

Granville Catholic Church Record

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November 16, 2025

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



Last week, we reflected on the moment of death and the importance of dying in God's grace. This week, we contemplate what happens next for many souls: the experience of Purgatory.

The Church teaches that nothing imperfect can enter the glory of Heaven, for Heaven is the perfect, pure presence of Almighty God. While a soul may die free of mortal sin and be assured of eternal salvation - clothed in God's grace and friendship - it may still carry remaining faults, attachments to sin, or the full temporal punishment (the debt) due to sins already forgiven.

Purgatory is God's final, immense act of mercy. It is not a second chance at salvation, for that choice is made at the moment of death. Rather, it is the date of purification necessary to achieve the perfect holiness required for Heaven. It is a necessary cleansing, preparing the

Understanding Purgatory The Holy Souls and the Fires of Love



soul to receive the Beatific Vision, which is the ultimate happiness of seeing God face-to-face. The fire often associated with Purgatory is understood as an intense, painful love - the painful longing of the soul to be united with God, while simultaneously being cleansed of the imperfections that hold it back. The souls in Purgatory, sometimes called the Church Suffering, are consumed by this desire, and they are guaranteed Heaven.

The crucial point for us, the living faithful, is our duty to the Holy Souls. As we learned in the first part of our November series, we belong to the one great spiritual body of Christ, the Communion of Saints. Just as we pray for the sick and the needy on Earth, we are called to pray and sacrifice for the Holy Souls in Purgatory who can no longer help themselves. This is a spiritual work of mercy, a sublime act of charity rooted in the clear teaching found in Sacred Scripture that it is "a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Maccabees 12:46).

The greatest way we can help them is by offering the Holy

Sacrifice of the Mass for their intention. The Mass is the offering of Christ Himself, uniting our small prayers and sacrifices to the perfect sacrifice of the Cross. This offering has infinite power to obtain their release and hasten their entry into Heaven. Beyond the Mass, we can offer up our own prayers, our works of penance, our almsgiving, and especially the gaining of indulgences - which are the remission of temporal punishment - and applying these spiritual treasures to the Holy Souls.

As November continues, let us remember these suffering members of our family. They are entirely dependent upon our love. Let us remember not only those known to us, but also those who having died, are never remembered in prayer by anyone else. By praying fervently for them, we not only fulfil a Christian duty but also gain powerful friends in Heaven, for once they are released, they intercede before God for their benefactors on Earth. May we be generous in this great work of charity. Let us never forget this supreme act of love toward our departed brethren, having faith that they will in turn pray for us.

THE PARISH OFFICE

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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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Joseph Akkary, Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton, John Augustus, Frank Azzopardi, Antonio Bifulco, Ann Blessom, John Borg, Vincenzo Colosimo, Lucy Farrugia, Carmel Galea, Carmello Giovenco, Evangeline Grabato, Thomas Hayek, Elizabeth Hicks, Peter Higgins, Therese Khalil, Kay King, Jacob Lee, Josephine Magro, Sid Morgan, Scott Moulton, Ben Nursoo, Sarah-Joy O'Connor, Don Provest, 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.*

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

Volunteers 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, 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, 6:00 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 4: G. Pinto, M. Moses, S. Martin, M. Magpayo, C. Elegado, N. Begley, J. Osei-Yamoah, L. Tordilla, J. John, A. Abosh, O. Ifeanyi, J. Raj, S. Joseph

Readers

Vigil Racquel La Rosa, Rosette Chidiac, Ingrid Bifulco

10:00 a.m. Reanne Chidiac, Sisters, Merlin Sandhiya

Children's Liturgy

Sr. Susanne and Claudette

IN MEMORIAM

We prayerfully remember throughout November in a special way, all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and in particular, all those listed in the parish's Book of Remembrance.



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

May they rest in peace. Amen

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

NOTICES

Thank you

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to all parishioners who faithfully attended the Holy Mass and the blessing of the graves of our former Parish Priests at Rookwood Cemetery last Saturday. Your presence and prayers for the repose of their souls were a true testament to our enduring faith and respect for those who served our parish. May God reward your charity.

We further offer special thanks to those parishioners who gave of their time and talent. Special thanks goes to Brandon Zaiter who assisted with taking photos on the day, to Nick Khouri who assisted with the transportation by driving the parish bus, allowing those without transport to be a part of this prayerful morning, and to parish staff for assisting with planning and arranging formalities and arranging use of St. Michael's Chapel.

Your selfless acts of service are a blessing to our community.

Red November Aid to the Church in Need

We are pleased to welcome representatives from Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) to our Parish this weekend. ACN is a Pontifical Foundation dedicated to serving our Catholic brothers and sisters who are persecuted, oppressed, or in pastoral need across the world. They come to bring to our attention the Red November campaign, a global initiative to shine a light on Christian persecution, symbolising the blood of the martyrs.

We encourage all parishioners to hear about the vital work ACN undertakes: providing emergency aid, Mass stipends for priests, Bibles, and catechetical resources to keep the flame of faith alive where it is most threatened. Please be generous in your support and fervent in your prayers for the Persecuted Church.

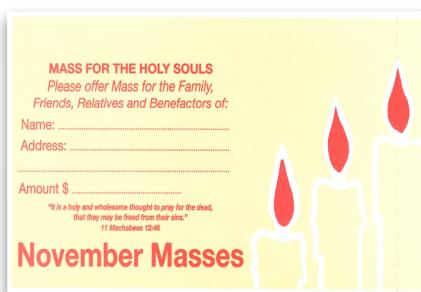
November Mass Intentions for the Souls in Purgatory

Envelopes for the parish's Book of Remembrance are now available at the doors of the church.

The Book of Remembrance is a special way to honour and pray for the repose of the souls of our beloved dead throughout the month of November.

If you wish to have the names of your deceased loved ones inscribed in the book, please take an envelope, clearly write the names, and place the sealed envelope in the clearly marked boxes located near the church doors.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



Holy Mass in Commemoration of Red Wednesday

Join us this Wednesday for Holy Mass as we stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians who suffer unjustly for their peacefully-held beliefs.

Holy Mass will be offered at Holy Trinity Church at 8:15a.m. and at Holy Family Church at 6:00p.m. We invite you to wear RED that day to honour those who are persecuted and ignored.

Please take the time to join us for Holy Mass this Wednesday, to pray for those who do not have the same opportunities as we do to freely attend Mass without the threat of persecution. The regular Wednesday evening schedule for Confession will also be available.

Fr Galbert on Annual Leave

Please be advised that our Parish Administrator, Fr. Galbert, will be on annual leave commencing this Sunday, and will return in early December. During this time, the Parish Office and Mass schedule will remain as normal, and Fr. Joseph will also be available if required.

We wish Fr. Galbert a restful and well-deserved break as he takes time to visit his family and loved ones! We pray for his safe travels and return, asking God to bless his time away.

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.

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.





As we approach Red Wednesday on November 19th, and dedicate this month to Red November, we are called to lift our gaze beyond the comforts of our own parish to behold the suffering of the Universal Church. This time is one of great significance, reminding us of the martyrs of today and the crucial, life-saving work of the international Catholic foundation, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

Established in 1947, as a Pontifical Foundation, ACN focuses on providing pastoral and spiritual assistance to persecuted Christians worldwide. It acts as a true bridge of charity, connecting the generous hearts of the faithful - who are ACN's sole source of funding - with our Christian brothers and sisters in dire need. In the context of the teachings of the Church, ACN's mission aligns perfectly with the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. They are custodians of the faith, committed to ensuring the light of Christ is not extinguished where it is most threatened. Their work, driven by faith and Christian love, ensures that the very necessities of our spiritual life - the Sacraments, the Holy Mass, and catechesis - remain accessible to those for whom practicing the faith is a daily act of great courage.

Today, the Church is suffering a persecution not unlike the days of the Roman Empire, though often more subtle. According to data

monitored by ACN and other sources, more than 200 million Christians face oppression or cannot freely practice their faith. This persecution is not merely historical; it is a brutal, living reality, and the blood of new martyrs is being shed.

Consider the horrors witnessed in place like Nigeria, which has tragically become one of the deadliest countries for Christians. Here, extremist groups like Boko Haram and Fulani militants launch relentless, brutal attacks - burning churches, destroying homes, and kidnapping clergy and laity. The murder of seminarians, priests, and countless faithful highlights a deliberate attempt to eradicate the Christian presence.

The faithful in China endure an equally oppressive trial, where the government's "Sinicization" policy attempts to suffocate the faith beneath layers of cultural control. Churches are closed and believers are constantly monitored - a "polite, disguised" persecution. More violently, in countries like North Korea, merely owning a Bible is a capital offence, leading to execution in labor camps. The underground Church survives only through heroic secret fidelity, passing down the faith in hushed whispers. These atrocities are not abstract statistics; they are Christ crucified anew in the lives of our persecuted brothers and sisters.

This is why our observance of Red

Wednesday - when churches and public buildings are lit in a deep, symbolic red - and Red November is so vital. It is a public declaration of solidarity with the persecuted. It is a powerful, visible reminder that we, as members of the Mystical Body of Christ, are united with them in their suffering.

When we participate, we answer the call to Action, Prayer and Information, the pillars of ACN's work. ACN's projects, which include Mass Offerings for poor priests, building churches, and supplying bibles, provide the material assistance that keeps the flame of faith burning. We are also called to pray for the persecuted Church, knowing their spiritual strength relies on our intercession. Their witness strengthens our own faith; their sacrifice calls forth our deepest charity. Finally, by learning and sharing their stories, we shine a light into the darkness, reminding the world that the "crime" of these martyrs is simple their courage to believe and live for Christ.

As St. Paul reminds us. "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it." (1 Cor 12:26). As we remember the martyrs, both past and present, let us resolve to support ACN's mission to sustain the Church where it is most in need, so that the faith may endure until the coming of our Lord. *(Information and examples of persecution sourced by ACN)*



RED NOVEMBER

REMEMBER • PRAY • SUPPORT



"I could never lie to God. It is better to be faithful to God than to men."
- Mathieu

Stand with persecuted Christians this November

1 in 7 Christians live in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

Pray for them. Learn their stories.

Visit www.rednovember.org to join a Red November Mass and to pray the Red Rosary.



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND





RED WEDNESDAY

Light Red. Wear Red. Pray Red.

*Join us on Wednesday as we stand in solidarity
with persecuted Christians
who suffer unjustly for their peacefully-held beliefs.*

To honour Red Wednesday Holy Cross Parish will turn our Facebook page RED and the facade of Holy Family Church will be lit in RED from Monday to Sunday as we do something peaceful and positive to highlight the suffering – injustices, discrimination, violence, oppression, torture and death – of so many Christians and others today which goes unnoticed by the world.

*And we invite you to wear RED that day
to honour those who are persecuted and ignored*

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Holy Mass at 8:15 a.m.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m.

1800 101 201 • www.redwednesday.org





HOLY MASS AND BLESSING OF THE GRAVES AT ROOKWOOD CEMETERY



The Readings

Introit

(Jeremiah 29:11,12,14)

The Lord said:
I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.
You will call upon me, and I will answer you,
and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading
The Prophet Malachi
(Malachi 3:19-20)

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 97:5-9. R. see v.9

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. R.

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;
the world, and all its peoples.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy
at the presence of the Lord. R.

For the Lord comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with fairness. R.

Second Reading
Second Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians
(2 Thessalonians 3:7-12)

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

Gospel Acclamation

(Luke 21:28)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.
Alleluia!

Gospel
The Gospel of St. Luke
(Luke 21:5-19)

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

Communio
(Psalm 72:28)

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.



Light Red. Wear Red. Pray Red.