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# Granville

## Catholic Church Record

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Vol. 9. No. 1

January 7, 2024

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

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The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

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## THE EPIPHANY *of the* LORD

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Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The word “epiphany” is Greek meaning “to manifest” or “to show” for it was the new-born baby that revealed or showed God to all the world. Epiphany marks the twelfth day of Christmas, as it is traditionally celebrated on January 6.

The Magi, often referred to as kings or wise men, and traditionally named Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, came from the East, most likely Persia, modern-day Iran, and were properly speaking a class of priests who saw in the movement of the stars and planets the annunciation of major events. Coming from the East they were not Jews and so were held to be foreigners, or Gentiles, and it is because of this that this feast of the

Epiphany is significant for it marks the revelation of God in the birth of Christ to the Gentiles—the people of all the world. Whereas at Christmas the incarnation was made manifest to the Jews represented by the shepherds, at Epiphany the incarnation was made manifest to the gentiles represented by the Magi.

There are many customs that surround Epiphany.

There is the blessing of chalk which is then distributed to the people who then take it to their homes to mark the year by writing the initials of the three Magi over the door of their house (20 + C + M + B + 24) to remind all who enter and leave through the main door that they also must be ready to leave all, if necessary, and follow Christ.

Then there is the blessing of water on the Vigil of Epiphany which is then given to the faithful to use in their homes, and also for the sick.

There is also the blessing of the homes where the Priest may either climb the steeple of the church and bless the homes of the parishes in all four directions of the compass or he may visit the homes of parishioners to impart the blessing personally.

And then there is the blessing of gold, frankincense, and myrrh—with the gold used for the making of sacred vessels, and the frankincense burned in the thurible and also given to the people to be burned at home.

These customs remind us of the rich tradition of the Church and that our faith is embodied in things both seen and unseen, both the physical and the spiritual. It is body and soul.

## 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

#### Readers

**4:30 p.m.** Robyn Rich

**8:30 a.m.** Rose Succar

**5:00 p.m.** Claudette Takchi

## 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 2: P. Zaiter,  
N. Chidiac, C. Buultjens

### Readers

**Vigil** Rebecca Hanson, Ingrid Bifulco,  
Racquel La Rosa

**10:00 a.m.** Armani Barakat,  
Wadzi Mushininga, Mary Georges

**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.



## Holy Family Church Air Conditioning

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When the air conditioning is in use at Holy Family Church, it is important that the doors and the windows to the church remain closed. If the doors and windows remain open, the air conditioning becomes ineffective. Moreover, the motors have to work harder in order to maintain the set temperature, which in turn increases the running costs.

It is expensive to run and to maintain the air conditioning units at Holy Family Church, so please ensure that when it is in use that the doors and windows remain closed in order to ensure that the system is able to operate as efficiently as possible.

## Epiphany Chalking of the Doors

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Blessed chalk will be available after each Mass this Sunday for parishioners to take home so that they can “chalk” the doors of their homes as is traditional on Epiphany with the year and the initials of the three kings: 20+C+M+B+24.

The initials have two meanings. In the historical sense they refer to the names traditionally given to the the three kings, also called the three wise men or the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

Spiritually, however, they refer to the blessing itself, given by the Latin prayer “*Christus mansionem benedicat*” (“May Christ bless this house”) and the Crosses remind us of the reason for the birth of Christ —so that by the salvation won for us by His passion and death we may be brought to share in His resurrection and eternal life with almighty God.

## Important Holy Mass Intentions Reminder

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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.

Please do not write your request for a specific day and time on an envelope and leave it in a collections box, but speak directly with Fr. Andrew to make your request. Without doing this there is no guarantee that the Mass can be offered at that time but instead will be offered at the next available opportunity. Also note that it is not the custom of the Roman rite to announce the intention of the Mass. If you want the name said aloud, you will need to speak with Fr. Andrew in regard to this.

## 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 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

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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.





## ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER AND THE MOVEABLE FEASTS FOR THE YEAR A.D. 2024

Know, dear brethren,  
that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
so by leave of God's mercy  
we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

On the fourteenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday,  
and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the thirty-first day of March you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,  
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the twelfth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the nineteenth day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the second day of June the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the first day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

*This traditional proclamation of the day of Easter and the other moveable feasts on Epiphany comes from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the day of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its day. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the day of Ash Wednesday, and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter.*



# THE CHALKING OF THE DOOR OF YOUR HOME

*With blessed chalk mark the top or the side of your door with these numbers and letters*

20 ✠ C ✠ M ✠ B ✠ 24

The initials have two meanings.

In the historical sense they refer to the names traditionally given to the the three kings,  
also called the three wise men or the Magi:

Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

Spiritually, however, they refer to the blessing itself,  
given by the Latin prayer "*Christus mansionem benedicat*"  
("May Christ bless this house"),

the numbers are the year of Our Lord, the *Anno Domini*,  
and the Crosses remind us of the reason for the birth of Christ:  
that by the salvation won for us by His passion and death  
we may be brought to share in His resurrection and eternal life with God.



*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us;  
and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet,  
that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever.*

*Amen.*

On Monday the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which marks the close of Christmastide and the beginning of Ordinary Time—the thirty-four weeks in which the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ in all aspects.

In Advent we prepared ourselves for the coming of Christ, remembering His birth two-thousand years ago and in expectation of His coming again. At Christmas we celebrated the glory of God made incarnate—the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. At Epiphany we celebrated the revelation of God to the Gentiles—to the people of all the world as imaged in the Magi or three wise men. At the Baptism of the Lord the manifestation of God on earth and the beginning of His mission to draw all men and women back to Himself is fulfilled.

Each of these three events—Christmas, Epiphany, and the Baptism—is a theophany or the realisation of God's in-breaking into human history. First with the birth of God as a child, second with the star that led the Magi to the infant Christ, and with the Baptism by the voice from heaven and the showing of the Holy Spirit in the shape of a dove. These things tell us of the intimacy of God and His absolute desire to live with us so that we might live with Him.



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## THE BAPTISM of CHRIST

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We believe that we are baptised for the remission of our sins, in particular, original sin. Our Lord, however, despite being fully human, like us in all things, was free of sin, so it is argued that there was no need for Him to be baptised. But the Lord sought to be baptised because He identified completely with the human condition; He felt our struggle with pain and suffering and death, our alienation from God and from each other and the isolation and loneliness we so often feel. He, as God, desired to share our life and our death with us so that by His utter reliance on His father, we might share in His divinity just as He shared in our humanity.

Through His Baptism by St. John the Baptist in the waters of the Jordan River He accepted His human condition so that we might accept our condition and so become completely reliant on the grace of God. In part it was the way that God sought to restore us to the life He had always intended for us to live—in peace, in joy, and without death.

The Lord's acceptance of Baptism was His acceptance of the human condition, which by His life, passion and death was transformed by the resurrection—the moment when God showed Himself to be greater than all things, even death itself.

*Almighty ever-living God,  
who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan  
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,  
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,  
grant that your children by adoption,  
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,  
may always be well pleasing to you.  
Amen.*

# Saints & STUFF

## THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

The month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

In Philippians 2, St. Paul tells us that "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Small wonder, then, that the Church sets aside the first month of the year in honour of the Holy Name of Jesus. Through this devotion, the Church reminds us of the power of Christ's Name and encourages us to pray in His Name. In our society, of course, we hear His Name uttered quite often, but all too frequently, it is used in a curse or blasphemy. In the past, Christians would often make the Sign of the Cross when they heard Christ's Name uttered in such a manner, and that's a practice that would be worthwhile to revive.

This month, why not take a few minutes to memorise the Jesus Prayer, and pray it during those moments of the day when you are between activities, or travelling, or simply taking a rest?

Keeping Christ's Name always on our lips is a good way to ensure that we draw ever nearer to Him.

## CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *Epiphany*

**528** The *Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world.

The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament.

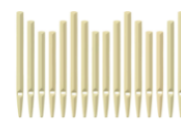
The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel").

# CATHOLIC Trivia



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V C A L S

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0402 704 274  
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instagram.com/mtvocals



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# Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Year B

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## The Readings

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### **Introit** (Cf. Mal. 3:1; I Chr. 29:12)

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;  
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

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### **First Reading**

#### **The Prophet Isaiah (60:1-6)**

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,  
though night still covers the earth  
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises  
and above you his glory appears.  
The nations come to your light  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:  
all are assembling and coming towards you,  
your sons from far away  
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,  
your heart throbbing and full;  
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;  
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,  
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;  
everyone in Sheba will come,  
bringing gold and incense  
and singing the praise of the Lord.

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### **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps. 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 *R.* see v. 11)

*R.* Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. *R.*

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. *R.*

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba  
shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him. *R.*

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. *R.*

### **Second Reading**

#### **The Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (3:2-3, 5-6)**

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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### **Gospel Acclamation** (Mt. 2:2)

Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

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### **Gospel**

#### **The Gospel of Matthew (2:1-12)**

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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### **Communio** (Cf. Mt. 2:2)

We have seen his star in the East,  
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.