
Granville

Catholic Church Record

Vol. 10. No. 2

January 12, 2025

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

With the feast today of the Baptism of the Lord we mark 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.

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 and wholly reliant on the grace of God as we were intended to from the beginning. In part it was the way that God sought to restore us to our original condition, 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.

THE BAPTISM *of* CHRIST

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

R. El Katrib, H. Katrib, H. Nguyen,
M. Nguyen, R. Succar

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, Rebecca Hanson,
Ingrid Bifulco

10:00 a.m. Jasmine Miranda, Sisters,
Armani Barakat

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, Yasmine
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 **Hind (Helen) Moussa**

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Hind (Helen) Moussa, a long time parishioner. In your charity, pray for the repose of her soul and for the repose of her soul of her husband, George, and 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.*

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.



48th Anniversary of the Granville Train Disaster Memorial, Saturday, 18 January

Next Saturday, in commemoration of the 48th anniversary of the Granville Train Disaster, a memorial service will be held at Granville Memorial Park, 54 Railway Parade, Granville at 9:45 a.m.

The memorial commemorates the disaster of 18 January, 1977 when a train from Mount Victoria crashed into the Bold Street Bridge bringing down the bridge on two carriages killing 83 men, women and children and injuring another 213, becoming the worst train disaster in Australia's history.

The parish has a unique connection to the disaster as it was Fr. Champion who was the first Priest to arrive and who placed his own life at risk to care for the injured and the dying. In recognition of this, the Parish Priest of Granville is invited each year to attend the memorial and to offer a prayer.



All parishioners are invited to attend the memorial.

Important Notice Regarding Holy Mass and Confessions Next Saturday

Due to the Granville Train Disaster Memorial next Saturday, the usual Holy Mass at 9:15 a.m. at Holy Family Church and the usual confessions at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church will not be possible on this day.

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.

Enrolments must be received by Tuesday, 28 January.

Poinsettias Available for Donation

The poinsettias used for the decoration of Holy Trinity Church for Christmas are available from the doors of the church or take home. We ask if a donation could be made if you would like to take a poinsettia plant.





SATURDAY, 18 JANUARY

Next Saturday, in commemoration of the 48th anniversary of the Granville Train Disaster a memorial service will be held at Granville Memorial Park, 54 Railway Parade, Granville at 9:45 *a.m.*

The memorial commemorates the disaster of 18 January, 1977 when a train from Mount Victoria crashed into the Bold Street Bridge bringing down the bridge on two carriages killing 83 men, women and children and injuring another 213, becoming the worst train disaster in Australia's history.

The parish has a unique connection to the disaster as it was Fr. Campion who was the first Priest to arrive and who placed his own life at risk to care for the injured and the dying. In recognition of this, the Parish Priest of Granville is invited each year to attend the memorial and to offer a prayer.

All parishioners are invited to attend the memorial.

Please note that due to the memorial the usual Holy Mass at 9:15 a.m. at Holy Family Church and the usual confessions at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church will not be possible.

How to Receive Holy Communion Worthily

If we approach the Eucharist unworthily, we not only offend God but also harm ourselves.

In the Eucharist, we possess the greatest gift. Within it, Jesus gives us his entire self—body, blood, soul, and divinity—to be consumed under the appearance of bread and wine. But, as the saying goes, with great gifts comes great responsibility. To receive the fruits of this gift, we need to prepare ourselves and then live our lives in accord with it. If we approach the Eucharist unworthily, we not only offend God but also harm ourselves. Even Hollywood can see that on occasion, as the knight in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade explains, “For the unrighteous, the Cup of Life holds everlasting damnation.

Let’s think of some other examples. What if you arrived at your first day of work in your pajamas? How about going to a fancy restaurant and putting your food on a paper plate? More seriously, imagine a general revealing your country’s plans to the enemy. The most important things in life require commitment, comportment, dignity, and fidelity. Therefore, we need commitment to Christ and cannot be attached to anything above him. We must be clothed in his grace and preserve the purity of our baptism. When we come to eat the Lord’s body, we need to come prepared as a worthy vessel that can hold the gift, rather than a leaky container. And we can’t take the gift and turn it over to the enemy by falling into sin.

St. Paul warns us of the consequences of receiving the Lord unworthily in his first letter to the Corinthians: “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats

and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died” (1 Cor 11:27-30). Paul foresees serious consequences for profaning the Eucharist. How, then, should we receive the Eucharist worthily?



First, we need faith in Jesus’s true presence in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is not a symbol. It is the body and blood of Jesus that he offers us to enter into communion with him. In John 6, Jesus explains how he gives us his very self to eat as our new Passover lamb: “For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed” (Jn 6:55). Without faith in this true presence, we approach the Eucharist as if we were eating a regular piece of bread, dishonouring Jesus’s gift of himself in the sacrament. Faith enables us to discern his body, as Paul says, opening our hearts to Jesus’s love and grace.

Second, we also need to remove obstacles to receiving the grace of Jesus’s presence. If we are in a state of serious, mortal sin, we are not able or ready to enter into the communion that Jesus offers us. The Church offers us the Sacrament of Confession to bring us into right communion with God. In fact, the Church requires us to confess our sins once a year, because we all are in need of mercy and forgiveness. God enables us to lay our burdens aside and to come to him with a clear conscience. Going to

confession creates the right disposition of openness and purity so that we can examine ourselves, as Paul instructs us.

Third, devotion enables us to honour Jesus’s presence by approaching him with reverence and love. We build devotion through prayer, including before and after Mass, by uniting ourselves to Christ’s offering of himself at Mass, and even by our posture and attitude. Do we act like Jesus is really present at Mass? Do we come to communion like we are approaching the king of the universe? If we come to communion solely out of a routine habit, with a casual or mundane disposition, it would be hard to “discern the body” of Jesus. Rather, we should approach Mass with the greatest expectation as the most important moment of our week when we meet the Lord and become one with him.

Finally, receiving worthily flows from a life lived in conformity to the Eucharistic gift. We should not confine communion with Jesus to an hour a week. It should blossom into a Eucharistic life, with Jesus’s presence abiding in us and reaching out to others. If our life is going a different direction, we need to turn back in the right direction to make a worthy communion. The Eucharist requires continuous conversion, turning away from the world and toward Jesus, allowing his grace to shape everything that we do.

The Eucharist is a source of life, not death. If we approach it worthily, we can profess that for the righteous, for those who receive the Lord’s mercy and approach with faith and devotion, the Cup of Life holds everlasting salvation.

Source: Dr. R. Jared Staudt, “How to receive the Eucharist worthily,” Catholic World Report, 14 October 2021 (catholicworldreport.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.**



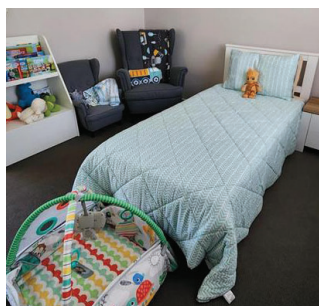
\$250

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.**



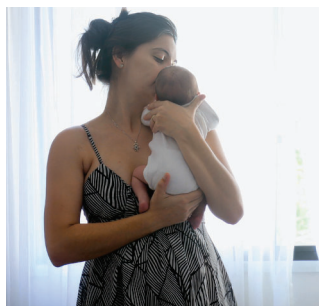
\$1,200

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

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

The Baptism of Christ

1223 All the Old Covenant prefigurations find their fulfillment in Christ Jesus. He begins his public life after having himself baptised by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan. After his resurrection Christ gives this mission to his apostles: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

1224 Our Lord voluntarily submitted himself to the baptism of St. John, intended for sinners, in order to "fulfil all righteousness." Jesus' gesture is a manifestation of his self-emptying. The Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude of the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as his "beloved Son."

1225 In his Passover Christ opened to all men the fountain of Baptism. He had already spoken of his Passion, which he was about to suffer in Jerusalem, as a "Baptism" with which he had to be baptised. The blood and water that flowed from the pierced side of the crucified Jesus are types of Baptism and the Eucharist, the sacraments of new life.

CATHOLIC Trivia

THE FAITH OF A FIGHTER UFC LEGEND BAS RUTTEN

For MMA and UFC fans Bas Rutten needs no introduction. But for those who may not be familiar with the sport, he is one of the most legendary fighters in the game, known for his devastating strikes, aggressive and versatile style, and long string of victories.

What many may not realise, however, is that Bas Rutten is a devout, daily rosary praying, Mass-attending Catholic who brings all the intensity of a fighter to his spiritual life. He prays in Latin just because it makes the demons squirm, quotes St. Thomas Aquinas, studies the faith constantly, and can't wait to tell anyone who will listen about the riches the Catholic faith has to offer.

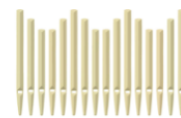
In a recent interview he said: "A real man sacrifices himself for others. Praying right and learning about our faith and living right is hard work. It is manly."

To read more of his interview go to www.catholicgentleman.net.

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

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

The Readings

Introit

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading

The Prophet Isaiah (40:1-5, 9-11)

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God.
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her
time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that
she has received from the hand of the Lord double
punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the
Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the
desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and
hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the
ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be
revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the
Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is
your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm
subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with
him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd
feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding
them against his breast and leading to their rest the
mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm (*Ps.* 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. *R.* v. 1)

R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. *R.*

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. *R.*

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. *R.*

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. *R.*

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. *R.*

Second Reading

The Letter of St. Paul to Titus (2:11-14; 3:4-7)

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made
salvation possible for the whole human race and taught
us that what we have to do is to give up everything that
does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we
must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives
here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope
for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of
the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He
sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all
wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his
very own and would have no ambition except to do
good. When the kindness and love of God our saviour for
mankind were revealed, it was not because he was
concerned with any righteous actions we might have
done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own
compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing
water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit
which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus
Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be
justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to
inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation (see *Lk.* 3:16)

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of Luke (3:15-16, 21-22)

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,
who were beginning to think that John might be the
Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you
with water, but someone is coming, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the
strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit and fire.’ Now when all the people had been
baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at
prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on
him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from
heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on
you.’

Communio (*Jn.* 1:32, 34)

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.