
Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol.9. No.19

May 12, 2024

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



Forty days after the Resurrection of our Lord, He ascended to heaven. The Church celebrates today this solemnity as she looks to where her Lord and Saviour has gone so that she may follow.

The number forty is one of the great mythical numbers of the Bible and Tradition. Forty is a number whose meaning is important because it reminds us of our redemption, but redemption that is born of suffering and finds its fulfillment in joy. The forty days and nights that Noah and his family suffered on the ark gave way to a renewed earth. The forty years that the Hebrews suffered on the Sinai peninsula led them to the land of milk and honey granted to them by God. The forty days of the Lord in the desert found their end in Jesus' proclamation that the Kingdom of God was at hand. The forty hours of burial in the tomb gave way to the resurrection and the glorified life of Christ. And the forty days from the resurrection, whilst the Lord remained on earth, appearing to the Apostles and disciples, gave way to the greater glory of His ascension from this world to heaven.

The mission of Jesus, the Son of God who descended from heaven led to His passion and His being lifted up on the Cross. His going down into the tomb gave way to His rising up from the dead, and now His ascension into heaven and return to the Father.

And we look towards where He has gone. Because of the fall of Adam and Eve we were no longer able to reach up to heaven so the Lord reached down to us and caught us up in His divine love and mercy so that He can draw us to heaven.

Solemnity of the
ASCENSION of the LORD

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.

Sunday, 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

Nigerian Community Mass

Second and fourth Sunday of the month,
11:00 a.m.

Rosters

Church and Toilets Cleaning

waiting for volunteers

Flower Arranging

*requesting volunteers to form groups of
at least 2 people to arrange flowers for
the sanctuary*

SOCIAL MEDIA



holycrossgranville.org.au



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 Racquel La Rosa, Rosette Chidiac,
Rebecca Hanson

10:00 a.m. Sisters, Raphaella Chidiac,
Reanne Chidiac

Children's Liturgy Wanda and Chloe

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, Jacob Lee, Josephine Magro, Ester Matos,
Sid Morgan, Scott Moulton, Tony Moussa, Ben Nursoo,
Sarah-Joy O'Connor, 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, Victor Azzopardi, Carmen Bonello,
Betty Borg, Eniketi Brown, Jim Brown, Dick Cahill, Gwen
Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Albert Camilleri, Tessie Camilleri, John
Drake, Alan Frost, Carmen Galea, Maria Gambin, John
Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Joe Joseph, May
Joseph, Salim Karaki, Paul Kassis, Nouhad Khoury, Rustica La
Rosa, Jim Mackie, Frouzine Malkoun, Jacob Malkoun, Mouna
Malkoun, Ofimia Malkoun, Crising Mendoza, Magdalena
Mendoza, Giovanna Mondello, Sam Munro, Joseph Nammour,
Susan Nammour, Jack Newell, Hazel Jean Newell, Tony
Newell, Laura Pestano, Rogalio Pestano, Rolando Pestano,
Samuel Pickering, Peter Pidgeon, Flory Pinto, Sultaneh Salhab,
Emanuel Tabone, Maria Ho Thi Ti, John Timbs, John Toye, Peter
Vu Van Vuong, Phyllis Webb, Willian Yott, Dib Zaiter.



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

Flower Arrangement Groups for Holy Family Church

Parishioners are asked to volunteer to form groups of at least two people to arrange flowers for the sanctuary at Holy Family Church. The groups will be rostered for Saturday mornings after the 9:15 a.m. Mass and will be responsible for buying and donating the flowers, arranging the flowers for the sanctuary and removing the flowers from the previous week.

We are looking for at least eight groups of people. To volunteer for this work please speak with Fr. Andrew after Mass.

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.



Congratulations to the Sisters on their Golden Jubilee

Congratulations to Sr. Katrina, Sr. Isabella and Sr. Susanne of the Missionary Sisters of Mary, Queen of the World-Australia on the 50th anniversary of their religious profession.

May almighty God continue to bless them as they serve Him and His holy Church and may the Most Blessed Virgin Mary protect them and guide them, leading them always to her son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The parish is blessed to have the Sisters with us and to offer us an example of humble service. May we always pray for them and pray that Our Lord will continue to raise up holy vocations to the glory of His holy name and in service to His holy Church.

Holy Mass for the Sacrament of Confirmation

On Thursday evening at Holy Family Church Mass will be said for the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation for some of our young parishioners.

Please pray for those receiving this Sacrament that they may be receptive to the gift of the Holy Spirit granted to them and that they may always seek to co-operate with God's grace to seek their salvation and the salvation of the world.

May the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for them so that they may grow in faith and holiness to the glory of God.

Diocesan "Pastoral Plan Think Tank Sessions"

The diocese is hosting "think tank sessions" about the proposed diocesan pastoral plan. The third session will be held on Wednesday, 15 May from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Baulkham Hills parish.

***Requiescat in Pace* John Drake**

We are saddened to announce the death of John Drake, a long time parishioner of this parish.

The funeral for the repose of his soul will be said on Friday at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Family Church.

In your charity, please pray for the repose of his soul that he may be granted eternal rest and peace, and pray, also, for the consolation of his family at this difficult time.

✠

*Eternal rest grant unto him,
O Lord,
and let perpetual light
shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.
May his soul and the souls
of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.*

Amen.

✠

St. Joseph's Table

As the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, Holy Cross Parish holds its annual St. Joseph's Table.

We are asking parishioners to donate canned goods and other non-perishable foods and toiletries to this table which will then be distributed to those in need.

Tables have been placed before the altar of St. Joseph in Holy Family Church and by the statue of St. Joseph in Holy Trinity Church for your donations.

In previous years your contributions have supported many families in our parish and in our schools as well as those in other parishes and across the diocese.

Please support this good work of Holy Cross Parish by donating to the St. Joseph's Table through the month of May in support of those who are having difficulties. Your donations can do a great deal to support those in need.



ADORATION *of* THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SUNDAYS

Holy Family Church at 6:00 p.m.



FIRST FRIDAYS

Holy Trinity Church at 7:30 p.m.



WHAT DOES CHRIST'S ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN MEAN?

Pope Benedict XVI

It expresses our belief that in Christ human nature, the humanity in which we all share, has entered into the inner life of God in a new and hitherto unheard of way. It means that man has found an everlasting place in God.

Heaven is not a place beyond the stars, but something much greater, something that requires far more audacity to assert: Heaven means that man now has a place in God. The basis for this assertion is the interpenetration of humanity and divinity in the crucified and exalted man Jesus. Christ, the man who is in God and eternally one with God, is at the same time God's abiding openness to all human beings.

Thus Jesus himself is what we call "heaven"; heaven is not a place but a person, the person of him in whom God and man are forever and inseparably one. And we go to heaven and enter into heaven to the extent that we go to Jesus Christ and enter into him. In this sense, "ascension into heaven" can be something that takes place in our everyday lives...

For the disciples, the "ascension" was not what we usually misinterpret it as being: the temporary absence of Christ from the world. It meant rather his new, definitive, and irrevocable presence by participation in God's royal power... God has a place for man!... In God there is a place for us!... "Be consoled, flesh and blood, for in Christ you have taken possession of heaven and of God's kingdom!" (Tertullian).

This is why [St. John's] theology for practical purposes identifies the Resurrection and the return of Christ (e.g., 14, 18 ff.); with the resurrection of Jesus, by reason of which he is now with his disciples forevermore, his return has already begun.

Christ exercises his power through the powerlessness of the word by which he calls human beings to faith. This fact reminds us once again of the image of the cloud, in which the hiddenness and the nearness of the Lord are combined in a unique way. John the Evangelist has conveyed this fusion in an even more drastic

manner by the new meaning he has poured into the Old Testament term "raise up" or "exalt." This word, which had hitherto expressed only the idea of elevation to royal dignity, also refers in John to the crucifixion in which Christ is "lifted up" from the earth. For John, then, the mystery of Good Friday, of Easter, and of Christ's Ascension form but a single mystery. The cross has a second, mysterious dimension: it is the royal throne from which Christ exercises his kingship and draws the human race to himself and into his wide-open arms (cf. Jn 3:14; 8:28; 12:32-33). Christ's royal throne is the cross; his exaltation takes the form of what seems to the outsider the extreme of disgrace and humiliation.

"Thus, no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head" (St. Augustine).

Source: J. Ratzinger, "Dogma and Preaching", Franciscan Herald Press (1985).



As the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, Holy Cross Parish holds it's annual St. Joseph's Table.

We are asking parishioners to donate canned goods and other non-perishable foods and toiletries to this table which will then be distributed to those in need.

A table will be placed before the altar of St. Joseph in Holy Family Church and by the statue of St. Joseph in Holy Trinity Church for your donations.

Please support this good work of Holy Cross Parish by donating to the St. Joseph's Table through the month of May.





PARRAMATTA
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Good Shepherd Appeal

Support our seminarians to “go out into the deep.”

Your Lenten gift will help our future priests cast their nets wide to nurture faith and meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community.



DONATE



yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Year B

The Readings

Introit (Acts 1:11)

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

The Acts of Apostles (1:1-11)

In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6)

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. R.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. R.

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. R.

Second Reading

The Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (1:17-23)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation (Mt. 28:19, 20)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of Mark (16:15-20)

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

Communio (Mt. 28:20)

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

*"Remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age."*

—St. Matthew 28:20