
Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. 8. No. 1

January 1, 2023

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



The Solemnity of
MARY

the HOLY MOTHER of GOD

The title “Mother of God”, together with the title “Blessed Virgin”, is the oldest on which all the other titles with which Our Lady was venerated are based, and it continues to be invoked from generation to generation in the East and in the West. A multitude of hymns and a wealth of prayers refer to the mystery of her divine motherhood, such as a Marian antiphon of the Christmas season, *Alma Redemptoris mater*, with which we pray in these words: “You, in the wonder of all creation, have brought forth your Creator, Mother ever virgin”. Let us contemplate Mary, ever-virgin Mother of the Only-Begotten Son of the Father; let us learn from her to welcome the Child who was born for us in Bethlehem. If we recognise in the Child born of her the Eternal Son of God and accept Him as our one Saviour, we can be called and we really are children of God: sons in the Son. St. Paul the Apostle writes: “God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (*Galatians 4:4*).

It was Pope Paul VI who moved to 1st January the Feast of the Divine Motherhood of Mary, which was formerly celebrated on 11th October. Today's feast preserves a strongly Christological content because, it may be said, before the Mother, it concerns the Son, Jesus, true God and true Man.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death.*

Happy New Year.

THE PARISH OFFICE

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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 2: P. Zaiter,
N. Chidiac, C. Buultjens

Readers

Vigil Rebecca Hanson, Gerry Pinto,
Racquel La Rosa

10:00 a.m. Mary Georges,
Wadzi Mushininga, Reanne Chidiac

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, Christine Derwin, 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.*

We owe our thanks to all those who assisted with the preparations for the Christmas Masses and to all those who participated in these Masses.

In particular, thank you to John Portelli and Rosette Chidiac for their untiring work in decorating Holy Trinity Church, and to Claudette Takchi and her family for their work decorating Holy Family Church. For over a week they spent each day preparing the churches so that we could offer to the new born child the best of our parish for our devotions and for the glory of almighty God.

Our parish is known for having the most magnificent decorations and the most beautiful cribs in the diocese and we owe our gratitude to those who dedicated their time to giving this to us and to offering worthy homage to Our Lord.

Thank you to our dedicated and devoted altar servers for their ministry at the altar—Joshua, Brandon, Elvis, Alvin, Andre, Anthony, Jeevan, Patrick, Patrick, Paul and Victoria—for serving Many of them served up to four and five Masses, demonstrating their tremendous sense of service to God and to the parish.

Thank you to Rosette Chidiac, Andrew Takchi and Richard Zaiter for photographing the churches and the Masses across Christmas so that their beauty could be shared through our social media.

And thank you to the Zaiter family for inviting Father Christmas—as well as Spiderman and Sleeping Beauty—to visit on Christmas Eve! The arrangements they made for their visit were wonderful and brought a great deal of fun and joy to many children.



THANK YOU

Thank you to those who generously gave of their time to help cleaning and preparing the churches for Christmas. Many people gave of their time and, in particular, we thank Sonia and her family for cleaning Holy Trinity Church following Carols by Candlelight, to John Galea and to Alan Quinlan and to all those who each week volunteer to help keep our churches clean and well-kept.

To those who arranged and assisted with the music for the Masses, especially to John Portelli, Director of Music, for his tireless work not only for the Masses but for Carols by Candlelight. Thank you to Rachel Miu and Filomena Molinaro for playing at the Masses, and to Brenda Drake, Elvis, Maryanne Takchi, Chloe Zaiter, Baki and the Khoury Family for singing.

We also thank Claudette Takchi and Annette Wirz for their untiring work and service in our piety shops. They spend a great deal of time behind the scenes preparing the items in the shops, and we thank them for their work which is a tremendous support to the parish.

Thank you to Spiro Portelli who was at every Mass at Holy Trinity Church to open and close the church, as he is every week. His unwavering service is an example to us all.

To all who read, who assisted with taking up the collections, to cleaning the church, thank you for your service. The work of our volunteers is what helps to strengthen the parish and helps all celebrate our faith. May God bless your service to Him and to the Church through the parish.

Thank You for Your Donations

Thank you to those who financially support the parish week after week by your donations to the second collection and our other appeals, in particular those part of the planned giving programme either by your weekly envelopes or by direct debit. Thank you for your generosity and for your care of the parish. Your regular support helps the parish to meet its costs as well as to help in the repairs and maintenance of our churches and parish buildings. These are in regular need of care and your giving helps us to ensure that we can look after and protect the patrimony of the parish for today and for generations to come.

It is also your support which allows us to undertake our celebrations throughout the year, including the decorating of our churches at Christmas and Easter, Carols by Candlelight, Tenebrae, our processions on Good Friday and for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Corpus Christi. Your generosity means that we can prepare and undertake these events for the worship of God and in celebration of our parish.

May God bless you for your support and may you be rewarded for your kindness.

Parish Office Hours This Week

The parish office will be unattended this week. If needed, please leave a voicemail or send a message to the parish office email.

Holy Masses This Week

Whilst many parishes will be reducing their Mass times for the next two weeks, the regular Mass schedule will remain in place with Masses and confessions remaining at the usual times.



THE ✠ HOLY ✠ FAMILY *of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH*

The life of the Holy Family hardly seems to fulfil the words of the Archangel Gabriel at the annunciation: "Mary, you have found favour with God," or of the Blessed Virgin's cousin, St. Elizabeth: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." In fact, for all God's promises of thrones and kingdoms, it seems that it was the old man Simeon, whose words in the Temple to the Blessed Virgin, were the only true thing said: because of this child, "a sword shall pierce your soul."

The Holy Family is a model and example for all Christian families. Their life passed quietly in a little town in Palestine. They underwent trials of poverty, persecution and exile. But we must be careful not to romanticise the Holy Family, lest they become out of reach of reality.

Throughout the trials of poverty and suffering, this family, found the grace to glorify God in an incomparably exalted and pure way. They embodied the life of which St. Paul would later write: "Be thankful.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." This same grace, the grace given to the Holy Family, is given still today and it cannot but help Christian families in their daily work, to bear patiently, faithfully, and hopefully the anxieties and worries that never seem to go away, to be open and generous to the needs of others, and to fulfil with joy the plan of God for the family.

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless me and grant me the grace of loving Holy Church as I should,
above every earthly thing, and of ever showing my love by deeds.*

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless me and grant me the grace of openly professing
as I should, with courage and without human respect, the faith that I received as your gift in holy Baptism.*

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless me and grant me the grace of sharing
as I should in the defence and propagation of the Faith when duty calls,
whether by word or by the sacrifice of my possessions and my life.*

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless me and grant me the grace of conforming my life fully
as I should to the commandments of God's law and those of His Holy Church,
so as to live always in that charity which they set forth.*

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.**



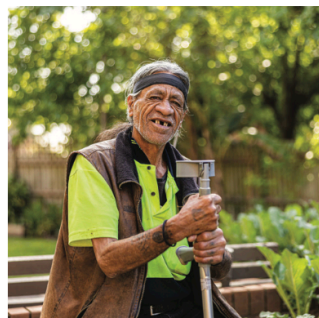
\$1,000

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



Saints & STUFF

The Holy Innocents

The massacre of the Holy Innocents is the infanticide by Herod the Great, the Roman-appointed King of the Jews, following the birth of Christ.

According to the Gospel of Matthew, Herod ordered the execution of all male children under the age of two in and around Bethlehem, so as to avoid the loss of his throne to a newborn King of the Jews whose birth had been announced to him by the Magi.

It is understood as the fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy: "It was then that the words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah were fulfilled: A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loudly lamenting: it was Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they were no more" (Matthew 2:17-18)

The Holy Innocents, although Jewish, are martyrs of Christ, for they were killed out of hatred of our Lord. And so the Church prays on their feast day on December 28th: "Grant, O Lord, abundant salvation to your faithful as they receive your holy gifts on the feast day of these, your Saints, who, though still unable to profess your Son in speech, were crowned with heavenly grace on account of his birth."

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mary, Mother of God

963 "The Virgin Mary... is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and of the redeemer... She is 'clearly the mother of the members of Christ'... since she has by her charity joined in bringing about the birth of believers in the Church, who are members of its head." [She is] "Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church."

971 "All generations will call me blessed": "The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship." The Church rightly honours "the Blessed Virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honoured with the title of 'Mother of God,' to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs... This very special devotion... differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration."

The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an "epitome of the whole Gospel," express this devotion to the Virgin Mary.

CATHOLIC Trivia

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

The Church celebrates New Years Day, January 1st, as the World Day of Peace. It was established by Pope Paul VI in 1967, being inspired by the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* of Pope John XXIII and with reference to his own encyclical *Populorum Progressio*.

The World Day of Peace has often been an occasion on which Popes have made magisterial declarations of social doctrine. Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II made important declarations on the day in each year of their pontificates regarding the United Nations, human rights, women's rights, labour unions, economic development, the right to life, international diplomacy, peace in the Holy Land, globalisation, and terrorism.

The day itself, first established by the Church, is recognised and honoured worldwide as a day for the promotion of peace around the world, echoing the words of the angels to the shepherds and prayed in the Gloria of the Holy Mass: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will."

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V C A L S

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Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

The Readings

Introit

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King,
who rules heaven and earth for ever.

First Reading

The Book of Numbers (6:22-27)

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8 R. v. 2)

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

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

The Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians (4:4-7)

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

Gospel Acclamation (Heb. 1:1-2)

Alleluia, alleluia!
In the past God spoke to our ancestors
through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

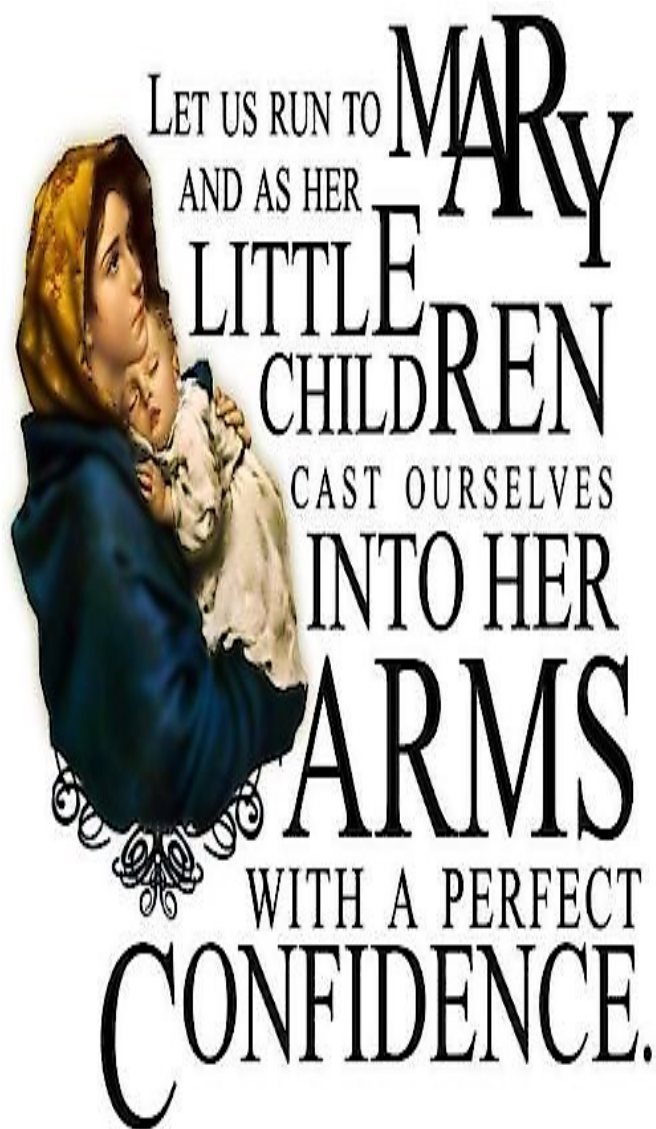
The Gospel of Luke (2:16-21)

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

Communio (Heb. 13:8)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.



-SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES