
Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. 9. No. 4

January 28, 2024

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



THE PRESENTATION *of the* LORD

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2 celebrates the 40th day since the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. The presentation is described in the Gospel of St. Luke, and according to the gospel, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph took the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth to perform the redemption of the firstborn son, in obedience to the Jewish Law or Torah.

The feast is also known as Candlemas because the Mass of the

feast includes the blessing of candles to be burned through the year. It is a reminder that at His birth Christ was the light that came into the world, to illumine our hearts and minds with the light of truth, and the light by which we are led to the eternal light. The blessing echoes the words of the prophet Simeon who, on meeting the child in the Temple proclaims: "Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace... because my eyes have seen the salvation... a light to enlighten the pagans" (Lk. 2:29-32).

And with this feast the crib built for Christmas is put away for another year as we move through the season of Ordinary Time and towards the season of Lent.

Today the Church also prays in a special way for those in consecrated life, men and women in religious life as Monks, Nuns, Brothers, and Sisters whom Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI called the "watchmen among the People of God who perceive and proclaim the new life already present in our history."

THE PARISH OFFICE

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John Portelli

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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

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 Ingrid Bifulco, Rebecca Hanson,
Sisters

10:00 a.m. Mary Georges,
Rozsa Kazmer, 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

Najibeh Malkoun Assaad, Attard family, Axiak family, Victor
Azzopardi, Bonello family, Betty Borg, Kathleen Bradbery, Paul
Bradbery, Eniketi Brown, Jim Brown, Lazarus Camilleri, John
Lawrence Denmeade, 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, Susan Nammour, Jack Newell, Jean
Newell, Tony Newell, Haydee Nursoo, Mary Elizabeth Olsen,
Herbert Pidgeon, Sultaneh Salhab, Saliba family, Emanuel
Tabone, Joseph Vella, Phyllis Webb, Dib Zaiter.



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

Palms to Be Burned For Ash Wednesday

On Shrove Tuesday we will hold the traditional Burning of the Palms and Burial of the Alleluia in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

The ashes imposed on Ash Wednesday are made from the burnt palms blessed the previous Palm Sunday.

If you have palms to be burned, please bring these to the church in the next two weeks and leave these by the doors. These will be collected and burned to prepare the ashes.

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.

This can be used to make a single donation or, for those who are part of the planned giving programme, to make your contribution.

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.



The Sanctity and Reverence Due to the Blessed Sacrament when Receiving Holy Communion

There has been a rise in the number of instances where people present themselves for Holy Communion but walk away without consuming the Sacred Host. To profane the Blessed Sacrament in this way is one of the most heinous crimes that can be committed. So much so that the Church declares that anyone who does so incurs an automatic excommunication (*latae sententiae*).

For those of us who are Catholic and desire to be faithful to Our Lord and to His Most Precious Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, which we receive in Holy Communion, please ensure that, being in a state of grace, when you receive the Sacred Host that you consume the Host whilst facing the altar. It is the altar which is the place of the sacrifice of Our Lord and so it is to the altar that we should face, recognising that it is from there that we receive such abundant graces.

Never walk away carrying the Sacred Host. Should you see someone who does this, remember that it is all of our duty before almighty God to protect the Blessed Sacrament and so please stop this person immediately and let the Priest know straight away.

We all have a duty to almighty God to show reverence to Him above all others and all other things. In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Our Lord has made Himself vulnerable by allowing Himself to be placed into human and sinful hands and so we, in turn, have a responsibility to care for and to protect Him and to defend Him from all blasphemy, sacrilege and profanity. To do so shows our love and our faith and our commitment to He is who is our only hope.

Holy Family Church Illegal Dumping of Rubbish

On Sunday night more rubbish was dumped at Holy Family Church.

To allow the possibility of the security cameras catching those who do this, plants will be removed from those parts of the garden which are causing an obstruction to the view across the grounds to the road in the hope of having these criminals caught.

Candlemas and the Blessing of Candles Friday, 2 February

On Friday the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. Traditionally candles are blessed on this day as a reminder to us that Christ is the true light of the world, breaking into the darkness of our sins.

If you would like your candles to be blessed, bring them to one of Masses and leave them on the tables that will be placed before the sanctuary.

Three Masses will be said in honour of this feast day. The first at Holy Trinity Church at 8:15 a.m., the second at Holy Family Church at 9:15 a.m. and the third at Holy Trinity Church at 7:00 p.m., as it is the first Friday of the month with the usual devotions to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord.

Important Holy Mass Intentions Reminder

A reminder that if you would like a particular Mass offered for an intention, please speak with Fr. Andrew at least 4 weeks in advance. There are many intentions requested and it is not always possible to fulfill a request for a particular Mass unless there is sufficient time allowed.

CANDLEMAS *and the* PRESENTATION *in* THE TEMPLE



The Catholic Feast of Candlemas has an ancient and interesting history. This feast commemorates the Blessed Mother's obedience to the Jewish law of presenting herself for purification 40 days after the birth of a male child. And we also see St. Joseph offering the redemption of the firstborn male according to the law of Moses. Mary and Joseph are in the Temple (Luke 2:22-38) at the same time as the old priest, Simeon, and the prophetess, Anna. Simeon had understood he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Upon seeing Our Lord in Mary's arms, Simeon recites the canticle that has become known as the *Nunc dimittis*. "Now Thou dismiss Thy servant, O Lord... because my eyes have seen Thy salvation... a light of revelation to the Gentiles..."

A light of revelation to the Gentiles. The Mass for that day speaks of light. It is on this day that candles used in the home are blessed—hence, Candlemas. The blessing of candles represents Christ whose birth illumined a world shrouded in darkness. St. Anselm in the 11th century spoke of the blessed candle,

the wax, the wick and the flame this way: The wax is for Our Lord's flesh; the wick in the flesh is for his soul; and the flame is for his divinity.

The Church's blessing of the candles includes the bees, the wax and the faithful. This liquid comes from the labor of bees (symbol of purity) to the perfection of wax, and then goes on to bless the faithful. "That Thou would vouchsafe to bless and sanctify for the use of men, and health of body and soul, whether upon the earth or in the water." It is interesting to note that the following day, the Feast of St. Blaise, that these candles are used in the blessing of throats.

The first recorded history of this feast comes from a visitor to Spain in 380 to the Holy Land. She records a procession with candles on that day. She stated it had been an ongoing tradition for many years. Pope Sergius (701) prescribed a procession with candles. Interestingly, it was a penitential rite, with the priest in purple robes invoking God's mercy. The tradition of blessing candles for the home began at the end of that century and continues to this day.

In ancient times tenant farmers paid their rents on Candlemas. Farmhands and maids moved in with their new masters the day after Candlemas.

The Poles have a beautiful legend which states that Mary, the Mother of God of the Blessed Thunder Candle, watches on wintry nights for prowling wolves roaming the villages. With her Thunder Candle, Mary wards off the hungry wolves.

In many areas winter greens left over from Christmas were burned on Candlemas and their ashes spread on field or garden for a healthy spring harvest.

In Scotland children brought candles to light the schoolroom on this day. They also brought money for the teacher to purchase treats for the students. The child bringing the most money was King or Queen for six weeks. The King or Queen decided which afternoon in the week would be free time... (No word on what happened when it didn't end before Lent.)

Source: "Candlemas and the Presentation in the Temple," Sandra McDevitt, National Catholic Register (ncregister.com)



THE FEAST OF THE
PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD

*You are invited to bring your own candles to Holy Mass
for them to be blessed for use in your home*

FRIDAY, 2 FEBRUARY

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH *at 8:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.*

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH *at 9:15 a.m.*

**“MY EYES HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION
WHICH YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ALL THE NATIONS TO SEE,
A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE PAGANS
AND THE GLORY OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL.”**

—ST. LUKE 2:30-32



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



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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



Saints & STUFF CANDLEMAS



The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas, on February 2 each year also marks in some parts of the world, like Eastern Europe, the close of the Christmas season. This is why Pope St. John Paul II, who was from Poland, would have the nativity scene remain in St. Peter's Square until this day.

Historically, Candlemas Day was important in the lives of farmers. An old English song went: "If Candlemas be fair and bright, Come, Winter, have another flight. If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, Go, Winter, and come not again." So if the bright sun "overshadows" the brightness of Candlemas Day, there will be more winter. However, if the light of Candlemas Day radiates through the gloom and darkness of the day, the end of winter is near. In the United States Protestants replaced Catholic Candlemas Day with Groundhog Day to continue this custom.

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother in the Order of Grace*

967 By her complete adherence to the Father's will, to his Son's redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity.

968 Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further. "In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Saviour's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace."

969 "This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterrupted from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation... Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix."

CATHOLIC Trivia

Candlemas Around the World

France and Belgium

Crepes are cooked and eaten today as a symbol of the returning sun after the winter months

Luxembourg

Children carrying lighted candles wander the streets singing, hoping to receive a reward in the form of sweets or loose change

Puerto Rico

A statue of the Virgin of Candlemas is carried in procession through the streets to the church followed by people carrying lit candles

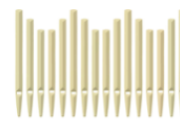
Peru

A festival of culture, music and dancing is held each year and forms one of the three largest festivals in South America alongside the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro and the Carnaval de Oruro in Bolivia

MT

V A C A L S

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The Readings

Introit (Cf. Ps. 105:47)

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading

The Book of Deuteronomy (18:15-20)

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 94:1-2, 6-9. *R.* v. 9)

R. If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. *R.*

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. *R.*

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' *R.*

Second Reading

The First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (7:32-35)

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways.

In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (Mt. 4:16)

Alleluia, alleluia!
A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of Mark (1:21-28)

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Communio (Cf. Ps. 39:17-18)

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

“ When it comes to life
the critical thing is whether
you take things for granted
or take them with gratitude.”

— G.K. Chesterton