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# Granville Catholic Church Record

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Special Edition

December 25, 2023

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

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The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

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## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in His own image. Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt. Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the

anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel. In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome. The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by His most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months

having passed since His conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary. Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

May the incarnation of the Son of God, who has driven darkness from the world and has illumined this most holy day and has brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with gladness, give to you the gift of His peace and favour, and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

## THE PARISH OFFICE

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### 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.

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### 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

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**BSB:** 067-950

**Account:** 00007247

**Name:** Granville Catholic Parish

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

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### 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.

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### 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

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 HolyCrossGranville

 Holy Cross Parish App

 @holycrossgranville

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

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### 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.

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### 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

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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

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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.*



## Online Donations in Support of the Parish

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Online donations can be made through the Holy Cross Parish website ([holycrossgranville.org.au](http://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.



## First Collection and Second Collection Contributions

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Your support of these collections is greatly appreciated. The money raised in the first collection supports some of the works of the diocese. The money raised in the second collection directly supports the works of the parish and helps us to meet our expenses and to continue to meet the costs and expenses of operating the parish.

Thank you, especially, to those who are a part of the planned giving programme and use their envelopes to contribute each week to the parish. Your regular contributions are a great support.

## 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

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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

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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

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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

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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 **chaplains 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 Bishop's Christmas Appeal**  
[yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)





# The Lights of Christmas



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# Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Vigil Mass

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## The Readings

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### Introit (Cf. Ex. 16:6-7)

Today you will know that the Lord will come,  
and he will save us,  
and in the morning you will see his glory.

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### First Reading

#### The Prophet Isaiah (62:1-5)

About Zion I will not be silent,  
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
until her integrity shines out like the dawn  
and her salvation flames like a torch.  
The nations then will see your integrity,  
all the kings your glory,  
and you will be called by a new name,  
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.  
You are to be a crown of splendour  
in the hand of the Lord,  
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;  
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',  
nor your land 'Abandoned',  
but you shall be called 'My Delight'  
and your land 'The Wedded';  
for the Lord takes delight in you  
and your land will have its wedding.  
Like a young man marrying a virgin,  
so will the one who built you wed you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,  
so will your God rejoice in you.

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### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 88:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29. R. see v. 2)

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

'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.

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your justice the source of their bliss. 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.

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### Second Reading

#### The Acts of the Apostles (13:16-17, 22-25)

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in  
the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began

to speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of  
our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our  
people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt;  
then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he  
approved in these words, "I have selected David son of  
Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my  
whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up  
for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour,  
whose coming was heralded by John when he  
proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people  
of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not  
the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after  
me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

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### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth  
will be destroyed:  
the Saviour of the world will be our king.  
Alleluia!

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### Gospel

#### The Gospel of Matthew (1:18-25)

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 told him to  
do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not  
had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he  
named him Jesus.

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### Communio (Cf. Is. 40:5)

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



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# Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Mass During the Night

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## The Readings

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### **Introit** (Ps. 2:7)

The Lord said to me: You are my Son.  
It is I who have begotten you this day.

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### **First Reading**

#### **The Prophet Isaiah** (9:1-7)

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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### **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 95:1-3, 11-13. R. Lk 2:11)

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.

Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. R.

Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. R.

With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth. R.

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### **Second Reading**

#### **The Letter of Saint Paul to Titus** (2:11-14)

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions;

we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

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### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

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### **Gospel**

#### **The Gospel of Luke** (2:1-14)

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heave  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

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### **Communio** (Jn. 1:14)

The Word became flesh,  
and we have seen his glory.

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# Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Mass During the Day

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## The Readings

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### **Introit** (Cf. Is. 9:5)

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;  
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,  
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

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### **First Reading**

#### **The Prophet Isaiah (52:7-10)**

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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### **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 97:1-6. R. v. 3)

R. All the ends of the earth  
have seen the saving power of God.

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. R.

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. R.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. R.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. R.

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### **Second Reading**

#### **The Letter to the Hebrews (1:1-6)**

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven

at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

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### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come you nations and adore the Lord.  
Today a great light has come upon the earth.  
Alleluia!

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### **Gospel**

#### **The Gospel of John (1:1-18)**

In the beginning was the Word:  
the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through him.  
All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.  
The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.  
He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh or will of man  
but of God himself.  
The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us.  
And we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

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### **Communio** (Cf. Ps. 97:3)

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.