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# Granville Catholic Church Record

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Vol. 8. No. 20

May 21, 2023

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

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The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

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Forty days after the Resurrection of our Lord, He ascended to heaven. The Church celebrates today this solemnity as she looks to where her Lord and Saviour has gone so that she may follow.

The number forty is one of the great mythical numbers of the Bible and Tradition. Forty is a number whose meaning is important because it reminds us of our redemption, but redemption that is born of suffering and finds its fulfillment in joy. The forty days and nights that Noah and his family suffered on the ark gave way to a renewed earth. The forty years that the Hebrews suffered on the Sinai peninsula led them to the land of milk and honey granted to them by God. The forty days of the Lord in the desert found their end in Jesus' proclamation that the Kingdom of God was at hand. The forty hours of burial in the tomb gave way to the resurrection and the glorified life of Christ. And the forty days from the resurrection, whilst the Lord remained on earth, appearing to the Apostles and disciples, gave way to the greater glory of His ascension from this world to heaven.

The mission of Jesus, the Son of God who descended from heaven led to His passion and His being lifted up on the Cross. His going down into the tomb gave way to His rising up from the dead, and now His ascension into heaven and return to the Father.

And we look towards where He has gone. Because of the fall of Adam and Eve we were no longer able to reach up to heaven so the Lord reached down to us and caught us up in His divine love and mercy so that He can draw us to heaven.

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*Solemnity of the*  
**ASCENSION of the LORD**

## 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

### 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

### 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, J. Osei-Yamoah,  
A. Osei-Yamoah, L. Tordilla, J. Fili,  
J. John, A. Abosh, O. Ifeanyi, J. Raj,  
S. Joseph

### Readers

**Vigil** Rebecca Hanson, Gerry Pinto,  
Racquel La Rosa

**10:00 a.m.** Sisters, Jasmine Miranda,  
Raphaella 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

Therese Akkary, Nieves Arribas, Najibeh Malkoun Assaad,  
Victor Azzopardi, Bonello Family, Nick Bonello, Betty Borg,  
Alice Boustani, Yousseph Boustani, Kathleen Bradbery, Paul  
Bradbery, Teofila Cabal, Mary Caden, Dick Cahill, Gwen  
Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Youseff Jose Chalhoub, Nazirah El-  
Hallal, Salim El-Hallal, Carmen Galea, Maria Gambin, Joe  
Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Kelvin Huitt, Salim Karaki,  
Paul Kassis, Nouhad Khoury, Frouzine Malkoun, Jacob  
Malkoun, Mouna Malkoun, Ofimia Malkoun, Paul  
Mathews, Joseph Nammour, Jack Newell, Jean Newell,  
Tony Newell, Haydee Nursoo, Peter Pidgeon, Paul Raad,  
Peter Robertson, Sergio Sudiro, Emanuel Tabone, Darren  
Thornton, Joseph Vella, Phyllis Webb, Dib Zaiter.



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

## **Annual Volunteer Drive Begins Next Week**

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Next Sunday the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Pentecost and the birth of the Church. To mark this, as we do each and every year, the annual volunteer drive will begin next Sunday.

Now is the time to start thinking of how you will participate in the life of the parish. It can't be left up to others to carry the work, all those who are capable should think about what contribution they will make to building up the parish and to contributing to the parish.

Next week there will be more information for how to volunteer and how you can get involved.

So start thinking now about what you will do to and how you will get involved.

## **Diocese of Parramatta Synod**

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The Diocese of Parramatta synod will be held from 12-15 October, A.D. 2023.

The Eastern Deanery "listening consultation" will be held on Saturday, 3 June from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. To register to attend visit [parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://parracatholic.org/synod2023).

The Mass for the convocation of the diocesan synod will be said on at St. Patrick's Cathedral on 28 May, at 11:00 a.m. Each parish in has been invited to send two representatives. We are seeking two parishioners who wish to attend the Mass and to represent our parish. If you would like to be a representative, please contact the parish office by Thursday, 25 May, so your details can be forwarded to the cathedral to confirm your attendance.

For more information and to make a submission to the synod, visit [parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://parracatholic.org/synod2023).

## **Diocese of Parramatta's Safe Parishes Week Mandatory Safeguarding Training for All Parish Volunteers in All Parishes of the Diocese**

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"Building Safe Parishes Together in 2023": an update from the Diocese of Parramatta's Office for Safeguarding.

Are you new to parish volunteering this year and have not completed your safeguarding training? Are you an existing volunteer and have not yet completed your six points of mandatory safeguarding training?

Under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 and the N.S.W. Child Safe Standards all volunteers in parishes are mandatory reporters and are required to have completed their safeguarding training. The Office of the Children's Guardian expects all volunteers in parishes have now met this standard.

The Diocese of Parramatta has zero tolerance for abuse, and therefore commits to keeping children safe as well as all adults at risk.

You are now invited to register for the mandatory six points of safeguarding training. To complete cycle 1, register for the mandatory training during "Safe Parishes Week" on Friday, 9 June from 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion St., Blacktown by emailing [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org).

If you would like to complete your six points online, sign up now at [learning.safeguarding.org.au](http://learning.safeguarding.org.au).

If you have any questions about the safeguarding training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:maria.kervin@parracatholic.org).

Please note that this is a requirement of the Diocese of Parramatta for all volunteers in all parishes.

## **Temporary Holy Mass Times**

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The diocese have advised that the temporary Holy Mass times introduced by Fr. Andrew in service of parishioners during the pandemic restrictions will no longer be permitted. The diocese have thanked Fr. Andrew for his generosity in saying these additional Masses so that all parishioners would be able to attend Mass whilst attendance limits were placed on churches. However, the diocese have said that those conditions are no longer in place and, as such, there is no need for these additional times.

In order to allow notice of this, the temporary Masses times of Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. will continue to next Sunday. For the time being, and whilst permitted, the temporary Mass time of Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. will continue.

## **New Planned Giving Sets of Envelopes Available at the Doors of the Church**

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The sets of planned giving envelopes for the new financial year are now available by the doors of the churches. Please collect your set of envelopes for use from July.

Thank you to those kind parishioners who are a part of the parish's planned giving programme and who contribute every week to the support of the parish, either by using the envelopes or by direct debit. Your generosity enables the parish to meet its costs and to plan for works including repairs and maintenance, utility costs, and insurance as well as for other costs such as supplies for the Masses, catechist books, our processions and other liturgical and devotional events.

If you would like to be a part of the planned giving programme and receive a set of envelopes, please speak with the parish office.



Holy Cross Parish

# Decade a Day

Join us to pray one decade of the  
Holy Rosary  
every day throughout the month of  
May for a different special intention.



Help us build a spiritual crown  
for Our Lady by praying for  
her assistance.



Throughout the month of May, we honour in a special way the Blessed Virgin Mary as our Mother and the Mother of the Church.

In order to honour Our Lady and seek her guidance and intercession, the parish will be praying a "Decade a Day". Each day there will be a particular intercession by which we can unite as a parish in prayer and so form a spiritual crown for the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, beseeching her care and support.

The Church honours the month of May as a Marian month in devotion to Our Lady, given to us as our mother from the Holy Cross.

Inspired by St. Luke who wrote in the the Acts of the Apostles, "The whole Church was fervently praying to God" (12:5), we invite you and with your families to pray one decade of the Rosary (ten Hail Mary's) each day for the special intercession which will be posted daily along with your own personal intentions and the intention of the

Holy Father, seeking Our Lady's help.

Set up a small prayer space in your homes with a statue or image of Our Lady for the month. Send us photos of your prayer spaces so that we can share them for others to view. This is a simple way that you can help us, as a parish and the Church as a whole, during this month, build a spiritual crown for the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, praying for her Motherly care and intercession.



Join your prayers with the prayers  
of other parishioners of Holy Cross Parish  
to form a spiritual crown  
for the Most Blessed Virgin Mary

# HOLY CROSS PARISH ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE

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FOOD DRIVE IN SUPPORT OF THOSE IN NEED

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As the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker,  
Holy Cross Parish holds it's annual St. Joseph's Table.

We are asking parishioners to donate canned goods  
and other non-perishable foods to this table  
which will then be distributed to those most in need.

A table will be placed before the altar of St. Joseph in Holy Family Church  
and by the statue of St. Joseph in Holy Trinity Church for your donations.

Please support this good work of Holy Cross Parish  
by donating to the St. Joseph's Table  
through the month of May.







A synod is both an event and a process where clergy, consecrated, and the laity gather to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church. Synods are transformative events that lead to renewal in the Church's life.

The Diocese of Parramatta synod will be held from 12-15 October, A.D. 2023.

The synod will gather clergy, religious, and the laity across the diocese to listen, discern, and respond to the Holy Spirit through voices of the people of God in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

The Eastern Deanery "listening consultation" will be held on Saturday, 3 June from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta.

To register to attend visit [www.parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://www.parracatholic.org/synod2023).





## WHAT DOES CHRIST'S ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN MEAN?

*Pope Benedict XVI*

It expresses our belief that in Christ human nature, the humanity in which we all share, has entered into the inner life of God in a new and hitherto unheard of way. It means that man has found an everlasting place in God.

Heaven is not a place beyond the stars, but something much greater, something that requires far more audacity to assert: Heaven means that man now has a place in God. The basis for this assertion is the interpenetration of humanity and divinity in the crucified and exalted man Jesus. Christ, the man who is in God and eternally one with God, is at the same time God's abiding openness to all human beings.

Thus Jesus himself is what we call "heaven"; heaven is not a place but a person, the person of him in whom God and man are forever and inseparably one. And we go to heaven and enter into heaven to the extent that we go to Jesus Christ and enter into him. In this sense, "ascension into heaven" can be something that takes place in our everyday lives...

For the disciples, the "ascension" was not what we usually misinterpret it as being: the temporary absence of Christ from the world. It meant rather his new, definitive, and irrevocable presence by participation in God's royal power... God has a place for man!... In God there is a place for us!... "Be consoled, flesh and blood, for in Christ you have taken possession of heaven and of God's kingdom!" (Tertullian).

This is why [St. John's] theology for practical purposes identifies the Resurrection and the return of Christ (e.g., 14, 18 ff.); with the resurrection of Jesus, by reason of which he is now with his disciples forevermore, his return has already begun.

Christ exercises his power through the powerlessness of the word by which he calls human beings to faith. This fact reminds us once again of the image of the cloud, in which the hiddenness and the nearness of the Lord are combined in a unique way. John the Evangelist has conveyed this fusion in an even more drastic

manner by the new meaning he has poured into the Old Testament term "raise up" or "exalt." This word, which had hitherto expressed only the idea of elevation to royal dignity, also refers in John to the crucifixion in which Christ is "lifted up" from the earth. For John, then, the mystery of Good Friday, of Easter, and of Christ's Ascension form but a single mystery. The cross has a second, mysterious dimension: it is the royal throne from which Christ exercises his kingship and draws the human race to himself and into his wide-open arms (cf. Jn 3:14; 8:28; 12:32-33). Christ's royal throne is the cross; his exaltation takes the form of what seems to the outsider the extreme of disgrace and humiliation.

"Thus, no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head" (St. Augustine).

*Source: J. Ratzinger, "Dogma and Preaching", Franciscan Herald Press (1985).*

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# Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Year A

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## The Readings

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### Introit (Acts 1:11)

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

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### First Reading

#### The Acts of the Apostles (1:1-11)

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

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### Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6)

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. R.

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. R.

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. R.

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### Second Reading

#### The First Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (1:17-23)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

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### Gospel Acclamation (Mt. 28:19, 20)

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always,  
until the end of the world.  
Alleluia!

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### Gospel

#### The Gospel of Matthew (28:16-20)

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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### Communio (Mt. 28:20)

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.