
Granville

Catholic Church Record

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December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



GAUDETE

SUNDAY

3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT

*Rejoice
in the Lord always;
again I say,
rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord
is near.*

Today, the third Sunday of Advent, the Church celebrates Gaudete Sunday. The dour violet of Advent gives way to the brighter colour of rose as she looks forward in joy to the birth of our Lord.

The word *gaudete* comes from the Latin word *gaudere* meaning “to rejoice” because the Mass today opens with the words “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.”

The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (11 November), when it was often called “St. Martin’s Lent”—a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks, and Advent preserved

most of the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent. Gaudete Sunday is a counterpart to Laetare Sunday, and provides a similar break about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord’s coming.

The spirit of the Mass all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the feast of Christmas as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are suspended on Gaudete Sunday to symbolise that joy and gladness in the promised Redemption.

While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: His first, His present and His

final Advent, the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord—Christian joy—as well as the mission of St. John the Baptist and his connection with Advent.

There is a difference between happiness and joy. While happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing can take that love away. Thus joy can be present even in the midst of sadness.

In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the “Sunday of joy,” and that instead of fretting about “all they still haven’t” done to prepare for Christmas, people should “think of all the good things life has given you.”

THE PARISH OFFICE

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

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John Portelli

Catechist Co-ordinator

Lana Leatherby

Sacraments and Youth Co-ordinator

Rosette Chidiac

Online and Social Media Co-ordinators

Rosette Chidiac and John Portelli

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Claudette Takchi and Annette Wirz

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Holy Trinity Primary School

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Delany College

T (02) 8633-8100

DONATIONS

BSB: 067-950

Account: 00007247

Name: Granville Catholic Parish

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, 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Confessions

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, 5:45 p.m.

Nigerian Community Mass

Second and fourth Sunday of the month,

11:00 a.m.

Rosters

Church Cleaning Group 3: Christine
Boatswain and Claudia Tiller

Readers

4:30 p.m. Rosemary Wehbe

8:30 a.m. Claudette Takchi

5:00 p.m.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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.

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, Ingrid Bifulco,
Racquel La Rosa

10:00 a.m. Wadzi Mushininga,
Reanne Chidiac, Sisters

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Joseph Akkary, Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton,
John Augustus, Frank Azzopardi, Antonio Bifulco, Ann
Blesson, John Borg, Vincenzo Colosimo, Lucy Farrugia,
Carmel Galea, Carmello Giovenco, 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.*

IN MEMORIAM

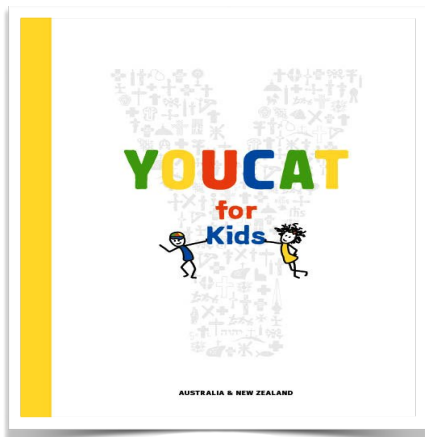
Therese Akkary, Victor Azzopardi, Betty Borg, Kathleen
Bradbery, Paul Bradbery, Eniketi Brown, Jim Brown, Lazarus
Camilleri, Nazirah El-Hallal, Salim El-Hallal, Marcus El-
Khouri, Alan Frost, Sita Futu'u, Carmen Galea, Maria Gambin,
John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Chahid
Habib, Fay Irons, Lex Irons, Salim Karaki, Paul Kassis, Nouhad
Khouri, Rustica La Rosa, Jim Mackie, Frouzine Malkoun, Jacob
Malkoun, Mouna Malkoun, Ofimia Malkoun, Paul Mathews,
Jack McIntyre, Giovanna Mondello, Sam Munro, Joseph
Nammour, Jack Newell, Jean Newell, Tony Newell, Haydee
Nursoo, Mary Elizabeth Olsen, Herbert Pidgeon, Laura
Pestano, Rogelio Pestano, Rolando Pestano, Edward (Tom)
Pidgeon, Garry Smith, Noel So, Alex Taktak, Joseph Vella,
Phyllis Webb, Mershed Wehbe, Yesmine Wehbe, Dib Zaiter.



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

**The Holy Cross Parish
Catechism Project
YouCat for Kids
Now Available**

Last year we launched the first Holy Cross Parish Catechism Project which made copies of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* freely available to all those who sought to participate and support this pastoral work of the parish.



This year we have expanded the reach of this project and are offering copies of *YouCat*, the catechism for adolescents and young people which summarises the most important elements of the faith in a question-and-answer format so making the truths of the faith accessible to a younger generation, as well as *YouCat for Kids*, which is intended for primary school aged children.

These books have been donated by Fr. Andrew and are made available to all those who seek to know and to love the Catholic faith ever more deeply. In a world which abhors truth and seeks to destroy Christianity, at a time when the teachings of the Church are questioned and formation in the faith is sorely lacking, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and education in the faith is needed more than ever.

The Church needs men and women ready to make a stand in defence of the Faith, of the Church, and of Our Lord.

**CAROLS
BY CANDLELIGHT**

THIS TUESDAY EVENING

We will be holding our annual solemn Carols by Candlelights service at Holy Trinity Church this Tuesday evening at 7:30 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.

**Holy Mass Obligation
for Christmas**

Catholics are obligated to attend Mass each Sunday and holy day of obligation of which Christmas is one of those holy days. This year, Christmas Eve falls on the same day as the 4th Sunday of Advent.

This means that we are obliged to attend Mass for both the Sunday and for Christmas. The Sunday obligation can be fulfilled by hearing Mass on either Saturday evening or Sunday morning and the Christmas obligation by hearing Mass on Sunday evening or on Monday.

**The Catholic Foundation
Christmas Appeal**

The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Parramatta are undertaking their annual Christmas appeal. This year's appeal is in support of Catholic Care to provide care to those in hospitals and in prisons.

If you would like to support this appeal, you can use the envelopes provided on the pews and place this in either of the collections or in the boxes by the doors of the churches. If you prefer to make a donation online, visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au or scan the QR code below.

Thank you to all those who support this appeal for your kindness and your generosity. It is of great assistance to many suffering people.



**2024 Columban
Art Calendars for Sale
in our Piety Shops**

The 2024 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.

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

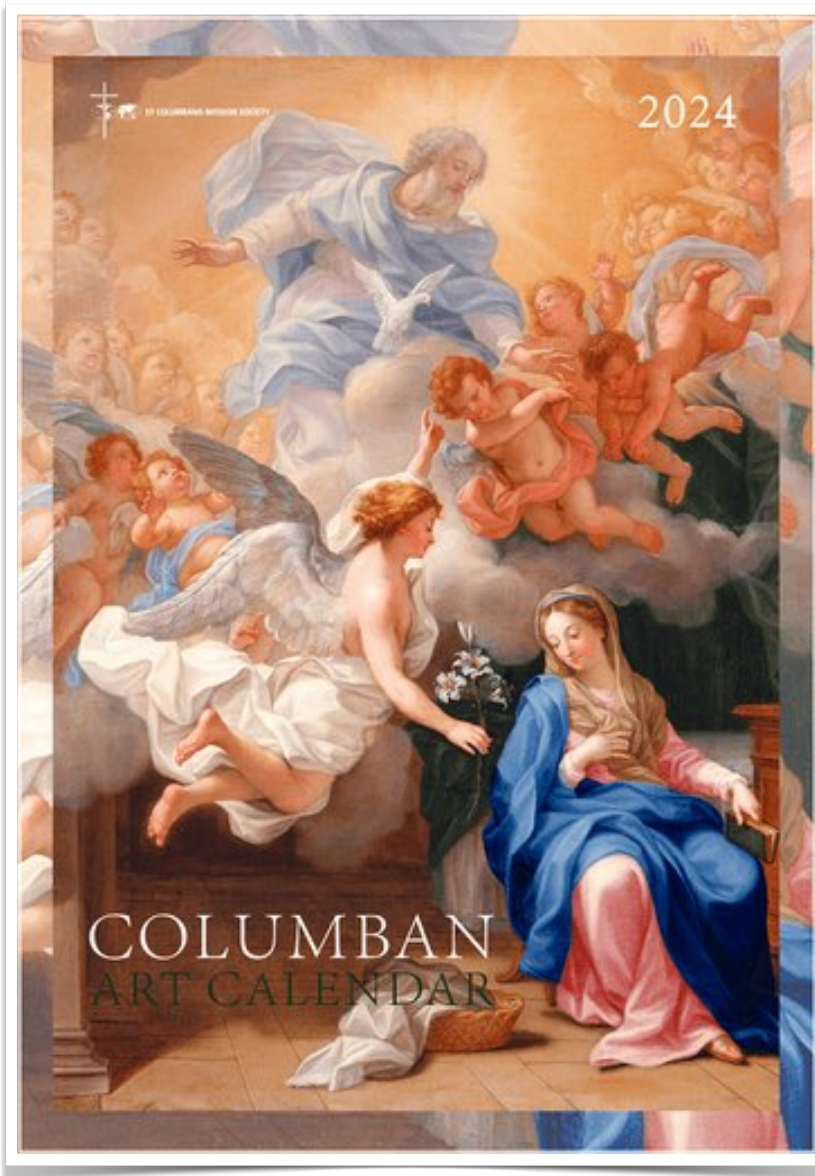
Prepare a Way!

2023



A HOLY CROSS PARISH RESOURCE
for a SPIRITUALLY NOURISHING ADVENT SEASON

—•—
Available free online or in the piety shop for \$10



The 2024 Columban Art Calendar is on sale now at the piety shop for \$10.

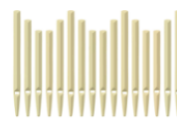
The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information.

2024 marks over 100 years of the calendar.

The money from the sale of these calendars supports the work of the Missionary Society of St. Columban, an order of Priests who work with the poor and the exploited around the world.

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V C A L S

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CAROLS

BY CANDLELIGHT

*A solemn evening of Carols and the
blessing of the Christmas Crib.*

7:30PM | TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH GRANVILLE
Corner of Randle St & Bennalong St Granville



A detailed illustration of the Nativity scene. In the center, the Virgin Mary is seated, holding the infant Jesus. To the right, Joseph is kneeling in prayer. A shepherd on the right holds a lamb. Two angels are positioned at the top, one on each side. The background features a large archway with the Latin inscription "ET VERBUM CARO FACTUM EST" on the left and "ALLELUIA!" on the right. The scene is set in a stable with a donkey and ox visible on the left.

Christmas

AT HOLY CROSS GRANVILLE

CHRISTMAS EVE

5 p.m. Holy Family Church
7 p.m. Holy Trinity Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

Midnight Holy Trinity Church
8:30 a.m. Holy Family Church
10 a.m. Holy Trinity Church
4:30 p.m. Holy Family Church



3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

The Readings

Introit (Phil. 4:4-5)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

The Prophet Isaiah (61:1-2; 10-11)

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 1:46-50, 53-54. *R.* Is. 61:10)

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. *R.*

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. *R.*

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. *R.*

Second Reading

The First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (5:16-24)

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything—hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy;
and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul
and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God
has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation (Is. 61:1; Lk. 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of St. John (1:6-9, 19-28)

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you—unknown to you—the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Communio (Is. 35:4)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

“The Lord wins in the end.”

—Pope Benedict XVI