

Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. 10. No. 49

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



As we reach the half-way point of this season of Advent, the Church offers us a sign of great hope and encouragement: Gaudete Sunday. The very word, 'Gaudete', means "Rejoice!" - a joyful command that breaks into our penitential violet with the gentle hue of rose vestments. Our anticipation shifts, moving from the severe call to repentance given by St. John the Baptist, to the joyful assurance that the Messiah is not only coming, but that He is already here.

Last week, we addressed the first great coming of Christ in the flesh through the *via purgativa*, the difficult work of clearing our souls of sin. This week, we focus on the Second Coming of Christ in Grace - His continuous, mystical presence in our lives, our parish, and our souls, which is the heart of the Illuminative Way (*via illuminativa*).

This week's Gospel presents St. John the Baptist, now in prison, sending his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Gaudete Sunday



The Joy of His Presence Within Us
Rejoice in the Lord Always, Again I Say Rejoice!

Christ's reply is not a simple "Yes," but a list of miracles: "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News proclaimed to them." These signs are not merely historical events; they are the spiritual markers of His presence in grace.

When Christ enters a soul through the Sacraments, the effects are miraculous. Our spiritual blindness (ignorance of God's will) is replaced by sight; our moral lameness (inability to do good) is healed; and the leprosy of sin is cleansed. This is the authentic source of supernatural joy. It is not the fleeting happiness of the world, but the deep, abiding comfort that comes from the indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity within a soul established in sanctifying grace.

How do we cooperate with this Illuminative Way? We must become living signs of Christ's action. Every Christian virtue - patience, charity, humility, and fidelity in prayer - is

evidence that the blind are indeed seeing, and the deaf are hearing the Word of God. This joy is fostered most perfectly through constant vigilance in prayer and fervent reception of the Holy Eucharist, where Christ comes to us in the most real, substantial way possible outside of Heaven.

In this beautiful time of Advent, let us look to the Blessed Virgin Mary as the perfect model of the Illuminative Way. She, more than anyone, perfectly contained the presence of Christ in grace. Her Fiat, her constant attention to God's will, made her the living Tabernacle. By meditating on her virtues, we learn how to carry the light of Christ within us, so that when others encounter us, they encounter the very signs of Christ promised. Let us rejoice, then, not because Christmas is near, but because the King is already reigning in our hearts, calling us from darkness into His marvellous light. Our diligent purification last week now blossoms into joy of His love.

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

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

Volunteers Needed

Flower Arranging

Samar Rjeily and Maroun Rjeily

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 3: Vietnamese
Community

Readers

Vigil Gerry Pinto, Ingrid Bifulco, Racquel La Rosa

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

Children's Liturgy

*No Children's Liturgy during School
Holidays and will resume in Term 1 2026*

IN MEMORIAM

Victor Azzopardi, Joseph Baini, Engedi Brown, Jim Brown, Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Albert Camilleri, Les Camilleri, Tessie Camilleri, Doris Casha, Joseph Cunmao Chen, Jamil Chidiac, Maria Dinh, Maria Vu Thi Duyen, John Dover, Joe Paul Fehir, Estrella Francisco, Alan Frost, Carmen Galea, Maria Gambin, John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Melissa Irons, Salim Karaki, Paul Karam, Chini Maya Kc, Nouhad Khoury, Thomas Lam, Rustica La Rosa, Laurie Lowe, Frouzine Malkoun, Jacob Malkoun, Mouna Malkoun, Ofimia Malkoun, Peter Michael, Karime Michael, Tony Michael, Madalena Michael, 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.



NOTICES



The Zaiter family have again generously arranged a raffle in support of the parish with three prizes to be won of a large assortment of children's toys. These would make a wonderful gift for Christmas.

Raffle tickets are available for \$2 each or three tickets for \$5. The winning tickets will be drawn after the Vigil Mass at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve at Holy Trinity Church.

Tickets will be on sale after the weekend Masses.

Thank you very much to the Zaiter family for their generosity and their support of the parish. All the prizes were arranged and donated by the Zaiter family and we are very grateful to them for their tremendous kindness.

Thank you to Azzopardi Family

We extend our thanks to Lorraine Azzopardi for her generous donation of the new candelabra stands which are placed before St. Joseph and St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The candelabra stands were generously donated in loving memory of Lorraine's husband, Victor, and in thanksgiving for her beloved grandchildren.

In your charity, please offer a prayer for the repose of the soul of Victor, and for the intentions of the Azzopardi family. May the light of these candles always symbolise our prayers rising to God through the intercession of these holy Saints. May God grant them abundant graces for this beautiful and lasting gift to His house.

Sacrament of Penance (Confession)

As we reach the half-way point of this Advent season, let us prepare our souls to receive the Christ Child with true piety and contrition.

The Rite of Penance (Confession) offers the grace of God's forgiveness, cleansing us from sin and restoring us to His favour. We strongly encourage all to avail themselves of this most necessary Sacrament.

Opportunities for Confession are available at Holy Family Church every Wednesday between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and every Sunday between 4:15 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. Saturday evenings at Holy Trinity Church between 5:00 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Fire Up Ministries Presents an Advent Parish Mission

Join us for our Parish Advent Mission, led by Fire Up Ministries, running this week 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.



Carols By Candlelight and Blessing of the Crib

We will be holding our annual solemn Carols by Candlelight service at Holy Trinity Church this coming Monday, 15th December at 7:00 p.m.

The service is based on the festival of nine readings and carols and is one of beautiful traditional and contemporary carols, with readings telling the history of our salvation and the coming of the Messiah. As in previous years, the evening will also include the blessing of the Crib.

The church will be lit primarily by candlelight, creating a deeply reflective and reverent atmosphere for prayer and contemplation, and the projection of images across the sanctuary depicting Our Lady and Our Lord, will once again return this year.

Join us for this beautiful and solemn service as we continue to prepare for the Birth of Our Lord in this prayerful way.

Gifts of Faith for Christmas at our Piety Shops

As we prepare for the joyous Solemnity of the Nativity, we invite you to visit our Parish Piety Shops, located in both our churches. Honour the true meaning of Christmas by choosing gifts that nourish the soul and celebrate our Catholic faith.

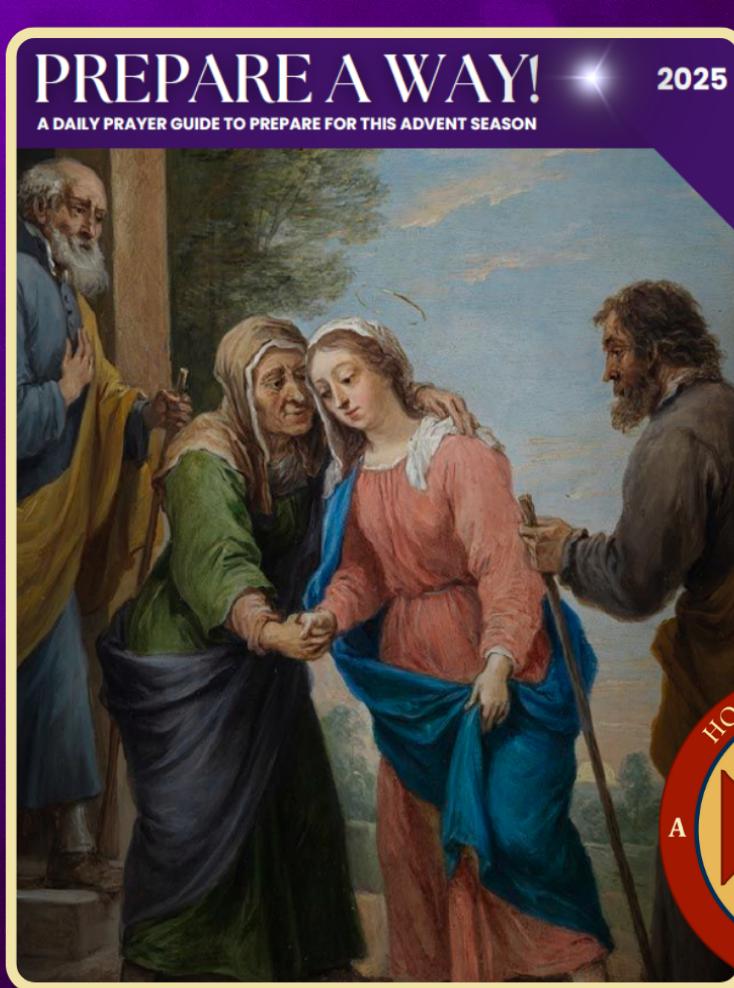
You will find beautiful items such as rosaries, holy cards, sacred statues, crucifixes, and religious books along with a beautiful range of Christmas items. All proceeds directly support our parish ministries.

Our Piety Shops are open before and after weekend Masses so take the time when you attend Mass on the weekend to have a look at what's available.

Prepare A Way 2025

Advent Resource

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



**SCAN HERE
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? Some one 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 Salome". Source: Gomino. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



CAROLS

BY CANDLELIGHT

*A solemn evening of Carols and the
blessing of the Christmas Crib.*

7 P.M. | MONDAY 15TH DEC
Holy Trinity Church, Granville





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

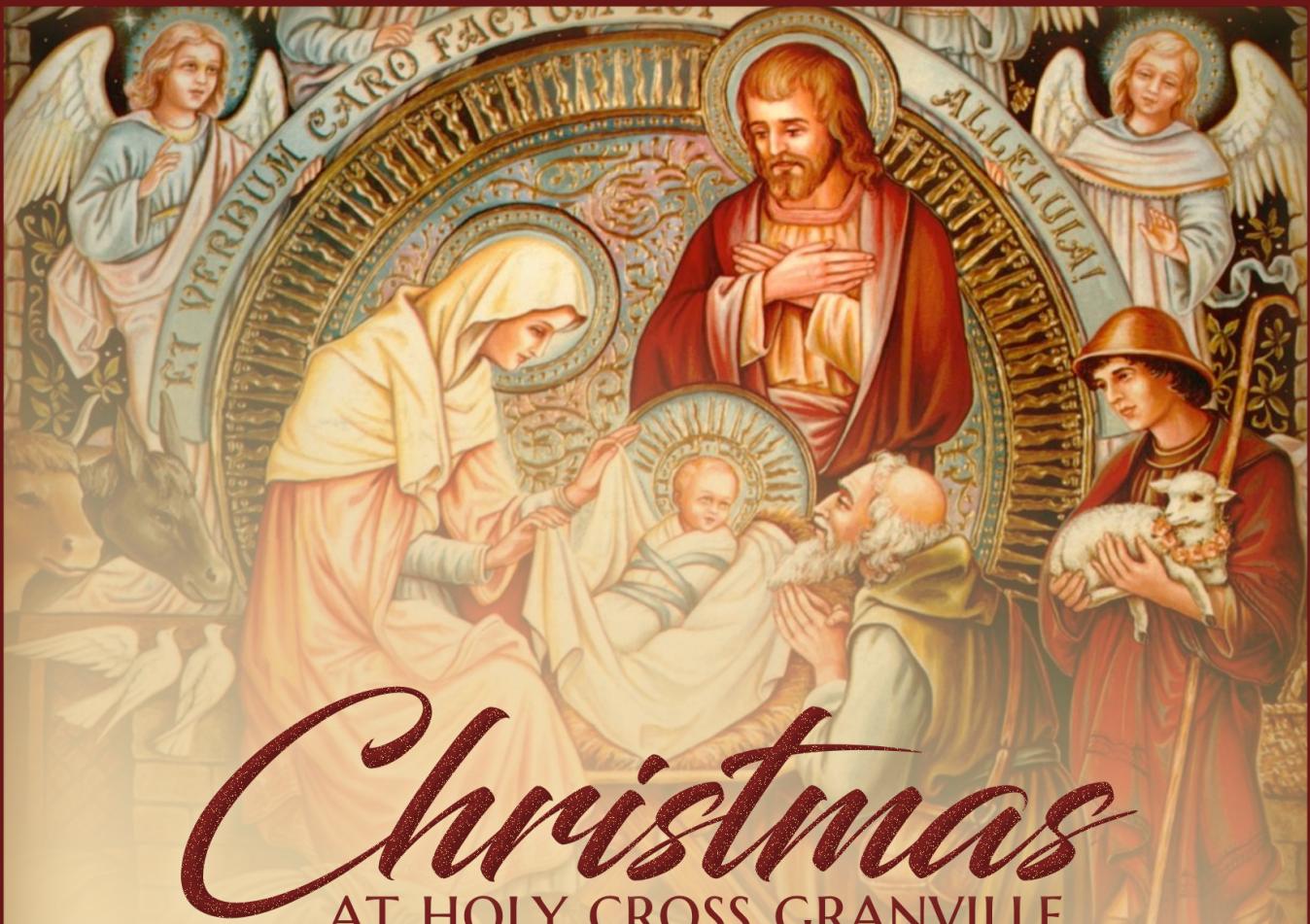
17th - 19th December 2025
Wednesday to Friday

Holy Cross Parish, Granville
10 Randle St, Granville

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

SCAN THE QR
TO REGISTER





Christmas

AT HOLY CROSS GRANVILLE

CHRISTMAS EVE

6 p.m. Holy Family Church
7:30 p.m. Holy Trinity Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

Midnight Holy Trinity Church
8:30 a.m. Holy Family Church
10 a.m. Holy Trinity Church



Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

The Readings

Introit (Philippians 4:4-5)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading The Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10)

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. R.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. R.

Second Reading Letter of St James (James 5:7-10)

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel The Gospel of St. Matthew (Matthew 11:2-11)

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communio (Cf Isaiah 35:4)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.