
Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. 10. No. 5

February 2, 2025

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

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

Address

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E granville@parracatholic.org

Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Parish Priest

Rev. Fr. Andrew Bass PP

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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

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

Readers

Vigil Gerry Pinto, Ingrid Bifulco,
Racquel La Rosa

10:00 a.m. Wadzi Mushininga,
Hannah Chami, Sisters

Children's Liturgy Reanne Chidiac and
Raphaella Chidiac

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

Victor Azzopardi, Bonello family, Engedi Brown, Jim Brown,
Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Les Camilleri, John
Lawrence Denmeade, Maria Dinh, Alan Frost, Carmen Galea,
Maria Gambin, John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam
Grech, Melissa Irons, John Kady, Mary Kady, 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,
Michael O'Brien, Zackary Orenshaw, Jack Pickering, Lorna
Pickering, Sheila Pidgeon, Flory Pinto, Peter Robertson, Saliba
family, Geoff Senior, Garry Smith, Noel So, Emanuel Tabone,
Alex Taktak, Darren Thornton, John Timbs, John Vella, Carmel
Watts, Phyllis Webb, Mershed Wehbe, Yesmine Wehbe, Dennis
Wilson, Phyllis Yott, Dib Zaiter, Laila Zaiter.



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

Requiescat in Pace **Concettina Cignarella**

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Concettina Cignarella. In your charity, 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.

✠

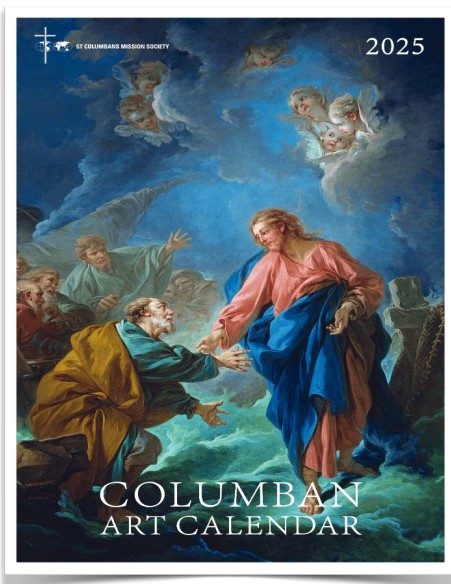
*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light
shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.
May her soul and the souls
of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen.*

Children's Liturgy **Resumes Next Sunday**

Children's liturgy will resume next Sunday during the Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

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.



Visit to Diocesan Shrine **of Our Lady of Mercy** **(Penrose Park)** **Next Saturday**

Next Saturday, 8 February, a visit has been arranged to the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, commonly known as Penrose Park (located in the Southern Highlands). The shrine is a renowned place of veneration of the replica of the icon of Our Lady of Jasna Góra, known as the "Black Madonna". The shrine is ministered by the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit, known as the Pauline Fathers, who have been the custodians of the original icon of the "Black Madonna" for more than 630 years.

A bus has been arranged to take parishioners to the shrine. The bus will depart from Holy Family Church at 8:30 a.m. and depart from the shrine at 2:30 p.m. There will be Mass said at the shrine at 11:00 a.m. by the Pauline Fathers.

If you would like to visit the shrine and to request a seat on the bus, please complete in full the sign-up sheet at the doors of the churches. Please note that the bus company does require the full name, telephone number and address of each passenger so please ensure that you add these to the form.

To assist with the cost of the bus, we are asking if those attending can make a donation of \$20. For those who would like to attend but may have difficulty with the donation, please speak with Fr. Andrew.

Please note that seats are strictly limited on the bus so, if you would like to attend, please complete the sign-up sheet as soon as possible.

It is suggested that those attending bring their own lunch on the day and plenty of water.

For more information about the shrine, visit their website at penrosepark.com.au.

Office for Worship **Liturgical Ministry** **Formation Courses**

The Diocese of Parramatta's Office for Worship are holding liturgical ministry formation courses for those who are currently, or are interested in becoming, readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion or altar servers.

The first session will be held on Monday, 17 February at 7:00 p.m. at Blacktown or on Thursday, 20 February at 7:00 p.m. at Penrith.

Following on from this introductory session, there will be other sessions for particular roles which are held over a series of evenings from February to April.

For more information, please speak with Fr. Andrew today as enrolments have already closed but it may be possible to still lodge.

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, either by envelope or by direct debit or by cash. Your regular support of the parish is greatly appreciated and is of tremendous assistance to the parish.





PARRAMATTA MEN'S ROSARY CRUSADE

*Every first Saturday of the month, we gather in unity and prayer,
embracing the call to serve spiritually and embody the teachings of Christ in our daily lives.
Our meetings are a sanctuary of fellowship, where we support each other in our spiritual journeys
and commit to living out our faith with courage and integrity.*

*Be a part of this spiritual journey as we strive to honour our Blessed Mother
and fulfill our role as Catholic men in the Diocese of Parramatta.
Let's make every first Saturday a powerful testament to our faith and our commitment
to serving our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church.*

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY *of the MONTH at 10:30 A.M.*
in PRINCE ALFRED SQUARE in PARRAMATTA,
across the road from ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

JANUARY 4 ✕ FEBRUARY 1 ✕ MARCH 1 ✕ APRIL 5
MAY 3 ✕ JUNE 7 ✕ JULY 5 ✕ AUGUST 2
SEPTEMBER 6 ✕ OCTOBER 4 ✕ NOVEMBER 1 ✕ DECEMBER 6

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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 (*Lk. 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)



PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



This Christmas, will you help homeless mothers and children find a safe place to call home to rebuild their lives?



\$25

can provide **nappies or baby formula** for a young mum and baby.



\$75

can help provide **psychological counselling** for a mother suffering trauma.



\$100

can provide **financial counselling** or a session on **parenting and living skills, education, and employment support.**



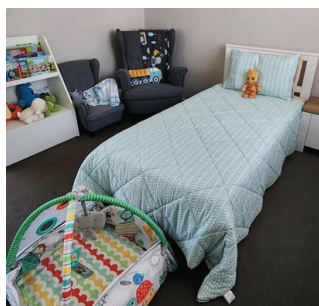
\$250

can give mums a **newborn hamper** with essentials such as nappies, muslin wraps, bottles, and baby shampoo.



\$500

can provide two homeless young mothers with a **baby bassinet or cot.**



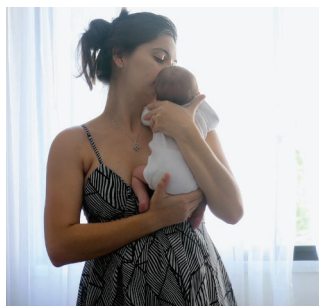
\$1,200

can provide a homeless young mum with a **bed, mattress, cot sheets, and a blanket.**



\$2,000

can provide four homeless young mums with a **maternity kit** including sleepwear, underwear, sanitary pads and baby clothing.



\$5,000

can provide a **safe home** for two months for a young mum fleeing domestic or family violence.

Your gift provides a safe home and practical and emotional family support.

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

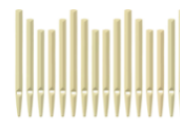
Peru

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

Maryanne Takchi
0402 704 274
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Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

The Readings

Introit (Cf. *Ps.* 47:10-11)

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading

The Prophet Malachi (3:1-4)

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

Responsorial Psalm (*Ps.* 23:7-10. *R.* v. 10)

R. Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! *R.*

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. *R.*

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! *R.*

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. *R.*

Second Reading

The Letter to the Hebrews (2:14-18)

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he

should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

Gospel Acclamation (*Lk.* 2:32)

Alleluia, alleluia!
This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of Matthew (5:1-12)

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 – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because 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.'

Communion (*Lk.* 2:30-31)

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

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

— G.K. Chesterton