

Granville Catholic Church Record

Special Edition

December 25, 2025

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in His own image. Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt. Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the

anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel. In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome. The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by His most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months

having passed since His conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary. Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

May the incarnation of the Son of God, who has driven darkness from the world and has illumined this most holy day and has brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with gladness, give to you the gift of His peace and favour, and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

THE PARISH OFFICE

Address

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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

SOCIAL MEDIA



holycrossgranville.org.au



HolyCrossGranville



Holy Cross Parish App



@holycrossgranville

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, Therese Khalil, Kay King, Fortunato La Macchia, Silvio La Macchia, 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 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, 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.





MORE THAN A BIRTHDAY

The Deeper Meaning of Christmas



The Christmas we celebrate today is certainly a day of joy, family, and light, but its significance extends far beyond a seasonal festival. It is the yearly commemoration of the most significant and awesome event in human history: the Incarnation - God becoming Man.

When we gaze upon the Nativity scene, we see a helpless infant lying in a manger. This sight, so simple and tender, masks an infinite mystery. This child is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, who is true God and true Man. He did not merely appear in the world; He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, taking on our human nature, soul and body, while retaining His divine nature fully and perfectly.

Why did the Creator of the universe consent to such humility? The answer is found in the depths of God's mercy and love. From the moment of our first parents' fall, a chasm separated humanity from God. We could not cross it ourselves. The prophets had foretold the coming of the Messiah who would close this gap. When the angels sang to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill," they announced the fulfilment of this ancient promise.

Christmas is the moment when God entered time to rescue us from our alienation. The Word, who was with God and was God (John 1:1), became flesh to heal, to teach, and ultimately, to save. He humbled Himself completely, accepting the vulnerability of a newborn. This act of condescension, this willingness to step down from the glory of heaven into a humble stable, is the very foundation of our faith. It shows us that God's power is not just in His thunder and might, but in His gentle, self-giving love. By taking on our nature, Christ made it possible for us to share in His Divine nature, restoring the supernatural life lost by sin.

The poverty of the Manger reminds us that the Kingdom He came to establish is not of earthly power or wealth, but of spiritual grace and detachment. The shepherds, the first to adore Him, represent the simple and the humble, emphasising that faith is accessible to all, regardless of status. The infant in the crib is the same Christ who will preach the Beatitudes, suffer on the Cross, and rise in glory. His birth is the essential first step of our redemption. It sanctifies the whole of human existence, proving that our lives, our bodies, and our world are worthy of the Divine presence.

Therefore, as we celebrate Christmas Day, let us not only rejoice in the beautiful story but meditate on its eternal meaning. Let us ask the Christ Child for the grace to imitate His humility and to respond to His infinite love with our own. For in the wonder of the Nativity, we find not just a historical event, but the key to eternal life. It is through this Divine birth that we receive the grace to become, ourselves, children of God and heirs to the promises of heaven. May our hearts be a crib, welcoming the Prince of Peace this day.

May Almighty God bless you and your families during this festive season. Merry Christmas!



THE HANDS THAT MAKE CHRISTMAS SHINE IN OUR PARISH

As we celebrate this great and Holy Solemnity of Christmas, and our hearts are filled with the joy this season brings to us, we are reminded that the splendour of our parish celebrations are a gift built not by a few, but by the dedicated service of many people who generously give of their time and talents. While the great mystery of the Incarnation is the focus, the beauty and solemnity with which we celebrate it are a testament to the love and commitment of every single person who stepped forward to assist.

This year, as always, our churches have been transformed into fitting sanctuaries for the Christ Child. Think of the immense effort involved in preparing our churches: the Church Cleaners, often working quietly and unseen, dedicated hours to ensure every part of the church were spotless. Their diligence mirrors the preparation of the stable in Bethlehem - a humble space made ready for the King of Glory. They washed floors, polished brass, and dusted the pews so that we might gather in an atmosphere of reverence and purity.

Then came the joyful task of adorning the church. The sight of the

beautiful Christmas Trees, garlands, wreaths and decorations does not happen by magic. It is the result of dedicated parishioners who spent time after their own personal commitments and busy days untangling lights, setting up and fluffing trees and hanging ornaments. The Nativity Scenes required their own time, being slowly built up over many weeks to their final beauty which we enjoy today. This communal act of decorating is a beautiful expression of faith, making our parish homes outwardly reflect the inner joy we feel during this festive and joy-filled time.

The beauty of our Christmas Masses is deepened immeasurably by those who serve at the altar and in the sanctuary. Our dedicated corps of Altar Servers prepared to assist our priests with great care, ensuring that every liturgical action proceeds smoothly and reverently. Their service helps to elevate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and focus our attention on the sacred action taking place. Similarly, our Lectors (Readers) committed to proclaiming the sacred Scriptures. Through their clear and reverent delivery, the Word of God resonates powerfully, illuminating the

mystery of Christ's Birth.

Moreover, we also express our thanks to our wardens who assisted at all Masses with taking care of collections and to those who assisted in our church piety shops. They are the friendly faces you see upon entering the church, greeting you with warmth and managing these things which sustains the parish's mission.

The various Masses and other events in the lead up to Christmas requires sublime music, which truly lifts the heart and soul to God. For the Solemnity of Christmas, our Musicians and Cantors undertook weeks of preparation. They meticulously selected and rehearsed the hymns and carols we have enjoyed hearing. Music is often called a "twofold prayer," and the dedication ensures that our communal prayer is both beautiful and worthy of the occasion.

The volume of work that was accomplished by all volunteers is a powerful witness that binds our parish together. Thank you to every person who offered their time and talent. May the Lord, who came as a humble servant, bless you abundantly for your faithful service.



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

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Vigil Mass

The Readings

Introit (Cf. *Ex. 16:6-7*)

Today you will know that the Lord will come,
and he will save us,
and in the morning you will see his glory.

First Reading **The Prophet Isaiah (62:1-5)**

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.
The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour
in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.
Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 88:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29. R. see v. 2)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' R.

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. R.

'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.' R.

Second Reading **The Acts of the Apostles (13:16-17, 22-25)**

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began

to speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth
will be destroyed:
the Saviour of the world will be our king.
Alleluia!

Gospel **The Gospel of Matthew (1:18-25)**

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 told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

Communio (Cf. *Is. 40:5*)

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

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Mass During the Night

The Readings

Introit (Ps. 2:7)

The Lord said to me: You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.

First Reading

The Prophet Isaiah (9:1-7)

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 95:1-3, 11-13. R. Lk 2:11)

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. R.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. R.

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. R.

Second Reading

The Letter of Saint Paul to Titus (2:11-14)

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions;

we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of Luke (2:1-14)

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

Communio (Jn. 1:14)

The Word became flesh,
and we have seen his glory.

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Mass During the Day

The Readings

Introit (Cf. *Is. 9:5*)

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading

The Prophet Isaiah (52:7-10)

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 97:1-6. R. v. 3)

R. All the ends of the earth
have seen the saving power of God.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. R.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. R.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. R.

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.

Second Reading

The Letter to the Hebrews (1:1-6)

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven

at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of John (1:1-18)

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.
The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh or will of man
but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us.
And we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Communio (Cf. *Ps. 97:3*)

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.