
Granville

Catholic Church Record

Vol. 9. No. 51

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

Advent

SIGNS *and* SYMBOLS

The Advent Wreath

The four candles that light the wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, totalling the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ. Three candles are violet and one is rose. The violet candles in particular symbolise the prayer, penance, and sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. The wreath is usually made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning: the laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, mean immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: the prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells us that the cross on which Christ hung was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ.

The Nativity Scene

On Christmas Eve in A.D. 1223, St. Francis of Assisi created the first nativity in the Italian city of Greccio. St. Francis celebrated the birth of Our Lord in a cave outside the town with a scene of a hay-filled manger with an ox and a donkey.

The figures which make up these scenes are themselves symbols of our faith and tell us the story of the birth of Christ. The crib filled with hay tells us of the feeding trough for animals in which our Lord was born. The Blessed Virgin Mary kneels beside her Son, adoring Him, and St. Joseph stands by them to guard them and to protect them as He protects the Church. The angels above, the messengers of God on high, who revealed to the shepherds, the lowest of the low, of the birth of the Saviour of Israel. The three kings from the East, a sign that this was also the birth of the Saviour of the world. And then there are the figures of the ox and the donkey, taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah who wrote: "The ox knows his owner, and the donkey his master's crib: but Israel has not known me, and my people have not understood."

The Christmas Tree

Legend tells us that the first Christmas tree came from St. Boniface, 1,300 years ago, in the 8th century.

The tree itself is also a reminder of the tree in the Garden of Eden from which Eve took the forbidden fruit and tempted Adam and so caused the downfall of mankind. It is a reminder of the irony of our faith. That from death comes life, from darkness comes light, and that the tree that caused our damnation became the tree on which hung our salvation.

The Christmas tree, traditionally an evergreen tree, symbolises eternal life, the immortality of the soul. The tree, reaching upwards to the sky, points to heaven, from where our salvation comes. The lights that decorate the tree are a sign of that light that came into the world, to break through the darkness of sin and to illuminate the world with the light of truth.

As with all symbols of the Church these things matter and serve to remind us in a tangible way of the truths of our faith and that our faith should be embedded in the day to day moments of our lives.

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

Narelle Khoury, Claudette Takchi,
Moona Wehbe

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 Rosette Chidiac, Ingrid Bifulco,
Racquel La Rosa

10:00 a.m. Sisters, Rosza Kazmer,
Wadzi Mushininga

Children's Liturgy 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, Fortunato La Macchia, Silvio La Macchia,
Jacob Lee, Josephine Magro, Ester Matos, Sid Morgan,
Scott Moulton, 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

Attard family, Axiak family, Victor Azzopardi, Bonello family,
Engedi Brown, Jim Brown, Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vincent
Cahill, Les Camilleri, Maria Dinh, Akosita Fetuuaho, Alan Frost,
Carmen Galea, Maria Gambin, John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary
Grech, Sam Grech, Melissa Irons, Salim Karaki, Paul Karam,
Nouhad Khoury, Thomas Lam, Rustica La Rosa, Laurie Lowe,
Frouzine Malkoun, Jacob Malkoun, Mouna Malkoun, Ofimia
Malkoun, Jack McGrath, John McIntyre, Lindsay McIntyre,
Mary McIntyre, Thomas McIntyre, Joseph Nammour, Jack
Newell, Hazel Jean Newell, Tony Newell, Vincent Nguyen,
Laura Pestano, Rogelio Pestano, Rolando Pestano, Guise Pham,
Jack Pickering, Lorna Pickering, Edward Pidgeon, Flory Pinto,
Saliba family, Geoff Senior, Garry Smith, Noel So, Alex Taktak,
Darren Thornton, John Timbs, John Toye, Savina Vailahi, John
Vella, Carmel Watts, Phyllis Webb, Mershed Wehbe, Yesmine
Wehbe, Phyllis Yott, Dib Zaiter, Laila Zaiter.



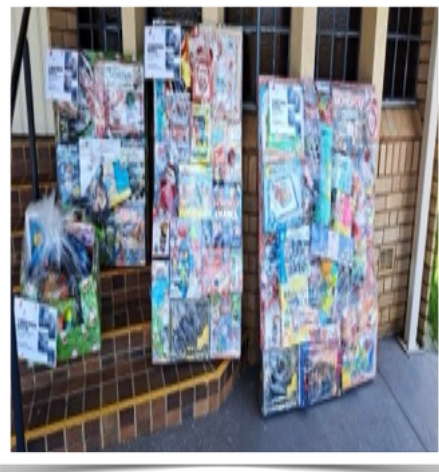
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*



The Zaiter family have generously arranged a raffle in support of the parish with four prizes to be won of a large assortment of children's toys. These would make a wonderful gift for Christmas.

Raffle tickets are available for \$2 or for three tickets for \$5. The winning tickets will be drawn after the Mass at 10:00 a.m. today.

Thank you very much to the Zaiter family for their generosity and their support of the parish. All the prizes were arranged and donated by the Zaiter family and we are very grateful to them for their tremendous kindness.



Important Notice
Holy Mass and Confessions
Schedule of Christmas Week

With Christmas Eve being on a Tuesday and Christmas Day being on a Wednesday, the usual Holy Mass and confessions schedule will not be in place but will resume the following week. Please see the notice in this bulletin regarding the Holy Mass times for Christmas Eve and for Christmas Day.



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 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: Sr. Clare, Louise Morched, Elvis Nguyen, Maryanne Takchi, Brigitte Zaiter and Chloe Zaiter. Thank you to those who read—Sr. Clare, Sr. Maria, Hannah Chami, Raphaella Chidiac, Reanne Chidiac, Sony Raj, Rozsa Kazmer, Narelle Khoury and Claudette Takchi and to those who served at the altar—Brandon, Elvis, Jeevan, Johnny, Paul, Patrick, Patrick, and to Rosette Chidiac and Richard Zaiter for filming and photographing. Thank you, also to Joe Chidiac for generously cooking for the BBQ which was held before the carols.

We also owe our thanks to Rosette Chidiac and John Portelli for their astounding work in designing and preparing the nativity scene. Thanks also go to Suzie Chami, Katherine Jenner, Elvis Nguyen, Jeevan Raj, Patrick, Brandon Zaiter and Paulette Zaiter, who spent the day preparing the trees and the lights on the sanctuary and decorating the sacristy.

Particular mention must be made of Principal Organs (principalorgans.com.au) and Oliver and Aaron who arranged the projections for the evening and spent many hours mapping and designing the layout for these stunning images.

New Year's Day
Holy Masses

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God on Wednesday, 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 6:00 p.m.

Parish Office Hours
During the Holidays

The parish office will close until 14 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 for the next two weeks, the regular Mass schedule will remain in place with Masses and confessions remaining at the usual times.

2025 Columban
Art Calendars for Sale
in our Piety Shops

The 2025 Columban Art Calendar is on sale for \$10 from our piety shops which supports the work of the Columban Missionaries and the parish.



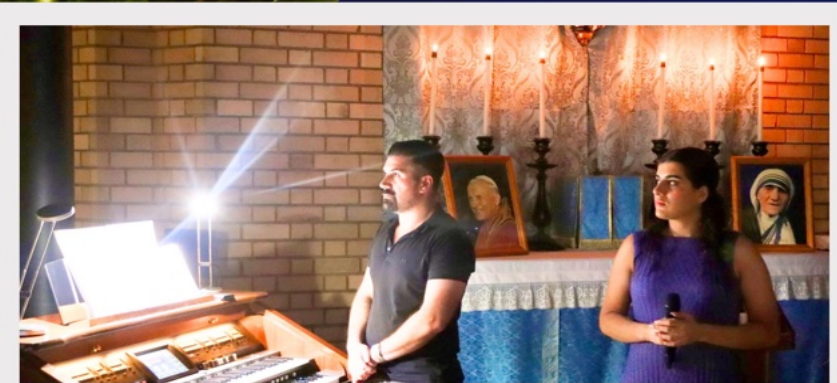
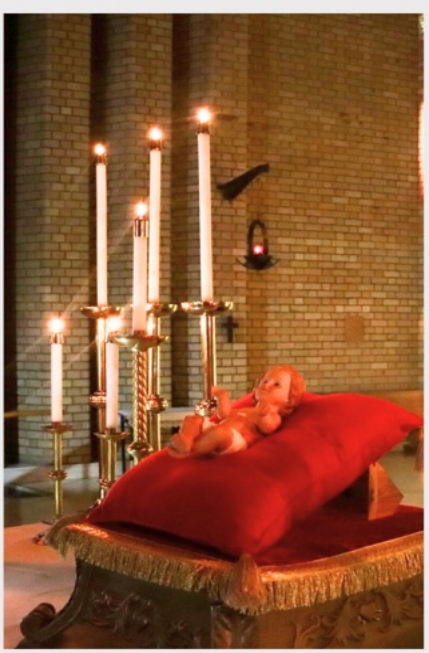


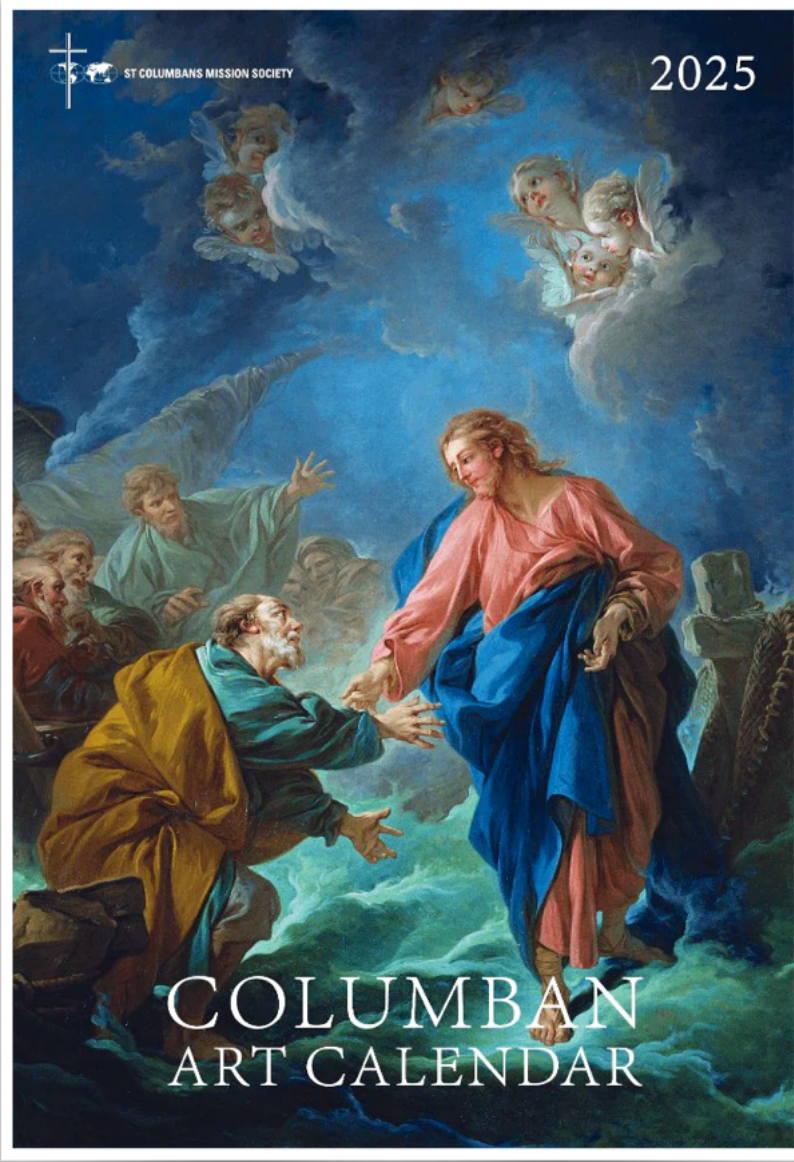
THE LIGHTS OF
Christmas





CAROLS by
CANDLELIGHT





The 2025 Columban Art Calendar is on sale now at the piety shop for \$10.

The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information, for over 100 years.

The money from the sale of these calendars supports the work of the Missionary Society of St. Columban, an order of Priests who work with the poor and the exploited around the world.

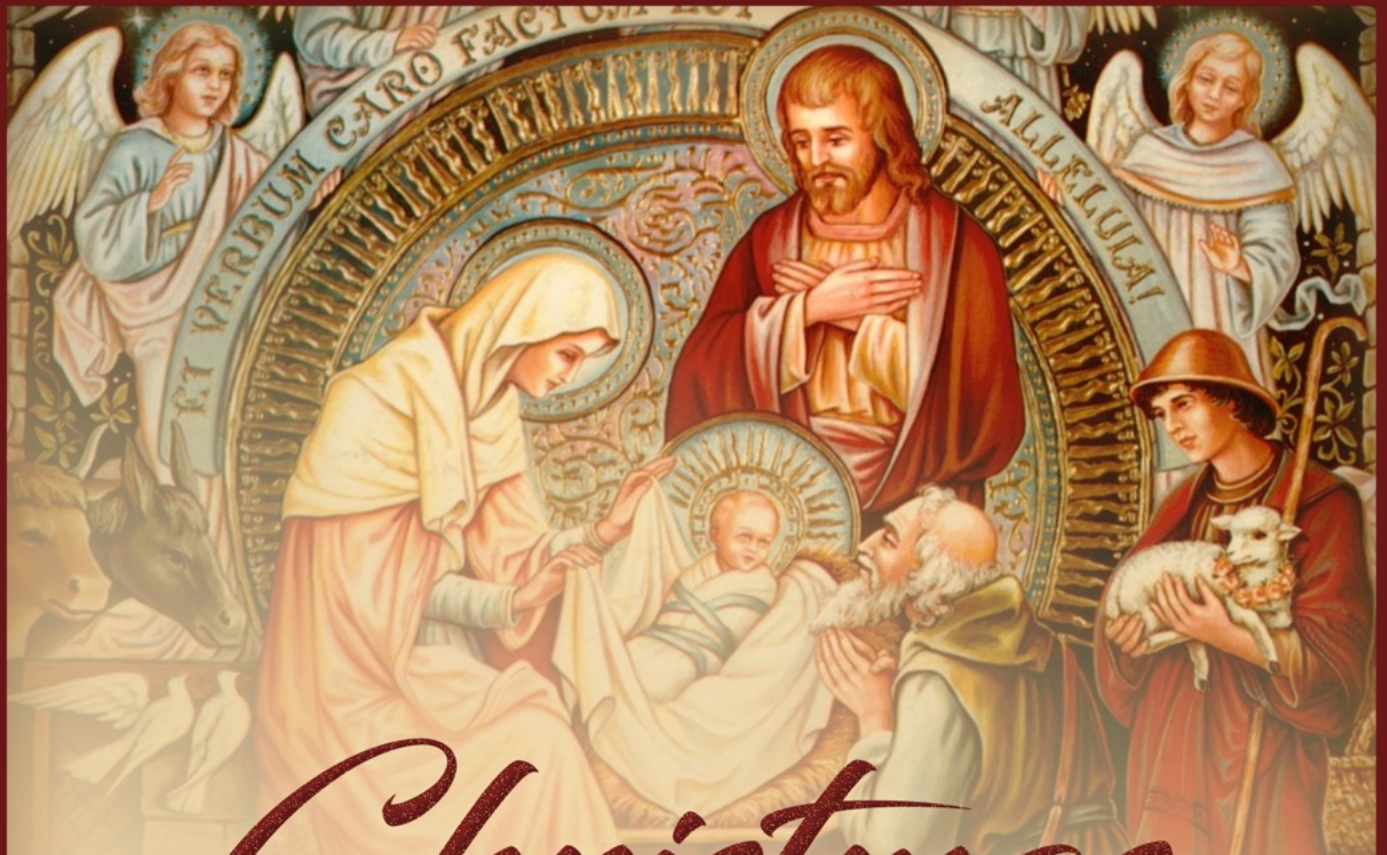
MT
V C A L S

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

JOHN PORTELLI
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



Christmas

AT HOLY CROSS GRANVILLE

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5 p.m. Holy Family Church
- 7 p.m. Holy Trinity Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

- Midnight Holy Trinity Church
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Family Church
- 10 a.m. Holy Trinity Church
- 4:30 p.m. Holy Family Church



The Readings

Introit (*Is.* 45:8)

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

The Prophet Micah (5:1-4)

The Lord says this:
You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure,
for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm (*Ps.* 12:2-6. *R.* v. 6)

R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.
O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. *R.*
God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. *R.*
May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. *R.*

Second Reading

The Letter to the Hebrews (10:5-10)

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure
in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;

then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law
lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the
sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices
for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he
says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is
abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And
this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his
body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation (*Lk.* 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!


Gospel

The Gospel of Luke (1:39-45)

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a
town in the hill country of Judah. She went into
Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her
womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She
gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most
blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why
should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my
Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the
child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who
believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be
fulfilled.'

Communio (*Is.* 7:14)

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



*"Advent is the
spiritual season of hope
par excellence,
and in this season
the whole Church
is called to be hope,
for itself
and for the world."*

—Pope Benedict XVI