Granville Catholic Church Record

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September 14, 2025

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



As we gather this weekend to celebrate the sacred Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, our parish has a special reason to rejoice. Five years ago, on this very feast day, our spiritual home was born as we know it today. It was on the 14th September 2020, through an act of faith and unity, that Holy Trinity Parish and Holy Family Parish came together to form one new family under the glorious banner of Holy Cross Parish. This fifth anniversary is a time to reflect on God's incredible grace and the many blessings He has poured upon us.

The name "Holy Cross" was chosen for a profound reason. It was fittingly proposed by a member of our community and stands as a symbol of our shared journey. Just as the Cross has two parts, we became two communities joined as one, with a single mission to serve Christ. Our parish crest bears the powerful motto, "Crux Mihi Certa Salus", which reminds us that

"The Cross is our sure salvation." This truth is the very foundation of our identity, and it has guided us through these first five years. We are especially grateful for the leadership of our founding parish priest, Fr. Andrew Bass, who prayerfully guided us through the initial stages and the years to follow.

Since our formation, our parish has blossomed into an active and faith-filled community. We are no longer two separate parishes, but one Body of Christ, committed to supporting and uplifting one another. We have witnessed a renewed sense of belonging and kinship among all who walk through our church doors. A beautiful testament to our unity is the annual Good Friday Cross Walk, and Assumption Procession, both a pilgrimage of faith where we walk together between our two parish churches, praying in a visible sign of our common devotion to the Lord's Passion and His Blessed Mother.

Our unification has also allowed

us to strengthen our ministries and outreach, ensuring that we can better serve both the spiritual and material needs in our community. Through our unified ministries, we strive to be a place of holiness, where the sacraments are cherished, and the love of God is shared with every person.

As we look to the future, we continue to be inspired by our past. Under the dedicated care of our current priests, Fr. Galbert and Fr. Joseph, we remain focused on our mission of evangelisation, catechesis, and stewardship. We are called to be a light of Christ in Granville, drawing others to the certain salvation found only in the Holy Cross.

On this special anniversary, let us give thanks to Almighty God for the gift of Holy Cross Parish. May He continue to bless our work and keep us steadfast in our faith, united in Christ, now and always.

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May the Holy Cross be my Light!

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 Administrator

Rev. Fr. Galbert Albino

Assistant Priest

Rev. Fr. Joseph Nguyen

Business and Projects Manager

John Portelli

Sacraments and Youth Co-ordinator

Rosette Chidiac

Catechist Co-ordinator

Lana Leatherby

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

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Nigerian Community Mass

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

Rosters

Church and Toilets Cleaning

Volunteers Needed

Flower Arranging

Samira Elias, David Elias, Juliet Nakhoul

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, 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.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, 6:00p.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: Vietnamese Community

Readers

Vigil Gerry Pinto, Ingrid Bifulco, Racquel La Rosa

10:00 a.m. Jasmine Miranda, Mary Georges

Children's Liturgy

Wanda Krasinski, Chloe Zaiter

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Joseph Akkary, Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton, John Augustus, Frank Azzopardi, Lorraine 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, Agnes Le, Fortunato La Macchia, Silvio La Macchia, Jacob Lee, Josephine Magro, Sid Morgan, Scott Moulton, Ben Nursoo, Sarah-Joy O'Connor, Don Provest, Therese Smeal, Ricardo Tognini, Lorraine Vella, Sam Wardan, Gerard Watts.

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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, Joseph Baini, Engedi Brown, Jim Brown, Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Albert Camilleri, Les Camilleri, Tessie Camilleri, Francis Reis Contreras, Joseph Cunmao Chen, Jamil Chidiac, Maria Dinh, Maria Vu Thi Duyen, John Dover, 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, Anthony Mallia, Marie McDonald, Nancy McIntyre, Santo Mondello, Kudzai Gerald Mutongerwa, Anthony Newell, Jessica Nguyen, Vincent Nguyen, Michael O'Brien, Zackary Orenshaw, Samuel Pickering, Robert Pidgeon, Anna Pham, Flory Pinto, Peter Robertson, Saliba family, Geoff Senior, Garry Smith, Carlito So, Noel So, Emanuel Tabone, Alex Taktak, John Toye, John Vella, Peter Van Duc Vu, Graham Wales, Carmel Watts, Phyllis Webb, Mershed Wehbe, Yesmine Wehbe, Dennis Wilson, William Yott, Dib Zaiter, Laila Zaiter.

Invitation

You are warmly invited to join in the joyful celebration of the wedding of Raphaella Chidiac and George Sassine.

Raphaella would be known to many of us for her years of faithful service to our parish community as a reader at Mass and a member of the Children's Liturgy team.

Please join us as we witness the beautiful sacrament of Holy Matrimony and offer our prayers and support for Raphaella and George as they begin their life together.

The wedding ceremony will take place at Holy Trinity Church, next Sunday 21st September, at 1:00 p.m.

May Almighty God bless Raphaella and George as they begin this new chapter in their lives. May the Lord bless them and keep them; may the Lord make His face shine upon them and be gracious to them; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon them and give them peace. Amen.

Volunteer Cleaners Needed for Holy Family Church

Our parish churches are more than a building; they are sacred places where we gather as a family to worship God and receive the Sacraments. It is our spiritual home, and like any home, it needs to be cared for.

We are seeking volunteers to form new cleaning groups that will assist with the care of our church once a month. This is a chance to give back to God and our community by helping to keep His house clean all who enter.

This is a true act of service, and we ask you to consider sharing your time and talent with others who already generously serve the parish.

If you are in a position to assist, please contact the parish office.

Important Notice about parking cars at Holy Family Church

This notice is a friendly, but important, reminder about parking at Holy Family Church. We have noticed that some cars have been parking directly in the presbytery driveway and blocking the garages. This creates a serious problem, and we ask for your help in resolving it.

Our priests often have to leave the church property at a moment's notice to attend to important parish duties or appointments. When the driveway is blocked, it causes unnecessary delays and can make it difficult for them to carry out their ministry.

We ask that you show consideration and respect for our priests and their work by parking sensibly, and not blocking the presbytery driveway or garages.

Please allow the upper end of the driveway, opposite the statue of the Pieta, for those who are bringing elderly or those unable to walk long distances to Mass. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Weekly Adoration at Holy Family Church

Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Wednesday evening, after the 6:00 p.m. Mass.

Please take some time out of your day and spend some time with Our Lord, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, and join others in praying for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Opportunities for confessions will still be available every Wednesday evening between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

"A Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament is worth more than a thousand years of human glory."

- St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Mass Offering Envelopes

Requests for Masses to be offered for various intentions can be sought by completing the Mass Offering envelopes which are located near the doors of the churches. Please clearly write the details of your intention on the envelope, and hand it directly to the priest before or after a Mass.

This will ensure your intention is not missed and will allow the priest to confirm your request.



Clergy Support Foundation Father's Day Appeal

This Father's Day, as we thank the father figures in our lives, let's also honour our spiritual fathers the priests who nurture our faith. Even after stepping back from administration, they continue to serve in faithful ways: offering sacraments, celebrating Masses, hearing confessions, assisting at services, and serving as chaplains in aged care. Your generosity helps ensure our ageing priests receive the care, comfort, and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the QR code.

"The priest is not a priest for himself. He is a priest for you." - St. John Vianney





The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

A Triumph of Love and Hope

In the rich tapestry of the Church's liturgical year, there are certain feast days that call us to a deeper understanding of our faith. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated each year on 14th September, is one such day. While the cross is often seen as a stark symbol of pain and death, this particular feast invites us to look upon it with an entirely different spirit - one of triumph, glory and hope. It is a day when we do not mourn the Lord's Passion, but instead, joyfully venerate the instrument of our salvation.

The origins of this feast are woven into the sacred history of the early Church. In the 4th century, after Christianity was legalised in the Roman Empire, Emperor Constantine's devout mother, St. Helena, embarked on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Her mission was to locate the sites of Our Lord's life, death, and resurrection. Arriving in Jerusalem, she was determined to find the very instrument upon which our Saviour was crucified. Through her tireless efforts and guided by local tradition, excavations were conducted at the site of Calvary. There, buried under a temple dedicated to the goddess Venus, a miraculous discovery was made: three crosses. To discern which one belonged to Christ, a sick woman was brought to the site. When she touched two of the crosses, nothing happened. But when she touched the third, she was instantly and completely healed. This divine confirmation revealed the True Cross.

A portion of the sacred wood was left in Jerusalem, and in the year A.D. 335, the magnificent Church of the Holy Sepulchre was dedicated over the holy sites, with the annual dedication becoming the foundation of the feast.

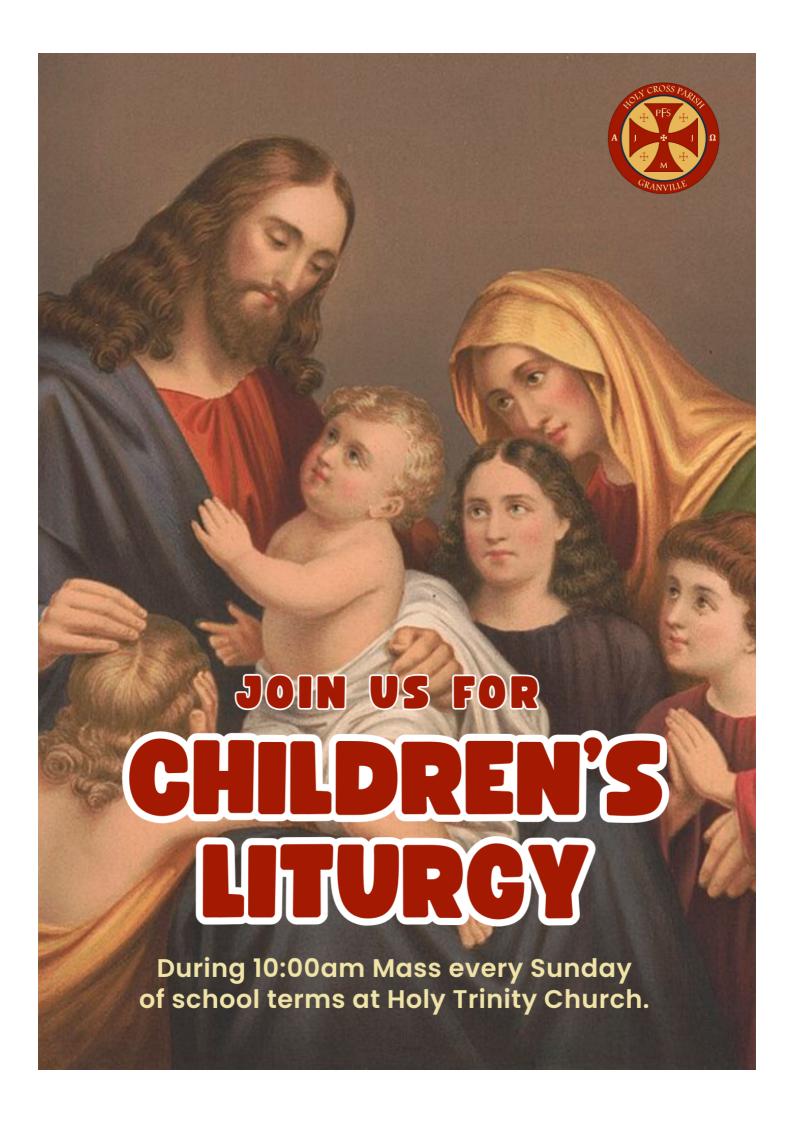
The feast gained an even deeper layer of meaning in the 7th century, following a period of immense turmoil. In A.D. 614, the Persians invaded Jerusalem, conquering the city and capturing the True Cross, which they carried off to Persia. For fifteen long years, the most sacred relic was held captive. But in A.D. 629, the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius defeated the Persians and reclaimed the Cross. In a moving act of devotion and humility, he personally carried it back to Jerusalem. As he approached the city on his triumphal return, he stripped off his royal robes and insignia, walking barefoot as a penitent king, and carried the Holy Cross back to Mount Calvary, returning it to its rightful place. This event of the Cross being raised high and returned to its home became a powerful symbol of Christ's ultimate victory over the forces of evil and the fleeting triumphs of this world.

So why do we "exalt" the Cross? We do so not to glorify an instrument of torture, but to venerate the glorious reality it represents. The Cross is the very Tree of Life, upon which hung the fruit of our salvation. It is the definitive sign of God's boundless love for humanity, a love so great that He would willingly endure the most excruciating

suffering to redeem us. Through the Cross, sin was conquered and death was defeated. The gates of heaven, once closed to us, were opened wide. This is why the Cross is not a symbol of despair but of profound hope. It is the path to glory, a paradox of victory achieved through humility and suffering. As the Apostle St. Paul declared, "Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him." The Cross, once a mark of shame, is now the ultimate sign of divine love and power.

This feast day reminds us that our faith is not an easy one. It teaches us that to follow Christ is to take up our own crosses each day. To "exalt" the Cross in our own lives mean to embrace our daily trials and unite them with the suffering of our Lord. It means finding strength in our weaknesses and offering our own sacrifices as a testament to our love for Him. This could be anything from enduring illness with patience, to forgiving someone who has wronged us, to humbly accepting a personal setback. By doing so, our struggles are no longer meaningless burdens, but become acts of love and trust, transformed by the grace of Christ.

When we look at the crucifix, let's not just see a suffering man, but the King of Glory, who conquered the world through his sacrifice. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a joyful reminder that the Cross is the source of our redemption and the banner of our hope, promising us a share in His resurrection and eternal life.







An evening of prayer, formation, and fellowship open to men and women of all ages.

St Mary's Cathedral, 5-8:30PM



Fr Paul Rowse, OP & Sr Anastasia, OP and the Dominican Friars and Sisters

Theme: Anchored in Hope



Registation: https://www.trybooking.com/DESDN

Questions: sydney@op-tn.org
Registration closes 23 September
(Contact the Sisters at the above email with queries after this date)

Men and women (18 years and older) are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters on Tuesday 30 September for the next Grace and Truth evening on the theme "Anchored in Hope".

The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction, a light dinner, and talks by Fr Paul Rowse, OP and Sister Anastasia, OP.

The event will run from 5-8:30PM, starting in the St Mary's Cathedral Crypt and moving to the Cathedral Hall. Cost: \$20. Registration closes 23 September.

https://www.trybooking.com/DESDN.
For more information, contact the Dominican Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org.



St. Macarius of Jerusalem

Born in the late third century, St. Macarius of Jerusalem was the bishop of the city during a pivotal period in Christian history, and he is most known for his connection to the discovery of the True Cross.

His role is tied to the pilgrimage of St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine. Around A.D. 326, St. Helena traveled to the Holy Land to locate relics of Christ's Passion. According to tradition, she sought Macarius's assistance in her quest. Workers discovered three crosses on the site of Calvary, but their identities were unknown.

St. Macarius, through a miraculous intervention, solved this dilemma. He suggested a test: the three crosses were brought to a gravely ill woman. She touched the first two with no change, but upon touching the third, she was instantly and completely healed. This miracle confirmed for St. Macarius and St. Helena that this was the True Cross. Following the discovery, St. Macarius oversaw the construction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over the sites of the crucifixion and Christ's tomb. This church became a primary site for venerating the True Cross and remains one of Christianity's most sacred places.

CATECHISM of the **CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Love of God

220 God's love is everlasting: "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you." Through Jeremiah, God declared to his people, " I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."

604 By giving up his own Son for our sins, God manifests that his plan for us is one of benevolent love, prior to any merit on our part: "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins." God "shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

605 At the end of the parable of the lost sheep Jesus recalled that God's love excludes no one: "So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish." He affirms that he came "to give his life as a ransom for many"; this last term is not restrictive, but contrasts the whole of humanity with the unique person of the redeemer who hand himself over to save us. The Church, following the apostles, teaches that Christ died for all men without exception: "There is not, never has been, and never will be a single human being for whom Christ did no suffer."

The Holy Cross

The cross was transformed by Jesus' resurrection into the ultimate sign of hope and new life. But did you know there are many little-known facts that reveal the Holy Cross's rich history?

One of the most fascinating relics is the "Titulus Crucis," a piece of wood in Rome believed to be the placard that hung above Jesus' head. While some carbon dating suggests a medieval origin, many believe it's a copy of the lost original. The inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews," was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

Interestingly, early Christians often didn't use the familiar Latin cross. The Tshaped "Tau cross" was a common Roman design and may have been the actual shape of the cross Jesus was crucified on. Another early symbol was the "Staurogram," which combined two Greek letters to form a cross-like image, serving as an early abbreviation for the word "cross."

According to a legend in the Eastern Orthodox Church, the True Cross was not made from a single type of wood, but from three: cedar, pine, and cypress. This tradition, rooted in a prophecy from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah (60:13) about these very trees, beautifully connects the cross to God's plan for salvation from the very beginning. These details remind us that the Holy Cross is a symbol with a deeply layered and evolving history.





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Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Readings

Introit (Cf Galatians 6:14)

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

First Reading Book of Numbers (Numbers 21:4-9)

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7)

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. R.

When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest.

They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer. R.

But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. R.

Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them.

So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. R.

Second Reading Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians (Philippians 2:6-11)

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 118:135)

Alleluia, alleluia! We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

Gospel The Gospel of St. John (John 3:13-17)

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who came down from heaven,
the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life
in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

Communio (John 12:32)

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

