
Granville

Catholic Church Record

Vol. 8. No. 52

December 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



THE ❖ HOLY ❖ FAMILY

of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH

The life of the Holy Family hardly seems to fulfill 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 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 fulfill with joy the plan of God for the family.

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 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 1: C. Takchi,

M. Wehbe, N. Khoury

Readers

4:30 p.m. Rosemary Wehbe


8:30 a.m. Claudia Tiller

5:00 p.m. Samar Karaki

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 1: L. Hale,

D. Portelli, L. Toman, W. Krasinski,

J. Galea, A. Quinlan, L. Franco,

N. Begley

Readers

Vigil Gerry Pinto, Racquel La Rosa,
Rosette Chidiac

10:00 a.m. Rozsa Kazmer,
Jasmine Miranda, Reanne 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.*

Requiescant in Pace **Elda Simone**

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Elda Simone. In your charity, please pray for the repose of her soul and for the consolation of her family in the faith and hope of the resurrection of Our Lord.

The requiem Mass will be said on Thursday, 4 January at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Family Church.



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

May she rest in peace.

*May her soul and the souls
of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.*

Online Donations in Support of the Parish

Online donations can be made through the Holy Cross Parish website (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 Thursday Holy Mass in Latin

This Thursday, being the first Thursday of the month, Holy Mass in Latin will be said at Holy Trinity Church at 6:00 p.m.

The first Thursday of the month is traditionally offered as an act of reparation to the wounds of Our Lord and in honour of the Blessed Sacrament. It is also offered as day to pray for Priests in honour of Our Lord Jesus Christ, High and Eternal Priest.

First Friday Devotions in Honour of the Sacred Heart

This Friday, being the first Friday of the month, we continue our devotions in honour of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord and in reparation for our sins and for the sins of humanity.



At Holy Trinity Church, beginning with confessions at 6:15 p.m., there will then be the Holy Rosary at 6:30 p.m., followed by Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m. and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for these devotions in honour of Our Lord and for the grace of His Sacraments, especially in this Christmas season as a way to give thanks to Almighty God for the birth of our salvation and for the abundant graces granted to us by His only begotten Son.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Holy Masses

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God on Monday, 1 January. 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 during the month of January, 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.



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 January 1st the Feast of the Divine Motherhood of Mary, which was formerly celebrated on October 11th. 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.

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.

Amen.



PRAYER TO THE HOLY 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 loving my family and others in mutual charity as I should, and establish us in perfect harmony of thought, will, and action, under the rule and guidance of the shepherds of the Church.

✠

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.

✠

Lord Jesus Christ, being subject to Mary and Joseph,
You sanctified family life by Your beautiful virtues.
Grant that we, with the help of Mary and Joseph,
may be taught by the example of Your holy Family,
and may after death enjoy its everlasting companionship.

✠

Lord Jesus, help us ever to follow the example of Your holy Family, that in the hour of our death Your glorious Virgin Mother together with Saint Joseph may come to meet us, and we may be worthy to be received by You into the everlasting joys of heaven. Amen.



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



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."

MT
V C A L S

Maryanne Takchi
0402 704 274
maryannetakchi@gmail.com
instagram.com/mtvocals



PIANO AND ORGAN INSTRUMENTALIST

WWW.JOHNPORTELLI.COM.AU

OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN CATHOLIC SACRED MUSIC

John.Portelli@outlook.com.au

0401 463 343

 JohnPortelliMusician

 John.Portelli.Musician

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

The Readings

Introit (Lk. 2:16)

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant
lying in a manger.

First Reading

The Book of Genesis (15:1-6, 21:1-3)

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 104:1-6, 8-9. R. v. 7-8)

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! R.

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. R.

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. R.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. R.

Second Reading

The Letter to the Hebrews (11:8, 11-12, 17-19)

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and

his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of Luke (2:22, 39-40)

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Communio (Bar. 3:38)

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



-SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES