

Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. II. No. 5.

February 1, 2026

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



THE KINGSHIP of CHRIST IN THE HOME

The month of February holds a special place in the heart of the Church. Even as we move through the heat of the Australian summer and families settle back into the routines of the school year and work, our spiritual focus provides a steady hand. This month is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This dedication is not merely a pious thought; it is a direct invitation to look at the small house in Nazareth as the perfect blueprint for our own lives. To honour this month is to recognise that the peace of the world and the strength of the Church begin under our own roofs.

At the centre of our faith is a great truth: the family is the “Domestic Church.” This means that your home is not just a place to eat and sleep; it is a sacred space where grace is meant to dwell. In the Holy Family, we see a beautiful and harmonious order. St. Joseph, the silent protector, serves as the head of the household, providing a model of sacrificial leadership and guardianship. The Blessed Virgin Mary, the heart of the

home, offers a model of constant prayer and nurturing love. Together, they revolve entirely around the Child Jesus. When we speak of the Kingship of Christ, we often think of grand cathedrals or Christ ruling over nations. However, that reign must first be established in the “little kingdom” of the family. To acknowledge Christ as the King of your home is to surrender the direction of your life to His will. It means that His laws of charity, purity, and forgiveness are the primary rules of the house.

How do we practically “enthrone” Christ in our homes this week? We can look to the practices that have sustained families for centuries. If you do not have one, February is the perfect time to set up a small space - perhaps on a mantle or a side table - with a crucifix, a statue of Our Lady, and an image of St. Joseph. This serves as a visual reminder that God is the centre of your household. You might also consider asking for your house to be blessed, or using blessed water to sprinkle the rooms yourself, asking

God to drive away any spirit of discord or worldly anxiety. Even a simple practice like the Morning Offering, where the family gathers for one minute before the day begins to offer all labours, joys, and sufferings to the Sacred Heart, can transform the atmosphere of a house.

We often forget that for thirty years, the King of the Universe lived a hidden life. He swept floors, worked with wood, and obeyed His parents. This tells us that there is no task too small to be holy. When a father works a long day to provide, or a mother patiently manages the needs of her children, or a student obeys a difficult request, they are imitating the life of Nazareth. By centring our homes on the Holy Family this February, we prepare our hearts for the upcoming season of Lent. We build a fortress of faith that can withstand the pressures of the outside world. Let us pray this week that our homes may truly become sanctuaries of peace, where Christ is not a guest, but the Sovereign King. May the Holy Family guide our path toward eternal life.

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, Antonio Bifulco, Ann Blessom, John Borg, Vincenzo Colosimo, Lucy Farrugia, 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, 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 2:
P. Zaiter, C. Buultjens, N. Chidiac

Readers

Vigil Ingrid Bifulco, Racquel La Rosa,
Gerry Pinto

10:00 a.m. Reanne Chidiac, Merlin
Sandhiya, Armani Barakat

Children's Liturgy

Victor Luu and Armani Barakat

IN MEMORIAM

Victor Azzopardi, Joseph Baini, Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Albert Camilleri, Les Camilleri, Tessie Camilleri, Doris Casha, Joseph Cunmao Chen, Jamil Chidiac, John Lawrence Denmeade, Christine Derwin, John Dover, Joe Paul Fehir, 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, Jack McIntyre, Giovanna Mondello, Santo Mondello, Kudzai Gerald Mutongerwa, Anthony Newell, Jessica Nguyen, Vincent Nguyen, Michael O'Brien, Zackary Orenshaw, Doris Pickering, Edward Pidgeon, Robert Pidgeon, Anna Pham, Flory Pinto, Peter Robertson, 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, Dib Zaiter, Laila Zaiter

NOTICES

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.

Palms for Shrove Tuesday

As we approach the season of Lent, we invite you to bring in your blessed palms from last year. These palms will be reverently burnt on Shrove Tuesday to create the ashes that will be blessed and distributed during our Ash Wednesday Masses this year.

This beautiful tradition reminds us of the cycle of the liturgical year and our own journey of renewal. Please place your old palms in the designated baskets located near the entry of both parish churches.

Thank you for participating in this sacred preparation as we begin our Lenten pilgrimage together in prayer and penance.

Online Donations in Support of the Parish

Online donations can be made through the Holy Cross Parish website (holycrossgranville.org.au) using our BPoint facility by visiting the website or scanning the QR code below. Thank you to all those who regularly support the parish by your contributions. Your regular support of the parish is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue to undertake the many works of the parish and to look at what other works we can achieve, including the continuing restoration and maintenance of our two parish churches for generations to come.



Church Cleaning Volunteers

Our parish is in urgent need of volunteers to join our cleaning teams at both Holy Trinity and Holy Family churches. While both locations require additional hands the need at Holy Family Church is particularly critical.

Maintaining the beauty and dignity of our churches is a vital ministry, but our current teams are stretched thin. Without new helpers, we struggle to keep our churches ready for Mass. Whether you can spare an hour once a month or assist more frequently, your contribution is invaluable.

Please consider answering this call to serve. To sign up, contact the Parish Office or email the office: granville@parracatholic.org

Holy Mass for the Presentation of the Lord

Join us on Monday, 2nd February, as we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, traditionally known as Candlemas.

This beautiful feast marks the fortieth day after Christmas, commemorating the moment the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph brought the Infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. It is a day of great joy, recalling the prophecy of Simeon who hailed the Christ Child as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles."

Two Masses will be offered in the parish with Holy Mass at Holy Trinity Church at 8:15 a.m. and Holy Family Church at 6:00 p.m.

In keeping with ancient custom, we will begin the liturgy with the traditional Blessing of Candles, symbolising Christ as the Light of the World who dispels the darkness of sin. We invite you to bring your own candles to be blessed that day.

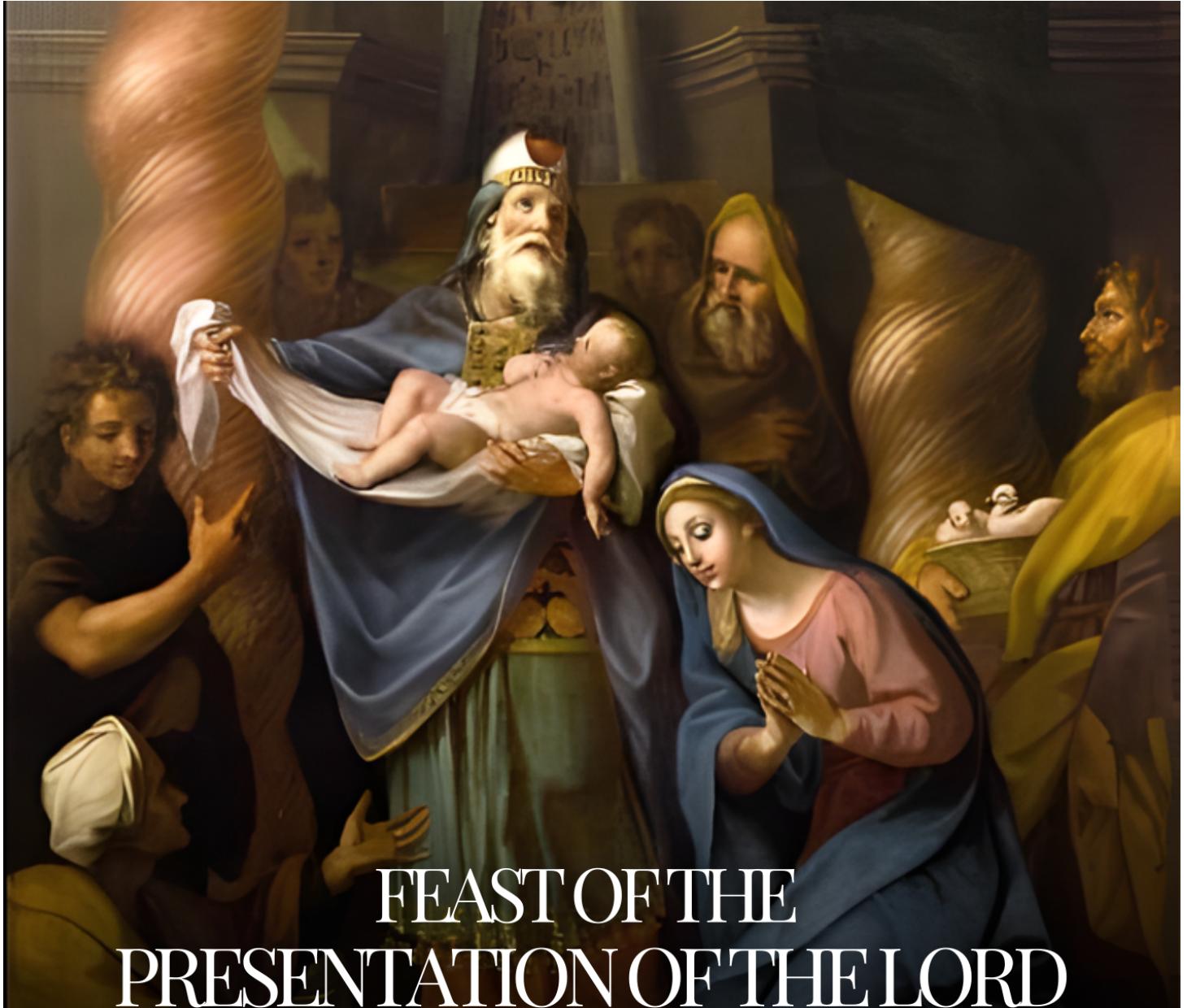
Volunteers Needed for Children's Liturgy Groups

We invite you to help pass on our Holy Faith to the youngest members of our parish. We are seeking at least four new volunteers to join our Children's Liturgy team. Children's Liturgy is run during the 10:00am Sunday Mass at Holy Trinity Church during school term.

Your help will allow us to form two additional groups, ensuring our children can hear the Word of God at a level they understand.

All volunteers must complete safeguarding training and hold a current Working with Children Check. Our Parish Office and Safeguarding Champion will provide full assistance with these requirements.

Please consider this vital service to our parish and email or call the parish office once it reopens to express your interest.



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD **HOLY MASS**

MONDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2026

Holy Trinity Church: 8:15AM

Holy Family Church: 6:00PM





THE PRESENTATION *of* THE LORD

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, celebrated this coming Monday, February 2nd, stands as a radiant bridge between the joy of Christmas and the approaching season of Lent. Exactly forty days after the birth of Christ, we recall the moment when the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. In doing so, they fulfilled the Mosaic Law, which required the presentation of the first-born son to the Lord and the ritual purification of the mother. Although the Holy Family was exempt from the need for purification by their unique sanctity, their humble submission to the law serves as a profound example of obedience and piety for every Catholic family.

Historically, this feast has been known as "The Meeting", or *Hypapante*, because it makes the encounter between the Old Covenant and the New. As the Holy Family entered the Temple, they were met by two elderly and devout souls, Simeon and Anna, who had spent their lives in prayer and fasting, waiting for the consolation of Israel. When Simeon took the Christ Child into his arms, he recognised the infant as the long-awaited Saviour. His prophetic prayer, the *Nunc Dimittis*, proclaims Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

This moment represents the culmination of centuries of longing; the Lord of the Temple had finally arrived in His own house, not in earthly majesty, but in the hiddenness of a tiny child.

Associated with this proclamation of Christ as the "Light of the World" is the beautiful tradition of the blessing of candles, which is why the day is often called Candlemas. The candles we use in our liturgies and keep in our homes are blessed on this day to remind us that Christ's light dispels the darkness of sin and death. Just as the flame of a candle consumes the wax to give light, Christ gave Himself entirely to bring the light of truth to a world in shadows. When we carry these blessed candles, we are reminded of our own mission to be "light-bearers" in our community, reflecting the purity and charity of the Saviour in our daily interactions.

Beyond the external rituals, the Presentation offers a deep spiritual lesson on the value of patient waiting and the beauty of sacrifice. St. Luke tells us that the Holy Family offered a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons - the sacrifice of the poor. This reminds us that God does not look for material wealth, but for the sincere offering of a humble heart. Furthermore, the figure of Simeon warns us that this Light would also be a "sign of contradiction" and that

a sword of sorrow would pierce the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thus, even in this moment of presentation, the shadow of the Cross is visible, reminding us that our salvation was won through great love and sacrifice.

As we celebrate this feast on Monday, let us ask the Lord for the grace to recognise His presence in our lives, just as Simeon and Anna did. Let us pray for a renewal of our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who presented the Light of the World to the Father and continues to present our prayers to her Son. May the light of our blessed candles serve as a constant reminder that no matter how dark the world may seem, the Light of Christ is never extinguished. We invite all parishioners to join us for Holy Mass to participate in this ancient and beautiful tradition of the Church.



O Lord Jesus Christ, the true Light of the world, we welcome You into our home. As Mary and Joseph presented You in the Temple, we now present our family to You. Bless us and all who enter here.

May these blessed candles remind us that Your light dispels all darkness and fear. Grant us the faith of Simeon and Anna, that we may recognise You in our daily lives and reflect Your love to those around us. Grant this through the intercession of Our Lady and St. Joseph. Amen.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Volunteers Needed!



Help pass on our Holy Faith to the youngest members of our parish through the Children's Liturgy ministry!

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO VOLUNTEER TODAY
0497 190 444 - GRANVILLE@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG





HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE HOLY CROSS PARISH APP?

The Holy Cross Parish app is just another way of keeping updated on everything that takes place in the parish!

In addition to finding available Mass, Confession and Adoration times available in the parish, the app also has some great tools such as prayers, daily reflections, audio bible, news feeds, and homilies which are published weekly.

You can also find links to popular catholic podcasts, such as Dr. Taylor Marshall, Fr. Mike Schmitz and updated news from outlets such as the Catholic Weekly.

Once you have downloaded the app to your phone or device, simply click on the 'myparishapp' button, click on "find a parish" and type in "Holy Cross Parish"

Search for 'myparish' on the App Store or Google Play to download the app today!

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Readings

Introit

(Psalm 105:47)

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading

The Prophet Zephaniah
(Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13)

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the
name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3)

℟. Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **℟.**

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. **℟.**

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. **℟.**

Second Reading

First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

(Matthew 5:12)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of Matthew

(Matthew 4:12-17)

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Communio

(Cf Psalm 33:6)

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.