

Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. 10. No. 50

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



As the purple candles of the Advent wreath are nearly spent and the final week of our pilgrimage begins, the Church brings us into the intimate and silent presence of the Holy Family. In the Gospel of St. Matthew for this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we encounter St. Joseph, the “just man,” as he faces a mystery beyond human comprehension. Through this reading, the Church invites us to see in St. Joseph a soul that is already deeply advanced in the spiritual life. When the angel appears to him in a dream to reveal the miraculous nature of the Incarnation, St. Joseph’s response is not one of hesitation or questioning, but of immediate, humble obedience. This “waking up” from sleep to follow the divine command serves as a powerful metaphor for our own spiritual awakening as we stand on the very threshold of Christmas.

Having passed through the

Behold, an Angel of the Lord! The Call to Holiness

Purgative Way of repentance and the Illuminative Way of growth in grace, we now arrive at the Unitive Way (*via unitiva*). This stage of the spiritual life represents the perfection of the Christian journey, where the soul seeks total conformity to the will of God. It is characterised by a deep, interior peace and a constant, loving focus on the Divine Presence. St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary are our supreme models in this regard. Their lives were entirely hidden in God, their wills were perfectly aligned with His, and their hearts were purely focused on the coming of the Saviour. To be “united” with God as they were means to have no will of our own other than what God desires for us.

This final Sunday also directs our attention and gaze toward the Third Coming of Christ in Glory. While we prepare our homes and hearts to celebrate the historical birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem, the liturgy simultaneously points us toward the end of time - the Parousia. Just as St. Joseph had to be ready for the sudden intervention of God in his life, we too must remain vigilant. The Church’s focus on the

Four Last Things - Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell - is not meant to cause us fear, but to inspire a holy urgency. We are called to be found like St. Joseph: silent, just, and ready to act upon the Word of God at a moment’s notice, regardless of the cost.

The names revealed to St. Joseph by the angel is Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” This is the ultimate goal of the entire spiritual life: to be with God, and for God to be with us, eternally. As we prepare to kneel before the crib, let us ask St. Joseph to help us achieve the same spirit of unitive prayer - a state where our own selfish desires are forgotten in favour of the King’s commands. May this final week of Advent be a time of great interior silence, where we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, both in the humble stable and in the clouds of heaven. By uniting our hearts to Christ now through grace, we ensure that we will be united with Him forever in the glory of His Kingdom. Let our hearts be truly ready, so that when He arrives, He may find within us a dwelling place prepared by love and kept holy by His abiding grace.

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

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: A. Quinlan, G. Pinto, M. Moses, S. Martin, M. Magpayo, C. Elegado, N. Begley, J. Osei-Yamoah, L. Todilla, J. John, A. Abosh, O. Ifeanyi, J. Raj, S. Pattalath Joseph

Readers

Vigil Rosette Chidiac, Katherine Jenner, Rebecca Hanson

10:00 a.m. Armani Barakat, Mary Georges, Reanne Chidiac

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, Nancy McIntyre, Giovanna Mondello, 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.

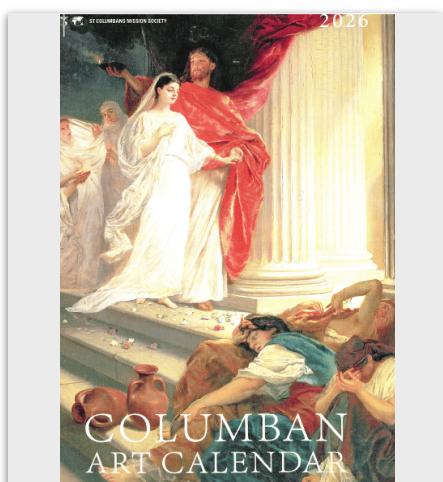
Raffle tickets are available for \$2 each or three tickets for \$5. The winning tickets will be drawn after the Vigil Mass at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve at Holy Trinity Church.

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.

2026 Columban Art Calendars for Sale in our Piety Shops

The 2026 Columban Art Calendar is on sale for \$10 from our piety shops which supports the work of the Columban Missionaries and the parish.



Thank you

Our Carols by Candlelight service was a beautiful success, and we wish to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated last Monday.

Special thanks go to our dedicated and faithful altar servers - Brandon, Johnny, Joshua, Jordan, Paul and Patrick, our talented cantors - Sr. Clare Sr. Maria, Louise Morched and Chloe Zaiter, accompanied by organist, John Portelli for leading us in such prayerful worship.

We also thank our readers, Sr. Maria, Sr. Clare, Rosette Chidiac, Wadzi Mushininga, Gerry Pinto, Rose Succar, Claudette Takchi and Julie Vu for proclaiming the Sacred Scripture so clearly. We also extend our appreciation to Richard Zaiter for taking photos, capturing the evening's special moments and to Annette Wirz and Wanda Krasinski for operating the Piety Shop on the night.

We are also grateful to Oliver, from Principal Organs (www.principalorgans.com.au), for his expert assistance with the image projections, which added a wonderful visual dimension to our celebration.

Events like these remind us that our parish is a living body of believers, not merely a building. By sharing our God-given talents, we do more than organise an event; we participate in the very life of the Church. Coming together in prayer strengthens our community, renewing our bonds of faith and charity. Your presence serves as a vital reminder that we are one body in Christ, each soul playing a crucial role in building up the Kingdom of God in our midst.

Thank you to all who attended and filled our church with light. May the peace of the Infant Jesus remain with you throughout this holy season.

Important Notice

Wednesday Morning Holy Mass at Holy Trinity Church

Please be advised that there will be no morning Mass this coming Wednesday, 24th December at 8:15 a.m.

We invite all parishioners and your families to join us for our Christmas Eve Vigil Masses on Wednesday evening and Masses on Christmas Day.

Parish Office Closure During the Holidays

The Parish Office will be closed starting Wednesday, December 24, and will reopen for regular office hours on Tuesday, January 20.

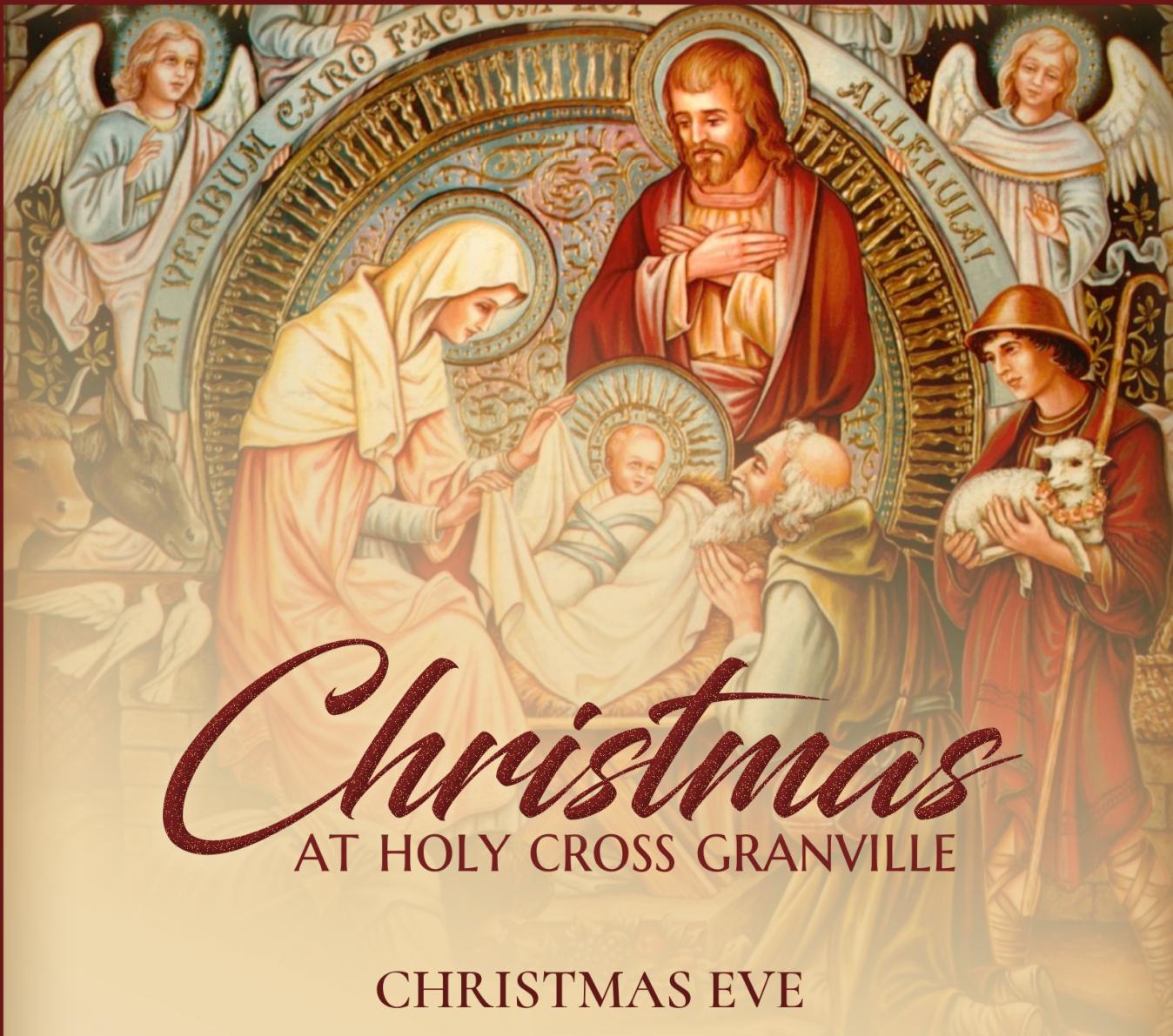
For urgent sacramental emergencies or other emergency matters during this time, please call 0499 033 392.

Important Notice Holy Mass and Confessions Schedule of Christmas Week

With Christmas Eve being on a Wednesday and Christmas Day being on a Wednesday, the usual Holy Mass, Adoration and Confessions schedule at Holy Family Church will not be in place but will resume the following week. Please see the notice in this bulletin regarding the Holy Mass times for Christmas Eve and for Christmas Day.

Holy Trinity Church Cleaning Roster

The 2026 cleaning roster for Holy Trinity Church cleaning groups is now available to collect from the Piety Shop at Holy Trinity Church. Thank you to everyone who generously gives of their time for the upkeep of our churches.



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





HOLY CROSS PARISH

Christmas Appeal

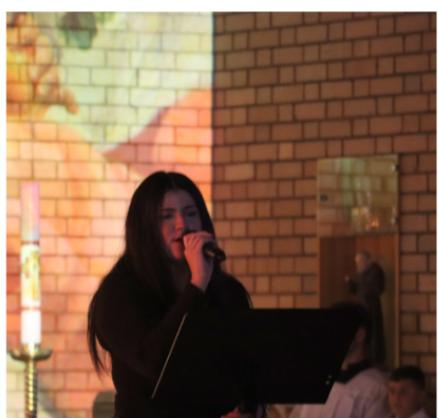
YOUR DONATION WILL ASSIST WITH THE
CONTINUED UPKEEP OF OUR PARISH
CHURCHES AND FUTURE PROJECTS.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY



Carols by Candlelight 2025





MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD HOLY MASS

Thursday, 1st January 2026

Holy Trinity Church: 8:15am

Holy Family Church: 9:15am



Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

The Readings

Introit (Cf Isaiah 45:8)

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading **The Prophet Isaiah** (Isaiah 7:10-14)

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. R.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. R.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.

Second Reading **Letter of St Paul to the Romans** (Romans 1:1-7)

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 1:23)

Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

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

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Communio (Isaiah 7:14)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

*Please take this bulletin home for Christmas Mass times
and other Important Announcements!*