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# Granville

## Catholic Church Record

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Vol. II. No. 2.

January II, 2026

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Year A

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The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

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## THE BAPTISM *of the* LORD

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As we conclude the joyful season of Christmastide, the Church turns our attention from the humble manger in Bethlehem to the flowing waters of the Jordan River. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord serves as a bridge between the hidden life of our Saviour and the beginning of His public ministry. It is a great mystery of our faith, rich with symbolism and deep spiritual significance for every person seeking to follow the path of salvation.

The Church reminds us that while Christ had no sin to wash away, He submitted Himself to the baptism of St. John the Baptist to sanctify the waters for our sake. By stepping into the river, the King of Kings did not receive holiness from the water; rather, He imparted holiness to it. He went down into the Jordan to bury the “old Adam” and to rise as the New Adam, prefiguring His own Death and Resurrection and opening

the gates of Heaven which had been closed by the fall of our first parents.

The scene at the Jordan is one of the most beautiful manifestations of the Most Holy Trinity. As the Son stands in the water, the Holy Spirit descends upon Him in the form of a dove, and the voice of the Father echoes from the heavens, declaring, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” In this moment, the divinity of Christ is revealed to the world. We are reminded that our own Baptism was not merely a symbolic washing, but a true supernatural rebirth. At the baptismal font, we were freed from the stain of original sin, clothed in the white garment of sanctifying grace, and made adopted children of God and members of the Mystical Body of Christ.

For the faithful, this feast is a call to reflect on the solemn promises made at our own Baptism. We must

ask ourselves if we are living in a manner worthy of the character imprinted on our souls. To be a Catholic is to belong entirely to God. Just as the heavens opened above Christ, the grace of the sacraments continues to flow into our lives, provided we keep our hearts open and our wills aligned with His. We are called to reject the pomps of the devil and the vanities of the world, choosing instead the humble service of the Gospel.

As we celebrate this feast, let us renew our devotion and offer thanks for the gift of our faith. We should look upon the holy water font at the entrance of our church with fresh eyes, remembering that every time we bless ourselves, we are recalling the grace of our Baptism. May we strive to please the Heavenly Father in all we do, so that we may one day hear the words said to us: “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

## 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

## 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 3: Vietnamese  
Community

### Readers

**Vigil** Rosette Chidiac, Gerry Pinto,  
Rebecca Hanson

**10:00 a.m.** Wadzi Mushininga, Reanne  
Chidiac, Jasmine Miranda

### Children's Liturgy

*Will resume in new school year*

## 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.*

## 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, Christine  
Derwin, Maria Dinh, Maria Vu Thi Duyen, John Dover, Joe Paul  
Fehir, Alan Frost, Carmen Galea, Maria Gambin, John Graham,  
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, Oswald  
Pasqual, Doris Pickering, 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.



## **Important Notice Regarding Receiving Holy Communion**

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There has been an unfortunate increase in Sacred Hosts being dropped when receiving Holy Communion. Whilst these are accidents, we all have a responsibility to ensure that the Sacred Host—the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ—is guarded and protected.

When receiving Holy Communion, please do not step to the side to consume the Sacred Host, and under no circumstances, turn away from facing the altar before you consume the Sacred Host. Please ensure that you consume the Sacred Host whilst still facing the altar and the Priest or the Extraordinary Minister.

## **Mass Offering Envelopes**

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Requests for Masses to be offered for various intentions can be sought by completing the Mass Offering envelopes which are located near the doors of the churches. Please clearly write the details of your intention on the envelope, and hand it directly to the priest before or after a Mass.

This will ensure your intention is not missed and will allow the priest to confirm your request.

## **Weekly Adoration at Holy Family Church**

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Join us each week for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held every Wednesday evening, after the 6:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Family church.

Opportunities for confessions will still be available every Wednesday evening between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Use this opportunity every week to spend some time before Our Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament and to receive the mercy given in the Sacrament of Penance.

## **Online Donations in Support of the Parish**

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Online donations can be made through the Holy Cross Parish website ([holycrossgranville.org.au](http://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.



## **Become a Parish Volunteer**

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We're always grateful for the dedication of our volunteers, and encourage others to come forward and get involved.

If you have a passion for service and some time to offer, consider joining one of our many parish ministries. There are opportunities for all ages to join in and take part in the life of the parish.

Please be aware that some volunteer positions will require a Working With Children Check whilst completion of safeguarding training is also required. Assistance will be available. For more information on how you can become a volunteer, contact the parish office. Begin the new year by becoming a parish volunteer!

## **Parish Office Closure During the Holidays**

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The Parish Office will be closed until the 19th January, and will reopen for regular office hours on 20th January.

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

## **Weekly Sacrament of Penance (Confession)**

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Experience the peace of God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession.

Confession times are available at Holy Family Church on Wednesday between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Sunday between 4:15 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. or at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday evening between 5:00 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

No matter how long it has been, the Lord is waiting for you.

## **Volunteers Needed for Children's Liturgy Groups**

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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.



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# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

*Written by Rosette Chidiac*

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The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Parish in the following way “..the parish initiates the Christian people into the ordinary expression of the liturgical life: it gathers them together in this celebration; it teaches Christ's saving doctrine; it practices the charity of the Lord in good works and brotherly love: *you cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests.*” (CCC 2179)

It's safe to say that over the past 12-months, Holy Cross Parish has truly lived out the mission of parish. As a community, we have embraced the liturgical life of the church through devotional events, enjoyed the opportunities of faith formation, and united in acts of charity and come together in many public spaces as a means of showcasing and celebrating our shared Catholic faith. For many, the parish community remained a steadfast anchor amongst many changes we may have personally experienced throughout the year. As we commence a new year, let's take a moment to look back on 2025 and all that we experienced as a parish.

The liturgy has always been the cornerstone of Holy Cross Parish, and 2025 was no different. Every week this year, day in and out, we remained steadfast in our devotions; each week 15 Masses were offered, Weekly opportunities we made to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and the Holy Rosary as a community, and 3 opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession. First Friday Holy Hours continued, and we offered the Latin Mass every month.

Liturgical events such as Tenebrae, the Shrove Tuesday Burial of the

Alleluia, Holy Thursday Altars of Repose and the Solemn Carols by Candlelight service continued in fine form. Each of these events were supported by countless volunteers, that we truly appreciate! From the readers, cantors, musicians and altar servers to church cleaners wardens and flower arrangers - they all helped make this possible!

This year, we also welcomed Fire Up Ministries to Holy Cross Granville. The Lenten Mission and Advent Mission provided three days of engaging talks on the catholic faith, allowing us to connect as a community and individually develop our own faith practices. We are grateful for the time parishioners dedicated to attending these missions, as well as Fire Up Ministries for leading us through these events.

At Granville, we're no strangers to a procession and 2025 was no different! We walked the streets of Granville on the evening of Good Friday with the annual Cross Walk. Again, we took to the streets for a Marian Procession for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The public, peaceful and solemn testament of the catholic faith took courage - and ample hours of organisation by clergy and volunteers alike. Both processions aligned with the launch of a new range of *Holy Cross Apparel*, allowing us to publicly wear our faith at both events and beyond. It's always great to see many wearing their Holy Cross Apparel at weekly Masses!

We also can't forget the Lights of Christmas Bus Trip! We had over 100 parishioners - our biggest turnout yet! - come along for a bus trip to St. Mary's Cathedral to enjoy the light show. Young and old enjoyed an evening exploring the beautiful cathedral, it's crypt, the light show and various markets. We can't wait to

do it all again in 2026!

This year, we also witnessed change of our own. After 10 years, we farewelled Fr. Andrew as our parish priest and then welcomed Fr. Galbert as our Parish Administrator and Fr Joseph as Assistant Priest. We look forward to the year ahead under the care of our new priests. We also thank Fr. Andrew for the 10 years of dedication he offered to our parish, with the many initiatives he introduced and being the driving force in the merging of our 2 former parishes into Holy Cross Parish.

As we embrace parish life, it's hard to forget those that do not have freedom to practice their faith as we do. We once again honoured Red Wednesday, lighting Holy Family Church red as a sign of unity with persecuted Christians around the world, Red Wednesday Mass was prayed for those persecuted, and we welcomed Aid to the Church in Need to a number of Masses to help raise awareness of our persecuted brothers and sisters.

We prayed for the priests who helped shape Granville over time, visiting Rookwood Cemetery to bless each of the graves of previous priests of Granville. We then joined in the chapel for Holy Mass to be offered for the repose of their souls.

2025 would not have been possible without the dedication and support of the many parishioners who volunteer their time to the community both 'on and behind the scenes.' Each of your efforts does not go unnoticed, and is pivotal to the continued growth and strengthening of the parish. A special thank you must also be offered to the parents of the many young children that volunteer in the parish. Your dedication and encouragement will continue to shape the parish in years to come. Thank you for making 2025 the year that was.





# SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

SUNDAY  
4:15PM TO 4:45PM

WEDNESDAY  
6:30PM TO 7:00PM

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

SATURDAY  
5:00PM TO 5:45PM  
FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH  
6:15PM TO 6:45PM

*Confession heals, confession justifies,  
confession grants pardon of sin,  
all hope consists in confession;  
in confession there is a chance for mercy.*

*- St. Isidore of Seville*







# WEEKDAY HOLY MASS

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

TUES, THURS, FRI, SAT  
9:15AM

WEDNESDAY  
6:00PM

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

TUES  
6:30PM

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY  
8:15AM

*"It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun  
than to do so without the Holy Mass."*

*~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina*



## ***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!



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## Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Year A

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### The Readings

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#### Introit

(Cf Matthew 3:16-17)

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,  
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,  
and the voice of the Father thundered:  
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

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#### First Reading

##### The Prophet Isaiah

(Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7)

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the nations.  
He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.  
He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.  
Faithfully he brings true justice;  
he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth,  
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;  
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;  
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light  
of the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to free captives from prison,  
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

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#### Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11)

℟. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. ℟.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. ℟.

The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever. ℟.

#### Second Reading

##### The Acts of the Apostles

(Acts 10:34-38)

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

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#### Gospel Acclamation

(See Mark 9:8)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's  
voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Alleluia!

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#### Gospel

##### The Gospel of Matthew

(Matthew 3:13-17)

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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#### Communio

(John 1:32,34)

Behold the One of whom John said:  
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

*Please ensure mobile phones are switched off  
or placed on silent during Mass.*