

# Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. II. No. 7.

February 15 2026

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



## PREPARING *for the* SPIRIT of PENANCE

As we move into the third week of February, the liturgical atmosphere of our parish begins to shift. The joyous focus on the Holy Family now leads us toward the rugged terrain of the Lenten desert. With the arrival of Ash Wednesday next week, we receive the blackened mark of the cross on our foreheads and hear the sobering admonition: "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return." This ancient rite is not meant to discourage us, but to reorient our souls. In the midst of our busy lives, Lent arrives as a necessary season of solemnity, calling us away from the comforts of the world and into a deeper encounter with the Living God.

The transition from the home of Nazareth to the desert of Lent is a natural progression in the spiritual life. To love the Holy Family is to eventually follow them to the foot of the Cross. This week, we are invited to embrace the spirit of penance, which is the firm resolve to turn away from sin and toward the Gospel. True penance is not merely an external ritual; it is an interior transformation.

It requires us to examine our consciences with honesty, acknowledging where we have allowed selfishness, pride, or worldly attachments to take root in our hearts. By stripping away these distractions, we make room for the grace of God to work within us.

The Church provides us with three traditional pillars to guide our Lenten journey: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Fasting is a particularly powerful tool in the life of the Church. By denying the body its natural desires for food or comfort, we strengthen the will and remind ourselves that "man does not live on bread alone." For us, this might mean a more rigorous observance of the Friday abstinence from meat or choosing to give up specific luxuries that have become habitual. When we fast, we create a physical hunger that points us toward our spiritual hunger for Christ. It is a small sacrifice that joins us to the great sacrifice of Our Lord.

In addition to fasting, this week calls us to a renewed fervour in prayer. As the "Alleluia" is silenced in

our liturgy, our prayer becomes more focused on reparation and petition. We pray not only for our own conversion but in reparation for the sins of the world. This is an ideal time to introduce the Stations of the Cross into your weekly routine, walking the sorrowful path of Our Lord and meditating on the price of our redemption. By uniting our daily crosses with His, we find that our burdens are made light and our sufferings gain a redemptive purpose.

As we enter the holy desert, let us not be afraid of the silence or the sacrifice. The desert is not just a place of hardship; it is the place where God speaks to the heart. By practicing the disciplines of Lent with sincerity, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection with purified souls. Let us walk this path with the same obedience and trust that St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary displayed throughout their lives. May our penance lead us to true conversion of heart, inspiring us to embrace this sacred time with a spirit of humble prayer and devotion.

## THE PARISH OFFICE

### Address

200 The Trongate,  
South Granville, N.S.W. 2142

T 0497 190 444

E [granville@parracatholic.org](mailto: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 Blessen, 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, Zoe Mrzljak, 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

No Flowers during Lent

## SOCIAL MEDIA



[holycrossgranville.org.au](http://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:  
G.Pinto, M.Moses, S.Martin, M.Magpayo,  
C.Elegado, N.Begley, J.Osei-Yamoah,  
L.Tordilla, J.John, A.Abosh, O.Ifeanyi,  
J.Raj, S.Joseph

### Readers

Vigil Gerry Pinto, Ingrid Bifulco,  
Racquel La Rosa

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

### Children's Liturgy

Sr. Susanne and Claudette Takchi

## IN MEMORIAM

Perfecto Arribas Jr., Victor Azzopardi, Joseph Baini, Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Albert Camilleri, Les Camilleri, Tessie Camilleri, Christine Derwin, John Dover, Joe Paul Fehir, Alan Frost, Carmen Galea, Maria Gamin, 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, Sheila 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

## Shrove Tuesday Burning of the Palms and Burial of the Alleluia and Pancake Supper 17 February

On Shrove Tuesday, which is celebrated this coming Tuesday, we will hold the traditional Burning of the Palms and Burial of the Alleluia in preparation for Ash Wednesday the following day.

The ashes imposed on Ash Wednesday are made from the burnt palms blessed the previous Palm Sunday. If you have blessed palms to be burned, please bring these to the church before Shrove Tuesday. These will be collected and burned to prepare the ashes.

On Shrove Tuesday, the Burning of the Palms and the Burial of the Alleluia will be held at Holy Family Church at 6:30 p.m. followed by a pancake supper at 7:00 p.m. If you can prepare some pancakes to bring along for this supper, it would be appreciated.

Note that as this will take place at Holy Family Church, **there will be no evening Mass at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church** on this day and will resume the following week.

## Into the Wilderness 2026 Lent Resource

Prepare your heart for Easter with our new parish prayer book, "Into the Wilderness." As in previous years, this guide has been prepared by John Portelli to help you pray each day with Scripture and reflections focused on the life of Christ.

A limited number of printed copies will be available next week at the Piety Shops for \$10. You can also download a digital version for free from the parish website.

We hope this book helps you find peace and prayerful focus as we walk with our Lord toward Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

## Holy Mass Commemorating Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday will be commemorated this year on 18 February. There will be five Masses said that day to allow as many people as possible to attend Mass and to be imposed with ashes.

The Holy Mass times for that day will be:

8:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church  
9:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church  
(*Delany College and Holy Trinity Primary attending*)  
9:30 a.m. at Holy Family Church  
(*Holy Family Primary attending*)  
5:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church  
6:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church

Please take note of the changes to the usual Mass times for a Wednesday and that the regular confessions on Wednesday will not be available due to the Masses and will resume the following week.



## 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](mailto:granville@parracatholic.org)

## Visit to Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy (Penrose Park) Saturday 28 February

A visit has been arranged to the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, commonly known as Penrose Park (located in the Southern Highlands) on Saturday 28 February. The shrine is a renowned place of veneration of the replica of the icon of Our Lady of Jasna Góra, known as the "Black Madonna". The shrine is ministered by the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit, known as the Pauline Fathers, who have been the custodians of the original icon of the "Black Madonna" for more than 630 years.

A bus has been arranged to take parishioners to the shrine. The bus will depart from Holy Family Church at 8:30 a.m. and depart from the shrine at 2:45 p.m. There will be Mass said at the shrine at 11:00 a.m. by the Pauline Fathers.

If you would like to visit the shrine and to request a seat on the bus, please complete in full the sign-up sheet at the doors of the churches. Please note that the bus company does require the full name, telephone number and address of each passenger so please ensure that you add these to the form.

To assist with the cost of the bus, we are asking if those attending can make a donation of \$20.

Please note that seats are strictly limited on the bus so, if you would like to attend, please complete the sign-up sheet as soon as possible.

It is suggested that those attending bring their own lunch on the day and plenty of water. We look forward to sharing this day of prayer and pilgrimage together as a community.

For more information about the shrine, visit their website at [penrosepark.com.au](http://penrosepark.com.au).



# *Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday*

AT HOLY CROSS GRANVILLE



## *Shrove Tuesday*

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

- **9:15AM** – Holy Mass
- **6:30PM** – Burning of the Palms & Burial of the 'Alleluia'
- **7PM** – Pancake Supper

Feb  
**17**  
2026

*6PM Mass at Holy Trinity Church cancelled*



## *Ash Wednesday Mass*

- **8AM** – Holy Trinity Church
- **9:15AM** – Holy Trinity Church  
(With Delany College and Holy Trinity Primary School)
- **9:30AM** – Holy Family Church  
(With Holy Family Primary School)
- **5PM** – Holy Family Church
- **6PM** – Holy Trinity Church

Feb  
**18**  
2026



HOLY CROSS PARISH, GRANVILLE

# Lenten DEVOTIONS

## Stations OF THE Cross



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
5:30PM Fridays

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
6:30PM Fridays

## Daily MASS



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
6:30PM Tuesdays  
8:15AM Wed - Sat

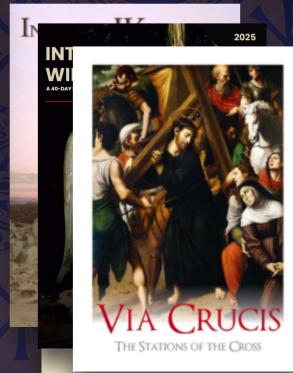
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
6PM Wednesdays  
9:15AM Tue & Thur - Sat



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, GRANVILLE  
Cnr. Randle St & Bennalong St, Granville

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, EAST GRANVILLE  
200 The Trongate, South Granville

Schedule subject to change. Please see the Granville Catholic Church Record for any changes



Available for Download on  
the Parish Website.  
Visit the 'Resources' Tab.



## Booklets for LENT



## ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
6:30PM Wednesdays

Following the 6PM Mass  
Includes Evening Prayer & Benediction



## SACRAMENT of Penance

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
6:30PM - 7PM Wednesdays  
4:15PM - 4:45PM Sundays

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
5PM - 5:45PM Saturdays

# SHRINE

Our Lady of Mercy Penrose Park  
Bus Trip

**SATURDAY  
28TH FEBRUARY**

- Leaves Holy Family Church at 8:30am.
- Holy Mass offered at the Shrine at 11:00am.
- Departs the Shrine at 2:45pm returning to Holy Family Church.
- \$20.00 per person to assist with covering cost of bus.
- Register interest by providing your details on the sheets available at both churches.

Bookings close Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026.



## ENTERING THE HOLY SEASON *of LENT*

As we prepare for the holy season of Lent, the Church invites us to step away from the noise of the world and enter a period of deep spiritual renewal. This coming week marks a profound transition in our liturgical life, moving from the celebration of the Epiphany season into the sombre, reflective atmosphere of the Great Fast. It is a time for the faithful to look inward, examine their consciences, and prepare their hearts for the glorious mysteries of Easter. By observing the traditional customs of Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, we join generations of Catholics in a journey of penance, humility, and hope.

Shrove Tuesday serves as our final day of preparation before the rigours of Lent begin. The word "shrove" comes from the Middle English word "shrive", which means to confess one's sins and receive absolution. Historically, this was the day when the faithful would flock to the confessional, ensuring they began the Lenten fast with a clean soul and heart reconciled to God. Alongside this spiritual cleansing, there is a beautiful and ancient tradition - and one we do each year in our very own parish - the burial of the Alleluia. Because Lent is a time of mourning for our sins, the joyful song of the Alleluia is omitted from all church liturgies. In many places, this is symbolised by literally burying the word, setting it aside until it rises again in triumph at the Easter Vigil.

This practice reminds us that Lent is a desert experience where we forgo certain joys to make our eventual celebration of the Resurrection even more meaningful.

Another vital task on Shrove Tuesday is the preparation for the following day's liturgy. The ashes used on Ash Wednesday do not come from ordinary wood; they are created by burning the dried palm branches that were blessed and distributed on Palm Sunday of the previous year. This creates a powerful spiritual link between the beginning of Lent and the end of Holy Week. The palms that were once waved in victory to welcome Christ into Jerusalem are reduced to grey dust, reminding us that worldly triumphs are fleeting. By burning these palms, we acknowledge that our own lives and our own pride must be humbled before God can raise us up.

When Ash Wednesday arrives, the atmosphere of the parish shifts into one of quiet reverence and strict penance. It is a day of universal fasting and abstinence, a physical way of showing our hunger for God. As we approach the altar to receive the ashes, the Priest or Extraordinary Minister traces the sign of the cross on our foreheads. This gesture is a public profession of our faith and a sign of our intent to die to ourselves during these forty days. The words spoken during the imposition of ashes - "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return" - serve as a

sobering reminder of our mortality. This is not meant to make us sad, but to help us realise that our true home is in heaven, and we must spend our time on earth preparing for eternity.

Throughout this season, we are called to practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These are the three pillars that support our spiritual growth. By praying more, we draw closer to the Heart of Jesus. By fasting, we gain mastery over our physical desires. By giving to the poor, we show love to our neighbours. Let us enter this Lent with a spirit of holy resolve, trusting that the sacrifices we make today will lead us to the everlasting light of Christ.



*Lord Jesus, as we enter this holy season, grant us humble and contrite hearts. On Shrove Tuesday, help us to seek Your forgiveness and prepare our souls for the journey ahead. As we silence the Alleluia, remind us that You alone sustain us.*

*On Ash Wednesday, let these ashes be a sign of our repentance and our desire to follow the Gospel. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, purify our love during these forty days and lead us joyfully to the glory of Your Resurrection. Amen.*



*Join us on Shrove Tuesday at Holy Family Church at 6:30pm for the Burning of the Palms and Burial of the Alleluia followed by a pancake supper and for Holy Mass on Ash Wednesday across both churches.*

## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

### The Readings

#### Introit

(Cf Psalm 30:3-4)

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

#### First Reading

**The book of Ecclesiasticus**

(Sirach 15:15-20)

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,  
to behave faithfully is within your power.  
He has set fire and water before you;  
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.  
Man has life and death before him;  
whichever a man likes better will be given him.  
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;  
he is almighty and all-seeing.  
His eyes are on those who fear him,  
he notes every action of man.  
He never commanded anyone to be godless,  
he has given no one permission to sin.

#### Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1)

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,  
who follow God's law!  
They are happy those who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts. R.

You have laid down your precepts  
to be obeyed with care.  
May my footsteps be firm  
to obey your statutes. R.

Bless your servant and I shall live  
and obey your word.  
Open my eyes that I may consider  
the wonders of your law. R.

Teach me the demands of your statutes  
and I will keep them to the end.  
Train me to observe your law,  
to keep it with my heart. R.

#### Second Reading

**First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

(1 Corinthians 2:6-10)

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

#### Gospel Acclamation

(John 8:12)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.  
Alleluia!

#### Gospel

**The Gospel of Matthew**

(Matthew 5:17-37)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'