

Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. 10. No. 47

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



Our journey through November has been a necessary and solemn reflection of the Last Things - Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. As the month ends, the Holy Church begins a new year with the season of Advent, which serves as the perfect bridge for our spiritual lives. This shift in the calendar reminds us that all our solemn contemplation should lead to joyful, active preparation.

The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." In the liturgy, Advent calls us to prepare for Christ's coming in three ways:

First, we prepare to celebrate His First Coming - the historical event of the Incarnation, when God the Son was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. This is a commemoration of His coming in humility and weakness as an infant, an act of infinite love that is the centrepiece of Christmas.

The Season of Advent

Beginning Anew and the End of Time

Second, and drawing directly from our November reflections, Advent powerfully directs our minds toward the Second Coming - when Christ will return at the end of time, in glorious majesty, to hold the General Judgement. This is the climax of all human history and the final fulfilment of God's plan. Our reflections on the particular judgment, Heaven, and Hell are what give meaning to this vigilance. The Lord's warning to "watch and pray" is the key message of the early weeks of Advent. We are called to live every day in a state of readiness, knowing we must give an account of our stewardship.

Third, Advent invites Christ to come to us now, in the present moment, through grace. Every time we pray, every time we receive the Sacraments, and every time we show charity to our neighbour, Christ comes closer to our soul. This is the fruit of our November discipline.

The Church clothes her priests in violet during Advent, the same colour she does during Lent, to remind us that it is a time for serious, joyful self-discipline. It is a time for spiritual stocktaking, repentance, and self-denial, making

ready the temple of our souls. We clean up our interior lives so that our celebration of the Infant King at Christmas is not merely a worldly holiday, but a profound and spiritual encounter with the Incarnate God.

If we have sincerely looked at the eternal truths this past month, our Advent will not be spent running through worldly distractions. Instead, we will resolve to dedicate ourselves to prayer and to use the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance, to cleanse our hearts entirely. Let us make our hearts a beautiful, clean crib for the Infant Jesus. We must sweep away the clutter of sin and self-love so that He may find a perfect resting place within us.

May the certainty of Christ's Second Coming inspire a holy fear, and may the memory of His First Coming fill us with unwavering hope. Let us be vigilant watchmen, waiting for the dawn, ready to welcome the Saviour with purity of heart and a spirit of joyful participation.

"It is high time now for us to awake out of sleep. For now our salvation is nearer than when we believed." Romans 13:11

THE PARISH OFFICE

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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 Blesson, John Borg, Vincenzo Colosimo, Lucy Farrugia, Carmel Galea, Carmello Giovenco, Evangeline Grabato, Thomas Hayek, Elizabeth Hicks, Peter Higgins, Terese Jones, 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

Narelle Khoury, Claudette Takchi,
Moona Wehbe

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 1: D.Portelli,
A.Quinlan, L.Toman, N.Begley,
W.Krasinski, J.Galea

Readers

Vigil Ingrid Bifulco, Sisters, Gerry Pinto

10:00 a.m. Merlin Sandhiya, Wadzi
Mushininga, Jasmine Miranda

Children's Liturgy

Victor Luu and Armani Barakat

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 Romano and Sons Electrical

We wish to express sincere gratitude to Phil Romano and Romano and Sons Electrical for their incredibly generous support!

Thanks to them, we were able to beautifully light up Holy Family Church in red as a central part of our parish's commemoration of Aid to the Church in Need's Red November campaign, drawing attention to persecuted Christians around the world.

Romano and Sons have been a long-time, supporter of the parish, carrying out much of the electrical work across both our churches and we are truly grateful for their commitment and for sponsoring our parish to take part in this global initiative.

Romano and Sons Electrical offer a number of services including domestic electrical, commercial electrical, industrial electrical, and real estate maintenance. To contact them, telephone 0409 465 765



Red London Bus to St. Mary's Cathedral

Join us on Saturday, 20th December as we take the Red London Bus to St. Mary's Cathedral for the "Lights of Christmas." The bus will depart Holy Trinity Church at 7:15 p.m. and Holy Family Church at 7:30 p.m.

To come along, add your name to the sign-up sheets at the doors of the church this weekend to secure your spot on the bus in what has become a Holy Cross Parish Christmas tradition!

To help with the cost of the bus we ask if adults can pay \$15.00 and children \$10.00

Fire Up Ministries Presents an Advent Parish Mission

Mark your calendars for our Parish Advent Mission, led by Fire Up Ministries, running from Wednesday, December 17th to Friday, December 19th at Mackillop Hall. To register your interest simply scan the QR below.

Prepare your heart for Christ's coming with three powerful talks over three days.

The Mission will conclude on the final evening with a beautiful opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Confession.

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your spiritual life in the lead up to Christmas.

SCAN THE QR
TO REGISTER



Prepare A Way 2025

We pleased to announce the publication of Prepare a Way: 2025 Edition, your devotional guide once again prepared by John Portelli.

This resource features four weeks of reflections on Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace, a daily Scripture and lengthened prayer, and the beautiful O Antiphons Novena.

FREE Download: Access the digital version immediately from the Parish Website (www.holycrossgranville.org.au/Resources) or by scanning the provided QR code.

Purchase Printed Copy: Obtain a printed copy at the Parish Piety Shop for \$10.00 with funds raised to assist with covering printing costs. Commence your spiritual preparation for Christmas now!

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 and as a day to pray for Priests in honour of Our Lord Jesus Christ, High and Eternal Priest.

First Friday Mass, Rosary and Adoration

Join us this Friday at Holy Trinity Church for our regular First Friday of the month devotions in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in reparation for the sins of humanity.

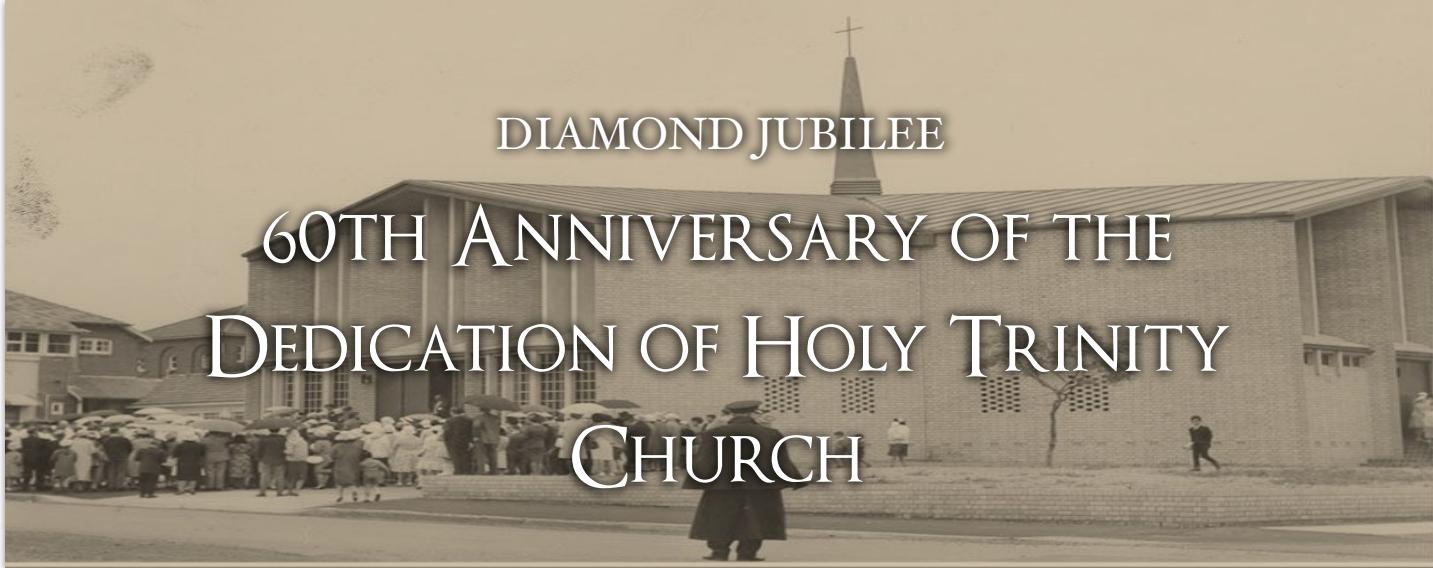
Confessions will be heard from 6:15 p.m., the Rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m., Holy Mass will be offered at 7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 p.m.

Take the time to join us for this final First Friday Devotion for 2025 and begin this Advent season by placing Our Lord at the centre of your preparations for Christmas.

Diocese of Parramatta Christmas Appeal

As Christmas approaches, many face grief, stress, and uncertainty due to the rising cost-of-living, unstable work, and loss of loved ones. Your generosity can offer hope for the broken-hearted, ensuring no one grieves alone in the community. Please give by visiting parracatholic.org/appeal or by scanning the provided QR code.





DIAMOND JUBILEE

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

This year, by the grace of Almighty God, Holy Trinity Church, one of our 2 Holy Cross Parish churches, marks the 60th anniversary of its solemn opening and dedication. As we reach this significant milestone, we pause to render heartfelt thanks for six decades of blessings and renew our commitment to the Gospel mission.

The existence of this magnificent church is a testament to the enduring faith and tireless sacrifice of the Catholic community in Granville. The journey to this sanctuary began in 1960. Under the dedicated guidance of Father Patrick Brennan (Holy Trinity Parish Priest, 1953-1968), parishioners formed a committee to erect a new church, replacing the previous church that had served the community since 1908 (now Mackillop Hall). This effort was driven by a deep sense of faith and the growing needs of the community.

The culmination of this endeavour occurred when the foundation stone of the current Holy Trinity Church was blessed and laid by His Eminence Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, on 23 May 1965. Just six months later, on 28 November 1965, the church was officially blessed and opened by the Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, the Most Rev. J.P. Carroll. Furthermore, in a profound act of remembrance and gratitude, the church was dedicated

to the memory of members of the three armed services who gave their lives for their country during World Wars I and II. Because of this dedication, it is proudly known as the Holy Trinity War Memorial Church. We owe a deep debt to the founders, Fr. Brennan, and all who laboured to raise this sacred monument.

This church is the vessel that has intimately held the most defining moments of our spiritual lives. Within these walls, thousands have received Baptism, generations have been strengthened through Confirmation, countless Marriages have been celebrated, and the final rites have been offered to our departed. Most importantly, it is here that Christ's Real Presence has continually resided in the Tabernacle, nourishing us through the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith.

As we celebrate the dedication of our physical church, we are reminded of the deeper truth spoken in Holy Scripture. St. Peter reminds us: "Come to Him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5).

This physical building is strong because of the Living Stones - you,

the parishioners - who truly constitute the Church, the Body of Christ. Our beautiful edifice is a symbol of our unity, but the true Church is the assembly of faithful gathered here, carrying on the tradition started decades ago, and continuing to build on the legacy of those that helped build up this church and parish to what it is today.

The passing of sixty years calls us not just to remember the past with gratitude, but to look forward with renewed hope and vigour. The challenges of the future demand the same courage and dedication exhibited by our founders and those who followed. We are called to ensure that Holy Trinity Church, along with Holy Family Church, remain vibrant places of worship, catechesis, and charity for generations to come, actively contributing to the mission of Holy Cross Parish. This commitment requires every one of us to focus on: deepening our prayer life and prioritising Sunday Mass; actively passing on the Faith to our children.

We implore the continued involvement and generous support of every parishioner, both spiritual and material, to secure the legacy of this church for the next sixty years. Let us be the 'living stones' who ensure that this holy place remains a true sanctuary of grace and a spiritual home for all who seek the face of God, now and in the future.



60th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Church





FIRE UP MINISTRIES



ADVENT PARISH MISSION



Presented by:
Simon Carrington



17th | **Talk 1** The Good News: Why God Became Man

18th | **Talk 2** Mary, Mother of God:
How this Dogma Safeguards the Real Jesus

19th | **Talk 3** True Repentance:
Avoiding the 3 Nooses of Satan

17th - 19th December 2025
Wednesday to Friday

Holy Cross Parish, Granville
10 Randle St, Granville

6:30PM Rosary
7:00PM Talk (Mackillop Hall))

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Prepare A Way 2025

Advent Resource

**PRINTED COPIES
AVAILABLE AT PIETY
SHOP FOR \$10.00**



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FOR FREE COPY!**



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

"AWAITING THE DAWNING"

We begin this holy season by fixing our gaze on Hope. This is the theological virtue that sustains us in the darkness, built upon the unfailing promises of God revealed through the prophets. We pray for the grace to wait with patience and confidence, knowing that the light of the Incarnation is at hand.

"Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

REFLECTION

The signs of Christ's coming—healing and the preaching of the Gospel—are the very definition of God's Kingdom on Earth. We look for these quiet miracles in our own lives and commit to being instruments of such Kingdom work.

PRAYER

O Heavenly King, make us attentive to the signs of your Kingdom here on earth through works of charity and justice. Strengthen us to follow the path of true blessedness promised to your faithful servants. Amen.

IMAGE: "St John the Baptist Visited by Jesus" by Salvi, Source: Gallerie, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



First Sunday of Advent, Year A

The Readings

Introit (Cf Psalm 24:1-3)

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading **The Prophet Isaiah** (Isaiah 2:1-5)

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz,
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it;
and they will say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'
He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. R.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' R.

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

Second Reading **Letter of St Paul to the Romans** (Romans 13:11-14)

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 84:8)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel **The Gospel of St. Matthew** (Matthew 24:37-44)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.'

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Communio (Psalm 84:13)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.