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# Granville Catholic Church Record

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Vol.10. No. 21

June 1, 2025

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

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The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

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*Solemnity of the*  
**ASCENSION of the LORD**

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.

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## 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

N. Khoury, C. Takchi and M. Wehbe

### Flower Arranging

*flower arranging groups needed*

## 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 and C. Bultjens

### Readers

**Vigil** Gerry Pinto, Rebecca Hanson,  
Ingrid Bifulco

**10:00 a.m.** Hannah Chami,  
Wadzi Mushininga, Armani Barakat

**Children's Liturgy** Victor Liu and  
Armani Barakat

## 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, Gerard Watts.



*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, Engedi Brown, Jim Brown, Dick Cahill, Gwen  
Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Albert Camilleri, Les Camilleri, Tessie  
Camilleri, Joseph Cunmao Chen, Phyllis May Denmeade, Maria  
Dinh, Estrella Francisco, Alan Frost, Carmen Galea, Maria  
Gambin, John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech,  
Melissa Irons, Joe Joseph, May Joseph, Salim Karaki, Chini Maya  
Kc, Nouhad Khoury, Thomas Lam, Rustica La Rosa, Laurie Lowe,  
Frouzine Malkoun, Jacob Malkoun, Mouna Malkoun, Ofimia  
Malkoun, Marie McDonald, Nancy McIntyre, Joseph Nammour,  
Jack Newell, Hazel Jean Newell, Tony Newell, Vincent Nguyen,  
Michael O'Brien, Zackary Orenshaw, Samuel Pickering, Robert  
Pidgeon, Flory Pinto, Peter Robertson, Saliba family, Geoff  
Senior, Garry Smith, Noel So, Emanuel Tabone, Alex Taktak, John  
Toye, John Vella, Peter Vu Van Vuong, Graham Wales, Carmel  
Watts, Phyllis Webb, Mershed Wehbe, Yesmine Wehbe, Dennis  
Wilson, William Yott, Dib Zaiter, Laila Zaiter.



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

## **Important Notice Regarding Receiving Holy Communion**

There has been an unfortunate increase in Sacred Hosts been dropped when receiving Holy Communion. Whilst these are accidents, we all have a responsibility to ensure that the Sacred Host—the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ—is guarded and protected.

When receiving Holy Communion, please do not step to the side to consume the Sacred Host, and under no circumstances, turn away from facing the altar before you consume the Sacred Host.

Please ensure that you consume the Sacred Host whilst still facing the altar and the Priest or the Extraordinary Minister.

## **Flower Arranging Groups and Donation of Flowers for Holy Family Church**

Volunteers to form groups to arrange the flowers for the sanctuary at Holy Family Church are needed. There are currently only two groups which mean that there can only be fresh flowers decorating the church once a month. This means that for the other weeks of the month there will necessarily be artificial flowers.

If there are to be fresh arrangements of flowers to decorate the sanctuary every week then it is necessary that groups of at least two people be arranged who will buy the flowers and arrange them on Saturday mornings.

The more groups there are then the less often will each group need to be rostered.

If you can form a group, please speak with Fr. Andrew.

Additionally, if you have flowers in your garden that you can cut and donate for the flower arranging groups to use, please speak with Fr. Andrew.

## **First Thursday Holy Mass in Latin**

This Thursday, being the first Thursday of the month, Holy Mass in Latin will be said at Holy Trinity Church at 6:00 p.m. The first Thursday of the month is traditionally offered as an act of reparation to the wounds of Our Lord and in honour of the Blessed Sacrament. It is also offered as day to pray for Priests in honour of Our Lord Jesus Christ, High and Eternal Priest.

## **First Friday Mass and Adoration**

Join us this Friday evening at Holy Trinity Church as we continue our first Friday devotions in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in reparation for the sins of humanity. Confessions will be heard from 6:15 p.m., the Rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m., Holy Mass will be offered at 7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 p.m.

## **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Penance (Confession)**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered every week on Sunday evenings following the 5:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Family Church and on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

The Sacrament of penance (confession) is available three times each week at the following times: Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church, Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church and Sundays from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. at Holy Family Church. Make use of these opportunities to regularly make your confession and receive the grace of Our Lord.

## **Paschal Precept**

The Paschal Precept, or Easter Duty, is the law of the Church obligating the faithful to confess their sins at least once every year and to receive Holy Communion during the season of Easter (CIC nn. 920, 989). There are three times each week scheduled for the Sacrament of Penance by which you can make your confession. The times are Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church, Sundays from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 at Holy Family Church.

## **Online Donations in Support of the Parish**

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. 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.







## 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).*



# Support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community.

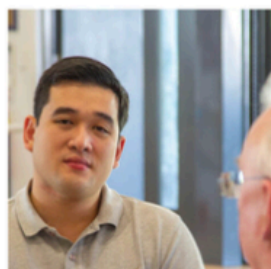
**“God doesn’t call the equipped, he equips the called.”**

— recently ordained priest, Father Matthew Dimian.



**\$25**

Can fund a **seminarian’s** daily meals and nourish their health.



**\$50**

Can help fund a **seminarian’s** transport costs for community outreach visits to the lonely, sick, elderly, and people in need.



**\$75**

Can support a **seminarian’s** monthly medical care and wellbeing.



**\$100**

Can provide a **theology** textbook, periodical subscription or digital resources.



**\$200**

Can support a **seminarian’s** daily academic learning and living needs.



**\$250**

Can contribute to teaching sacred scriptures, sacramental and faith formation programs.



**\$500**

Helps resource a seminarian with a theological library, for learning and teaching faith for life.



**\$1,250**

Supports **spiritual** direction and retreats, enabling seminarians to grow in their faith.

Please give generously to the Bishop’s Good Shepherd Appeal  
[yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)





**Together  
we can keep  
the faith alive**



## **Aid to the Church in Need exists to support suffering, oppressed and persecuted Christians**

In fact, we are the only international Catholic charity dedicated to this mission.



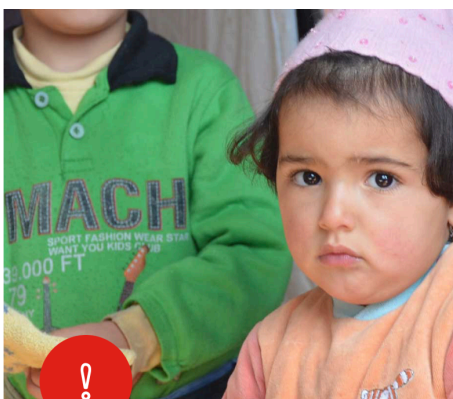
The projects most in need



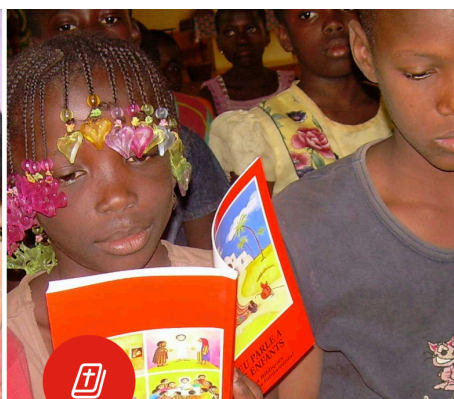
Formation of seminarians and priests



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Distribution of bibles and religious books



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# Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

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## The Readings

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### **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.

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### **First Reading**

#### **The Acts of the 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.'

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### **Responsorial Psalm** (*Ps. 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 4*)

**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.**

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### **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.

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### **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!

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### **Gospel**

#### **The Gospel of St. Luke (24:46-53)**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

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### **Communio** (*Mt. 28:20*)

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