

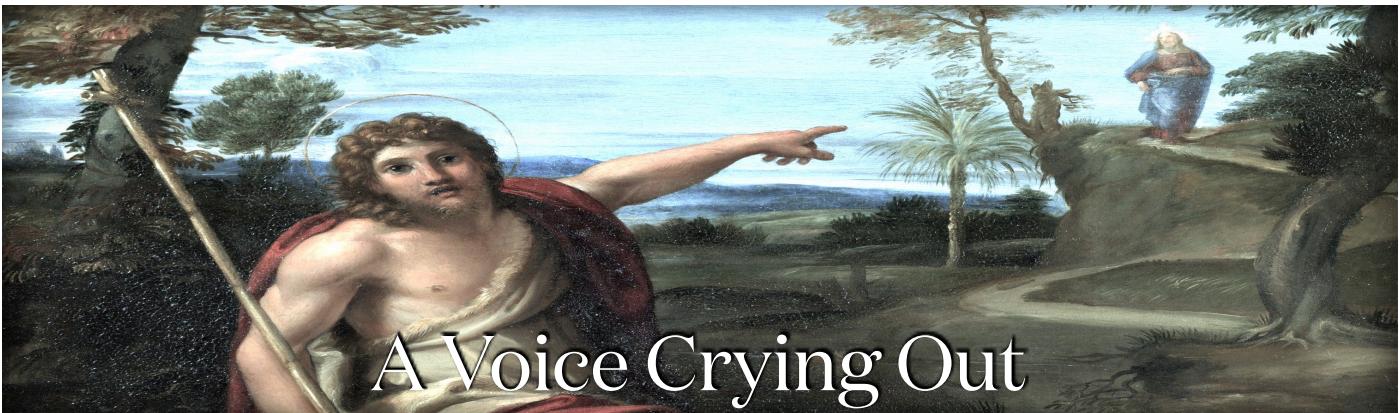
Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. 10. No. 48

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



~ Repentance and the Prophecy Fulfilled ~

This Second Sunday of Advent, the Church turns our hearts and minds to the wilderness, not to seek comfort, but to encounter the stark figure of St. John the Baptist. The Gospel of Matthew presents him as a “voice crying out,” echoing the ancient prophecy of Isaiah. John’s mission was singular: to prepare the way for the Lord’s first coming, but his message rings just as urgently for us today as we await His final, glorious return.

As people of faith, we understand that Advent is a time of Threefold Coming. While we commemorate the Coming of Christ in the flesh at Bethlehem, this week, St. John the Baptist calls us to experience Christ’s coming in grace right now, in the present moment. And how does He come? Through repentance.

John’s words, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” demand a radical change, what the Greek calls *metanoia*. This isn’t merely a feeling of sorrow, but a complete supernatural turning

away from sin toward God. Church scholars call this the Purgative Way (*via purgativa*). It is the essential, difficult work of clearing the ground of our soul - the wilderness - from the rocks of pride, the underbrush of worldly attachments, and the dirt of venial and mortal sin.

St. John the Baptist speaks of “making straight the paths,” which is our task this week. The crooked paths are our compromises with evil; the rough ways are our impatience, our lack of forgiveness, and our coldness in prayer. How do we smooth them? The answer is given to us in the gift of the Sacrament of Penance, or Confession. It is in this Sacrament that the grace of Christ cuts through the wilderness of our hearts and makes a clear, straight road for Him. It is the spiritual Baptism of tears that cleanses us and makes us worthy of the King’s visit.

We must heed the final warning in John’s message bearing “good fruit.” This fruit is the evidence of our sincere *metanoia* and a sign of our

cooperation with grace. If we make a sincere and humble confession this week, clearing our souls through the Purgative Way, we fulfill the prophecy in our own lives, preparing not just for the crib of Bethlehem, but for the glorious, unhindered presence of Christ in our hearts until that day He comes to judge the living and the dead. This spiritual renewal is necessary because the axe is already laid to the root of the trees, meaning that procrastination is a great danger to the soul. Our Lord will surely separate the wheat from the chaff, and only those who bear the fruit of true penance will be gathered into His barn. Therefore, let us use these sacred days to beg for the grace to see our sins clearly and confess them contritely. We are called to be faithful servants who, through vigilance and sacramental grace, await the Master’s return with lamps full of oil. Let us, like St. John, become a voice, announcing the Lord’s imminent arrival through our spiritual renewal.

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

Samira Elias, David Elias, Juliet Nakhoul

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 2: Paulette Zaiter, Cecilia Buultjens, Nazha Chidiac

Readers

Vigil Katherine Jenner, Rebecca Hanson, Rosette Chidiac

10:00 a.m. Wadzi Mushininga, Jasmine Miranda, Armani Barakat

Children's Liturgy

Raphaella Chidiac and 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, 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

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."

Due to the unexpected number of parishioners that registered their interest last weekend, we have been able to secure a second bus for our annual trip. We are grateful to Sergio, and the team at Red London Bus for assisting us with securing a second bus to allow more parishioners to attend. Please note that the second bus will not be a double decker bus and remaining seats available are limited.

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 adults to pay \$15.00 and children \$10.00

Thank you

We extend our thanks to Domonic Baini for kindly sourcing and arranging the installation of the granite top which has been placed under the tabernacle at Holy Trinity Church.

This beautiful granite top replaces the previous timber which was placed to allow the area near the tabernacle to be adorned with candles and flowers, particularly during Solemnities.

Thanks to Domonic's hard work and thoroughness, we were fortunate to have the top installed prior to the 60th anniversary of Holy Trinity Church's Dedication last week. This enduring addition further enhances the dignity of the sanctuary for years to come.

Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception This Monday

The Church honours the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Monday, 8th December and in honour of the Solemnity, 2 Masses will be offered across the parish. Holy Mass will be offered at Holy Trinity Church at 8:15 a.m. and at Holy Family Church at 6:00 p.m.

We warmly invite all parishioners to join us on Monday in celebrating this important Solemnity, which recognises The Blessed Virgin Mary's unique preparation as the Mother of God, conceived without the stain of original sin.

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.



Carols By Candlelight and Blessing of the Crib

We will be holding our annual solemn Carols by Candlelight service at Holy Trinity Church on 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.

Save this date in your calendars and join us for this beautiful and solemn service as we continue to prepare for the Birth of Our Lord.

Important Notice

Holy Mass and Confessions Holy Family Church This Wednesday Evening

The regularly scheduled Wednesday evening Mass at Holy Family Church will be said at 6:00 p.m. but please note that at this Mass Holy Family Primary School will be celebrating their year 6 farewell followed by presentations to the year 6 students.

As such, the regularly scheduled Sacrament of Penance (confessions) and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m. will not be available.

The next scheduled confessions will be on Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church and on Sunday from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. at Holy Family Church.

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: Gomina. 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

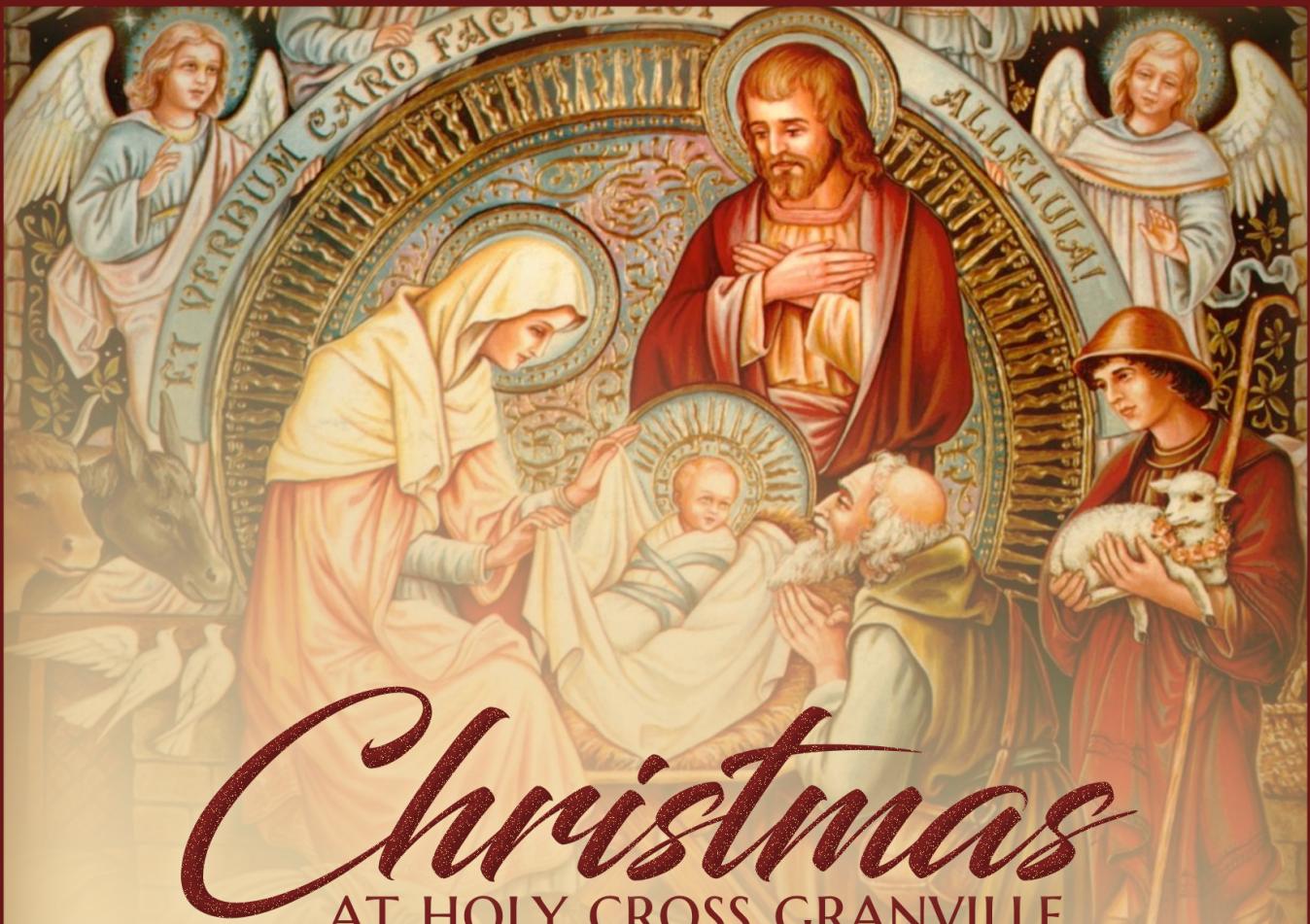
17th - 19th December 2025
Wednesday to Friday

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



Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

The Readings

Introit (Cf Isaiah 30:19,30)

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

First Reading **The Prophet Isaiah** (Isaiah 11:1-10)

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord
rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and
power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The
fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by
appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the
wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for
the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the
ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loin cloth round his waist, faithfulness the
belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with
the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to
lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young
lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant
plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young
child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my
holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge
of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home
will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for
ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. R.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. R.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. R.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. R.

Second Reading **Letter of St Paul to the Romans** (Romans 15:4-9)

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was
meant to teach us something about hope from the examples
scripture gives of how people who did not give up were
helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse
to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other,
following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind
and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each
other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The
reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was
not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises
made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give
glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For
this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 3:4. 6)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel **The Gospel of St. Matthew** (Matthew 3:1-12)

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in
the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the
man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with
a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and
wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole
Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were
baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins.
But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees
coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who
warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if
you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not
presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our
father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for
Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the
roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce
good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise
you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his
sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His
winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-
floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will
burn in a fire that will never go out.'