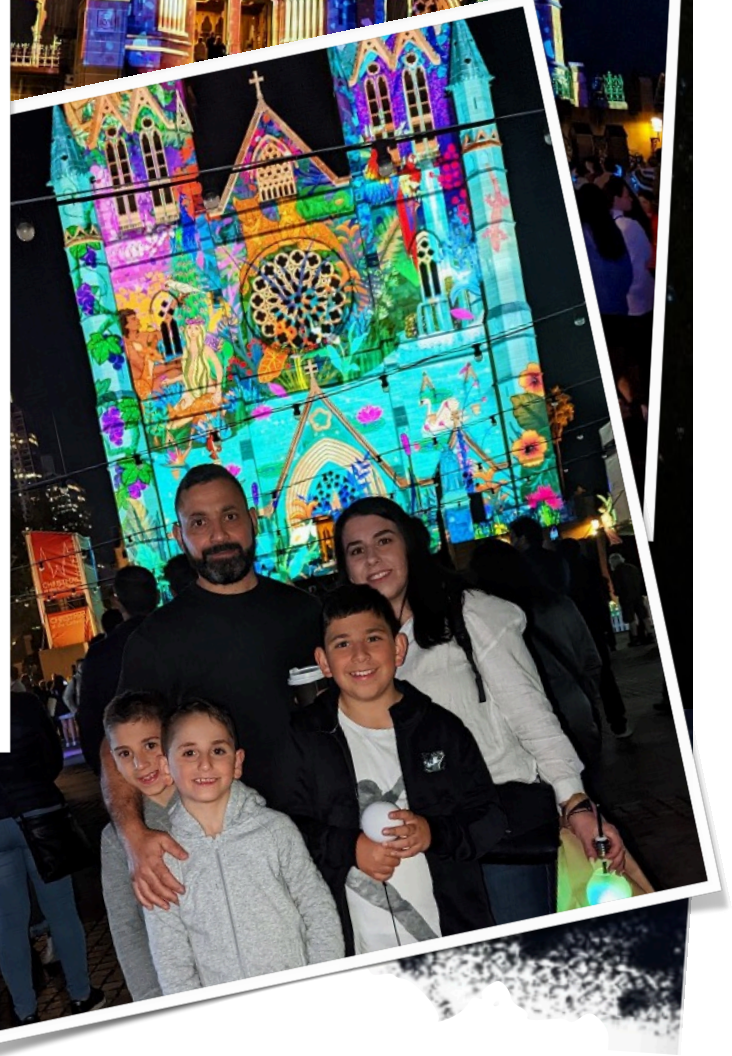
\$5,000

Can **help set up ten homeless people in community housing.**

To learn about the impact of your kindness, and enjoy a special thank you message, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/thankyou



The Lights of Christmas



HOLY CROSS PARISH PRESENTS

CAROLS

BY CANDLELIGHT

WITH PARISH BBQ

TUESDAY 20TH
DECEMBER

6:30 p.m. Parish BBQ
8 p.m. Carols Service

*Holy Trinity Church,
Granville*



Christmas

AT HOLY CROSS PARISH

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 p.m. Holy Family Church

6 p.m. Holy Trinity Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

Midnight Holy Trinity Church

7:30 a.m. & 8:30 a.m. Holy Family Church

10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Holy Trinity Church

5 p.m. Holy Family Church



4th Sunday of Advent, Year A

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 Isaiah (7:10-14)

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 23:1-6. R. see v. 7, 10)

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. R.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. R.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.

Second Reading

The Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (1:1-7)

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received

grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation (Mt. 1:23)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel of Matthew (1:18-24)

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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"