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# Granville

## Catholic Church Record

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Vol. II. No. 12.

March 22, 2026

5th Sunday of Lent, Year A

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The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish

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### THE RAISING OF LAZARUS: A GAZE TOWARD PASSIONTIDE

The Fifth Sunday of Lent marks a transition into the final, most solemn phase of our journey toward Easter. Traditionally, this week begins the period known as Passiontide, a time when the Church deepens her focus on the suffering and sacrifice of Our Lord. As we enter the church, we may notice a striking change: the statues and crucifixes are veiled in purple cloth. This veiling is not intended to hide the saints from us, but to heighten our spiritual hunger and focus our hearts exclusively on the mystery of our redemption. In this week's Gospel, we witness the raising of Lazarus, a miracle that serves as the ultimate prelude to Christ's own victory over the grave.

St. Joseph stands as a uniquely powerful companion as we contemplate the mystery of death and the promise of life. Known as the Patron of a Happy Death, St. Joseph passed from this world in the most blessed way possible - held in the arms of Jesus and Mary. While the sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, wept in the face of their brother's death, they were met by the

profound truth that Jesus is "the Resurrection and the Life." St. Joseph lived this truth long before the public ministry of Christ began. His life of quiet service was a constant preparation for his final encounter with the Father, teaching us that a holy life is the best preparation for a holy death.

The veiling of our statues during Passiontide invites us into a deeper interior silence, much like the silence that characterized the life of St. Joseph. Just as the icons of the saints are hidden so that we may look more intently at the Cross, St. Joseph often remains "veiled" in the background of the Gospels, drawing no attention to himself so that all glory might go to his Foster Son. This week, we are invited to veil our own distractions and worldly preoccupations. By stripping away the visual and auditory noise of our daily lives, we make room to encounter the Christ who calls us out of the tombs of our sins and habits, just as He called Lazarus.

As we move closer to Holy Week, we ask St. Joseph to intercede for the

sick, the dying, and those who are grieving in our parish. The raising of Lazarus reminds us that for those who believe, death does not have the final word. St. Joseph, under his title "Hope of the Sick," provides us with the confidence to face our own vulnerabilities with peace. He shows us that when we stay close to Jesus and Mary, we have nothing to fear. Our Lenten penances - our fasting and our prayers - are the ways we untie the burial cloths of our old selves so that we may walk in the newness of life.

Our month-long reflection on St. Joseph will close this weekend, as we prepare for the triumphant entry of Palm Sunday. Let us ask St. Joseph for the grace of final perseverance. May we have the courage to follow Christ to the foot of the Cross, remaining faithful even when the path is dark and the statues are veiled. By imitating Joseph's total abandonment to God's will, we prepare our souls to experience the true joy of the empty tomb. May St. Joseph, who guarded the Redeemer in life guard us as we enter the holiest days of the year.

## THE PARISH OFFICE

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### 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.

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### 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

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**BSB:** 067-950

**Account:** 00007247

**Name:** Granville Catholic Parish

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

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### 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.

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### Rosters

#### Church and Toilets Cleaning

*Volunteers Needed*

#### Flower Arranging

*No flowers during Lent*

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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holycrossgranville.org.au



HolyCrossGranville



Holy Cross Parish App



@holycrossgranville

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

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### 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.

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### Rosters

#### Church Cleaning Group 3:

Vietnamese Community

### Readers

**Vigil** *Palm Sunday Roster*

**10:00 a.m.** *Palm Sunday Roster*

### Children's Liturgy

*Palm Sunday - No Children's Liturgy*

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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Joseph Akkary, Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton, John Augustus, Antonio Bifulco, Ann Blesson, John Borg, Vincenzo Colosimo, Lucy Farrugia, Carmello Gioenco, 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, Anthony Vella, 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

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Perfecto Arribas Jr., Victor Azzopardi, Joseph Bains, Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Albert Camilleri, Les Camilleri, Tessie Camilleri, Phyllis May Denmeade, Christine Derwin, 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, Kaye King, Thomas Lam, Rustica La Rosa, Laurie Lowe, Mouna Malkoun, Roy McDonald, Aileen McIntyre, 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

### **Stations of the Cross on Fridays During Lent and Additional Confession Times**

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Throughout the holy season of Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed twice each Friday, providing all parishioners with the opportunity to participate in this significant spiritual exercise. This devotion will be held at 5:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church and again at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

We invite you to join us as we pray the Via Crucis, reflecting upon the passion of Our Lord to better prepare our hearts for Holy Week and the joy of Easter.

*To further assist in this spiritual preparation in these final weeks of Lent, extra opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance have been scheduled. Confessions will be heard following the Stations at both churches on Friday, 27 March. Please take advantage of these additional times to seek God's mercy.*

### **Altar Servers wishing to serve at 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday at Holy Trinity Church**

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A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, 1 April for all altar servers wishing to serve at the 3:00p.m. Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday at Holy Trinity Church.

Serving during the Paschal Triduum is a profound way to participate in the most solemn days of the Church's year.

To ensure all roles are coordinated and the liturgy is conducted with due reverence, there will be a mandatory briefing and rehearsal for all volunteers:

All experienced servers and those wishing to assist for the first time are encouraged to attend. Your commitment to this ministry helps us all enter more deeply into the prayer of the Lord's Passion.

### **10th Annual Good Friday "Cross Walk"**

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We warmly invite all parishioners and members of the community to join us for our annual Stations of the Cross "Cross Walk" this Good Friday. This meaningful tradition has become a cornerstone of our parish's Lenten devotions since it first commenced in 2016, providing a solemn opportunity to reflect on the Passion of Christ through communal prayer and physical pilgrimage.

The walk will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church. From there, we will process together through our local streets toward Holy Family Church. Along the route, we will pause at the homes of various parishioners to pray one of the Stations of the Cross, to meditate on each station.

This event is a beautiful public witness of our faith, and its success relies on the hospitality of our people. Thank you to everyone who has so generously offered their homes as one of the stations this year. Your kindness allows us to bring this devotion directly into the heart of our neighbourhood.

### **Requiescat In Pace Kaye King**

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It is with sadness that we announce the death of long-time parishioner, Kaye King, who passed away recently. We entrust her soul to the mercy of God and ask for your prayers for the repose of her soul and the consolation of her family. The funeral Mass for the repose of Kaye's soul will be offered on Tuesday, 24 March at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Family Church.

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

### **First Confession (Sacrament of Penance) and First Holy Communion (Sacrament of the Eucharist)**

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Enrolment forms are now available for first confession (Sacrament of Penance) and first Holy Communion (Sacrament of the Eucharist). To be eligible, your child must have been baptised in the Catholic church, be in year 3 or above and attend Mass every Sunday.

**Enrolment forms can be collected from the parish office during regular office hours and must be returned to the parish office by 10 April.**

The First Communion Mass will be said on Saturday, 20 June at 12:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

Please be aware that those enrolling their children for these Sacraments will be obliged to attend Mass every Sunday in the parish as well as attending all lessons and the preparation.

### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

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Enrolment forms are now available for the Sacrament of Confirmation. To be eligible, your child must have been baptised in the Roman Catholic church, be in year 5 or above and attend Mass every Sunday. **Enrolment forms can be collected from the parish office during regular office hours and must be returned to the parish office by 10 April.**

The Mass will be said on Thursday, 25 June at 6:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church. Attendance at all lessons and the preparation is mandatory.

Please be aware that those enrolling their children for this Sacrament are obliged to attend Mass every Sunday. May the Holy Spirit guide our candidates as they prepare to become faithful witnesses of Christ.

# *A service of Psalms, Prayers & Candles*

# *Tenebrae*



*Holy Tuesday*

*Tuesday 31st March - 7 p.m.*

*Holy Trinity Church, Granville*



# CROSS WALK

*Friday 3rd April*  
*5:30 p.m.*

Join us for a solemn procession of  
the Stations of the Cross  
through the streets of Granville  
in honour of Good Friday

## *Starting*

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
Cnr. Bennalong & Randle St

## *Ending*

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
200 The Trongate



# Palm Sunday



29 MARCH

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

4:30PM - VIGIL MASS *Sat 28th March*  
8:30AM - HOLY MASS *Sun 29th March*  
5PM - HOLY MASS *Sun 29th March*

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

6PM - VIGIL MASS *Sat 28th March*  
10AM - HOLY MASS *Sun 29th March*

# Holy Week



# Holy Tuesday

31 MARCH

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

7PM - TENEBRAE

*A solemn service of psalms, prayers & candles*

# Holy Thursday



2 APRIL

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

5:30PM - MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

7:30PM - MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Followed by Adoration before the Altar of Repose*



# Good Friday

3 APRIL

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

9:30AM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

10:30AM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

## HOLY FAMILY & HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

3PM - COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

5:30PM - CROSS WALK

# Easter Sunday



## Easter Vigil

4 APRIL

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

5:30PM - VIGIL MASS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

8PM - VIGIL MASS

## Easter Sunday

5 APRIL

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

8:30AM - HOLY MASS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

10AM - HOLY MASS

HOLY TRINITY, GRANVILLE  
CNR. RANDLE ST & BENNALONG ST

HOLY FAMILY, EAST GRANVILLE  
200 THE TRONGATE





## THE VICTORY *of* CHRIST OVER *the* GRAVE

As we approach the end of this Lenten season, the liturgy brings us to the gates of Bethany. The Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent recounts the raising of Lazarus, a great mystery that serves as the final sign before the events of Holy Week. In this narrative, we encounter the full range of Christ's humanity and divinity. We see Him weeping at the tomb of His friend showing a heart moved by the sting of death, yet we also hear the thunderous command that shatters the power of the grave: "Lazarus, come out!"

The raising of Lazarus is more than a miracle of resuscitation; it is a theological declaration. Jesus tells Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life." He does not merely say He brings life, but that He is life. For the faithful Catholic, this Sunday is a stark reminder that the purpose of our Lenten fasts and penances is to prepare us for this supernatural life. We are not just trying to be better people; we are being prepared to share in the very life of God, over which death has no final authority.



### THE BONDS OF DEATH

When Jesus arrives at the tomb, He finds that Lazarus has been dead for four days. In the traditional understanding of the time, this meant that decay had already begun; hope was humanly impossible. Lazarus, bound hand and foot with burial bands and his face wrapped in a cloth is an image of the soul caught

in the grip of habitual sin. Just as Lazarus could not free himself from the tomb, we cannot free ourselves from the spiritual death of sin by our own efforts.

We often carry "burial bands" of our own - attachments to the past, deep-seated vices, or a lack of forgiveness that keeps us confined in a spiritual darkness. We may feel that our situation is too far gone or that we have been in the tomb of a particular sin for too long. However, the Gospel reminds us that no stone is too heavy for the Lord to roll away. Christ comes to the mouth of our personal tombs and calls us by name, inviting us to step out into the light of His mercy.



### THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY

A striking detail in this account is that after Jesus brings Lazarus back to life, He gives a command to those standing by: "Unbind him and let him go." Whilst Christ alone has the power to give life, He involves the community in the process of restoration. This points towards the sacramental life of the Church. In the Sacrament of Penance, the priest, acting in the person of Christ, pronounces the words of absolution that unbind the penitent.

Our Lenten observance is not a solitary one. We are part of a Mystical Body, and we have a responsibility to help unbind one another through our prayers, our sacrifices, and our works of mercy.

When we encourage a fellow parishioner, when we pray for the conversion of sinners, or when we help someone carry their burden, we are participating in the liberating work of Christ.



### LOOKING TOWARD THE CROSS

The raising of Lazarus was the event that ultimately sealed the earthly fate of Jesus. The authorities, seeing His power, begin to plot His death in earnest. There is a significant exchange at work here: Christ gives life to Lazarus, knowing that it will lead to His own death on the Cross. He accepts the wrapping of the grave so that we might be clothed in the robes of immortality.

As we prepare to enter the solemnity of Holy Week, we must ask ourselves if we are ready to leave the tomb behind. The miracle at Bethany is a rehearsal for Easter, a foretaste of the glory that awaits those who remain faithful to the end. Let us use these final days of Lent to shed whatever remains of our old self so that we may be ready to rise with Him in the joy of the Paschal Mystery.



### A CALL TO ACTION

Reflect this week on any "burial bands" of habit or despair that still restrict your spiritual freedom. Present these obstacles to the Lord, trusting that His voice is louder than the grave. By surrendering your will to His, you will discover the path to a life that never ends.

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## 5th Sunday of Lent, Year A

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### The Readings

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#### Introit

(Cf Psalm 42:1-2)

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

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#### First Reading

**The Prophet Ezekiel**

(Ezekiel 37:12-14)

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

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#### Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 22 R. v.1)

℟. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. ℟.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. ℟.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord. ℟.

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. ℟.

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#### Second Reading

**Letter of St Paul to the Romans**

(Romans 8:8-11)

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

#### Gospel Acclamation

(See John 11:25. 26)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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#### Gospel

**The Gospel of John**

(John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38)

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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#### Communio

(Cf John 11:26)

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

*Take a copy of this bulletin home with you  
for important news and information.*