
Granville

Catholic Church Record

Vol. 8. No. 51

December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent, Year B

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."

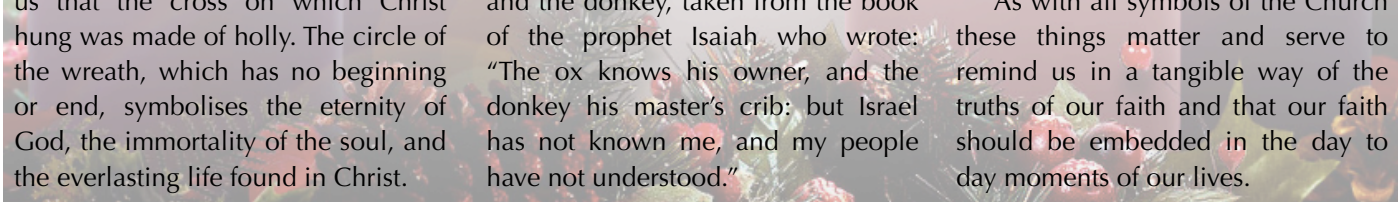
The Christmas Tree

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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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 and John Portelli

Piety Shop

Claudette Takchi and Annette Wirz

Holy Family Primary School

T (02) 8633-8200

Holy Trinity Primary School

T (02) 8633-8500

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. Robyn Rich

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 3: Hanh Hanh
and the Vietnamese community

Readers

Vigil Rebecca Hanson, Ingrid Bifulco,
Racquel La Rosa

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

Children's Liturgy *no children's liturgy
during school holidays*

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

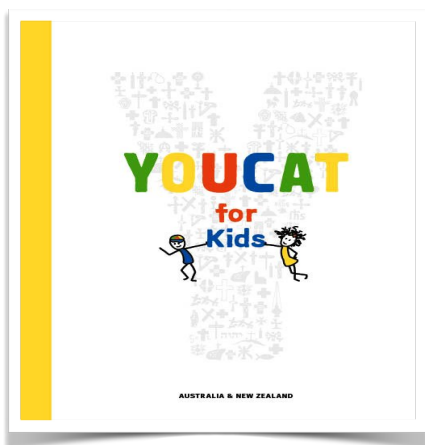
Therese Akkary, Victor Azzopardi, Betty Borg, Kathleen
Bradbery, Paul Bradbery, Eniketi Brown, Jim Brown, Lazarus
Camilleri, Nazirah El-Hallal, Salim El-Hallal, Marcus El-
Khoury, Alan Frost, Sita Futu'u, Carmen Galea, Maria Gambin,
John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Chahid
Habib, Fay Irons, Lex Irons, Salim Karaki, Paul Kassis, Nouhad
Khoury, 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.

Thank You

On Tuesday evening we celebrated our annual Carols by Candlelight at Holy Trinity Church. It was a beautiful festival of nine readings and carols telling of the history of our salvation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas.

We owe our immense gratitude to John Portelli, Director of Music, for his incredible work in arranging and preparing this solemn event. Over many weeks he has worked tirelessly for this majestic celebration of music and Scripture.

We thank those who sang: Louise Morched, Elvis Nguyen, Maryanne Takchi and Chloe Zaiter.

We thank those who read—Armani Barakat, Mary Georges, Rozsa Kazmer, Narelle Khoury, Joseph Ojiba and Claudette Takchi, and those who served at the altar—Brandon, Elvis, Jeevan, Johnny, Paul and Patrick, and to Rosette Chidiac and Richard Zaiter for filming and photographing.

Thank you, also, to Annette Wirz, for setting up the piety shop stall with Christmas gifts and decorations.

We also owe our thanks to Rosette Chidiac and John Portelli for their astounding work in designing and preparing the nativity scene. They dedicated many hours of work to having it ready for Carols by Candlelight and they have arranged a beautiful scene which serves to heighten our own devotion to the Holy Family and to meditate on the birth of the Saviour. Thanks must also go to Elvis and Jeevan who spent the day preparing the trees and the lights on the sanctuary and decorating the sacristy. Their commitment to the parish and their sense of duty and service is a testament to their faith and gives a tremendous example of sacrifice.

New Year's Day Holy Masses

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God on Monday, 1 January. To honour this solemnity and the first day of the new year Holy Mass will be said at Holy Trinity Church at 8:15 a.m. and at Holy Family Church at 9:15 a.m.

Parish Office Hours During the Holidays

The parish office will close until 16 January. If needed, please leave a voicemail or send a message to the parish office email and a reply will be given when the office opens.

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.

2024 Columban Art Calendars for Sale in our Piety Shops

The 2024 Columban Art Calendar is on sale for \$10 from our piety shops and the sale of these supports the work of the Columban Missionaries and the parish.





PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



**Will you support our
chaplains to listen with
the ear of the heart?**



\$25

Can **provide companionship** for the lonely.



\$50

Can help fill a chaplain's petrol tank, **enabling more outreach visits** to the isolated, sick, elderly, or dying.



\$75

Can provide **comfort, prayer and spiritual nourishment** for people in need.



\$100

Can **provide pastoral care and hope** to people in prison.



\$200

Can help provide **chaplaincy support** for patients' and inmates' families.



\$250

Can enable chaplains to **support people to nurture their spirituality**.



\$500

Can help provide **weekly Mass services** in prisons.



\$1,250

Can help chaplains **support health professionals** through distressing times.



\$2,500

Can provide **spiritual and emotional care and the sacraments** for those coping with life-threatening illness, grief, and loss.



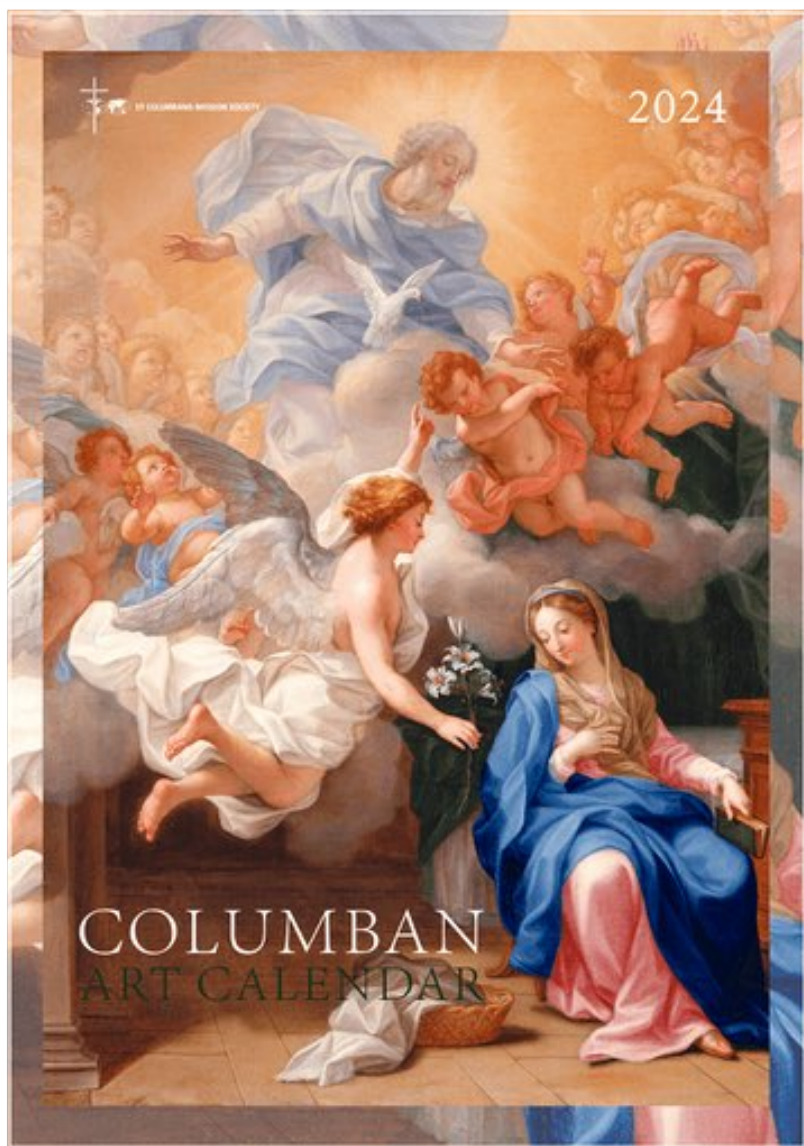
\$5,000

Can help **train more chaplains and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist** to serve in hospitals and prisons.

**Your Christmas gift will provide comfort, faith,
and hope to those facing traumatic times.**

Please give generously to the Catholic Foundation Christmas Appeal
yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal





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

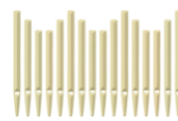
The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information.

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.

MT
VOCALS

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CAROLS

BY CANDLELIGHT



A detailed illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary is seated on the left, holding the infant Jesus. Joseph is kneeling on the right, holding a small white lamb. Two angels are visible in the background, one on each side. The scene is set within a decorative archway with Latin text. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a subtle pattern of white robes.

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



4th Sunday of Advent, Year B

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 Second Book of Samuel (7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16)

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 88:2-5, 27, 29. R. see v. 2)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. R.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' R.

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. R.

Second Reading

The Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (16:25-27)

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation (Lk. 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel

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

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Communio (Is. 7:14)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.