
Granville

Catholic Church Record

Vol. II. No. 20.

May 17, 2026

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



The Mystery of the Ascension: The High Priest *in* Glory

The mystery of the Ascension of the Lord holds a special place in the life of the Church. It serves as the final seal on the work of our salvation. While Easter is the victory over the grave, the Ascension is the celebration of that victory being taken into heaven. In the long tradition of the faith, this is seen not as a goodbye, but as a royal coronation. When the Lord ascended, He did not leave His human nature behind. Instead, He carried our own flesh and blood - the same nature we all share - into the heart of heaven. This means that a human body now sits at the right hand of the Father. Because our Head has entered into glory, we, the members of His Body, have the hope of following Him one day.

A beautiful tradition that helps us understand this mystery is the handling of the Paschal Candle. Since the night of the Easter Vigil, this tall candle has remained lit near the altar as a symbol of the Lord's physical presence on earth after His Resurrection. On the day of the Ascension, the flame is solemnly

extinguished. This is not meant to be a sad moment. Rather, it is a visual lesson. It marks the end of the time when the Lord was seen physically by His friends and the beginning of the time when He is present to us in a new way through the Sacraments. As the small trail of smoke rises, it reminds us of the cloud that took Him from the sight of the Apostles. It teaches us to look for him now with the eyes of faith rather than the eyes of the body.

In earlier times, this day was often marked by great processions. These were meant to look like the arrival of a conquering hero returning to his home city. This helps us see the Ascension as an act of perfect justice. The One who humbles Himself to die on a cross is now rightfully raised above every power in the universe. For those of us in here today in this holy place, this reality gives us a sense of holy longing. It reminds us that while we live in this world, our true home is elsewhere. This does not mean we ignore our duties here on earth. Instead, it means we perform them with our hearts fixed on

heaven. Knowing where the Lord has gone gives us a roadmap for our own souls.

Finally, the Ascension marks the start of the Lord's constant work as our High Priest. In heaven, He continues to stand before the Father, offering His life for our sake. Every time we attend Mass, we are joining in this eternal prayer. We have a friend in heaven who truly understands what it is like to be human, because He lived, suffered, and died just as we do. He is there now preparing a place for us. As the gates of paradise were thrown open on that day, we find a reason for deep and lasting joy. The path to the Father is no longer blocked, and the way home is finally open for all of us.

Today, we share the joy the Apostles felt as they returned to Jerusalem. The Ascension is not a vanishing act, but a promise of our own future homecoming. By keeping our hearts fixed on the Lord who has gone before us, we find the strength to live as His witnesses, knowing He now waits for us in the glory of the Father's house.

THE PARISH OFFICE

Address

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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

Nigerian Community Members,
Sam Eid, Sharlene Eid

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 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.Pattalath-Joseph

Readers

Vigil Gerry Pinto, Ingrid Bifulco,
Racquel La Rosa

10:00 a.m. Jasmine Miranda,
Merlin Sandhiya, Armani Barakat

Children's Liturgy

Sr. Susanne and Claudette Takchi

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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, 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.

IN MEMORIAM

Juanita Zavalla Adato, Gil Adato, Victor Azzopardi, Joseph
Baini, Carmen Bonello, Charlie Bonello, Dick Cahill, Gwen
Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Albert Camilleri, Les Camilleri, Tessie
Camilleri, 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, Lucila De Manuel, Roy
McDonald, Aileen McIntyre, Jack McIntyre, Nancy McIntyre,
Marie McDonald, Giovanna Mondello, Santo Mondello,
Anthony Newell, Jessica Nguyen, Vincent Nguyen, Michael
O'Brien, Peter Olsen, Zackary Orenshaw, Doris Pickering,
Edward Pidgeon, Robert Pidgeon, Sheila Pidgeon, Peter
Robertson, Grace Saliba, Louis Saliba, Garry Smith, Alex
Taktak, Anthony Vella, John Vella, Peter Van Duc Vu, Graham
Wales, Carmel Watts, Phyllis Webb, Mershed Wehbe, Yasmine
Wehbe, William Yott, Dib Zaiter, Laila Zaiter, Jessie Zammit

Silver Jubilee Celebrations for Fr. Joseph Nguyen

Parishioners are warmly invited to Holy Trinity Church on Saturday, 30th May at 11:00 a.m. as we celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving to honour the 25th Anniversary of Ordination for our Assistant Priest, Father Joseph, marking twenty-five years of faithful service and ministry.

Following the Mass, the festivities will continue in the primary school grounds. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather, celebrate, and show our sincere appreciation for Father Joseph's vocation and his service to Almighty God and the Church. May he be blessed in abundance for his faithful service.

A Call to Action: Your Parish Needs You!

We continue to invite members of our parish to reflect on how they might share their time and talents. Our parish thrives when it is supported by the collective efforts of many, rather than the work of just a few, and we are still in need of volunteers to ensure our vital ministries continue. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to those who have already reached out and stepped forward to offer their help over the last few weeks.

For those still considering a role, we are currently seeking assistance with altar serving, reading, music, and children's liturgy, as well as hospitality and the regular cleaning of our churches. Being part of a parish is about more than just attendance; it is an invitation to take an active role in the life of the Church. Whether you can give a little time or a lot, your contribution remains essential to our mission.

If you are ready to help, please speak with Fr. Galbert or contact the parish office for further information.

Diocese of Parramatta Bishop's Good Works Appeal

Across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, people turn to the Church for care, hope, guidance and belonging. Through the Bishop's Good Works Appeal, our Diocese supports vital ministries including Holy Spirit Seminary, Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Over the coming weeks, this Appeal will support Holy Spirit Seminary at Harris Park, helping form the future priests our Diocese will need in the years ahead. Your generosity provides education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation for seminarians as they answer God's call. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan the QR code. Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church.



Sacrament of Penance at Holy Cross Parish

Parishioners are encouraged to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Penance for the sanctification of their souls and spiritual renewal. Through humble confession and the priest's absolution, we receive God's mercy, purifying our hearts and restoring our union with the Church.

Confessions are heard each Wednesday at Holy Family Church from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and every Sunday from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. At Holy Trinity Church, the Sacrament is available every Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Come and experience the profound peace of Christ's mercy.

2026 National Count of Attendance

Our parish is currently participating in the 2026 National Count of Attendance. This nationwide project occurs every five years alongside the Australian Census to help the Church better understand current patterns of religious practice.

During the remaining weekends in May, we will continue counting everyone attending our Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. This process will not disrupt our liturgy and is essential for future pastoral planning.

Holy Trinity Church Audio System Upgrade Appeal

Thanks to those who have already reached out regarding the audio system at Holy Trinity Church. This system has been the backbone of our communications during Holy Mass for many years, but it is now in need of upgrading.

This essential upgrade is a continued part of our long-term refurbishment and restoration program, which has been effectively improving both parish churches for many years. To ensure that every parishioner can hear the prayers and the Word of God with absolute clarity, we are hoping to install a modern, professional-grade system to provide vastly improved sound coverage in all parts of the church.

We continue to seek major sponsors and significant donations to fund this vital work. While we understand current cost of living pressures, we invite those in a position to do so to consider a significant financial contribution. Please contact the Parish Office during the week or speak to Father Galbert directly after Mass to discuss how you can help. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.



THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA & CHRIST IN GLORY

Last Wednesday, 13 May, the Church commemorated the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three humble shepherd children in the Cova da Iria, Portugal. While this memorial occurred during the week, its profound message resonates deeply as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension. As Our Lord ascends to His throne in glory, He entrusts the mission of the Gospel to His followers, promising to remain with them until the end of time. The appearance of Mary at Fatima serves as a powerful reminder of this enduring divine presence. She does not come to offer a new revelation, but to call the faithful back to the heart of her Son, ensuring that the mission entrusted to the Church is lived with authentic devotion and a spirit of true conversion.

The apparitions at Fatima took place during a period of immense global upheaval, yet the message delivered was one of spiritual responsibility and hope. Mary identified herself as the “Lady of the Rosary” and requested the children pray this prayer daily to obtain peace for the world. As we contemplate Christ taking His seat at the right hand of the Father, we recognise that the peace He promised is often sought through our own intercession and fidelity. Fatima reminds us that while our Head has ascended to heaven, we, His Body, remain on earth with a duty to pray for the salvation of all and to witness to the

sovereign authority of God over human history.



A CALL TO CONVERSION

The core of the Fatima message is a radical call to repentance and reparation, echoing Christ’s own command to preach repentance to all nations. Mary asked the children to offer their daily lives for the conversion of sinners, highlighting the spiritual solidarity that binds the human family. This refocuses our attention on the reality that our moral choices have eternal significance. In a world that frequently loses its sense of the sacred, Fatima urges us to turn away from the darkness of indifference and toward the light of the Gospel. It is a call to take up the mantle of our baptismal responsibilities, offering our sacrifices for the healing of a broken world and the restoration of souls to God’s grace.



THE POWER OF PRAYER

The Rosary is a contemplative exercise that aligns our hearts with the life and authority of Jesus. Through Mary’s intercession, we are led to meditate on the mysteries of salvation, from the Incarnation to the Glorious Ascension. In this way, the Rosary becomes a means for the faithful to keep their hearts fixed on where the true joys are to be found. Mary shows us that prayer is the essential fuel for our mission; it is the way we receive the strength to be the

Lord’s witnesses. As a community, we are encouraged to rediscover this prayer as a way of inviting the Holy Spirit to transform our families and our wider society.



WITNESSING THE MESSAGE

Living the message of Fatima today means becoming active participants in the Great Commission. Just as the three shepherd children stood firm in their testimony despite being misunderstood, we are called to hold fast to our faith in the public square. This witness is found in the small, daily acts of fidelity; being a person of integrity, speaking the truth with love, and performing acts of penance for the sake of others. By doing so, we make the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the reign of Christ visible to those who are searching for direction. We prove that the Lord’s departure at the Ascension was not abandonment, but the beginning of a new era where His grace works through the lives of His people.



A CALL TO ACTION

Reflect this week on how you can incorporate the Rosary into your daily routine for the intention of peace in the world. Consider making a small act of sacrifice or penance to support the conversion of hearts within your own family or workplace. Invite Our Lady of Fatima to lead you closer to the heart of her Son, so that your life may reflect the glory of His kingdom.

HOLY CROSS PARISH GRANVILLE

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 2026

Corpus Christi

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

10:00AM

HOLY MASS FOLLOWED BY
PROCESSION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*Holy Trinity Church
Cnr. Randle St. & Bennalong St. Granville*





DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Bishop's
**GOOD
WORKS
APPEAL**

**HELP OUR SEMINARIANS
ANSWER GOD'S CALL
AND SUPPORT THE FUTURE
PRIESTS OF OUR CHURCH**

Thank you for your generosity.

Saints & STUFF

St. Rita of Cascia

St. Rita of Cascia, whose feast day is 22 May, is often invoked for "impossible" causes, but her life reveals a woman of immense grit. Long before entering the convent, Rita acted as a peacemaker during a violent vendetta in 14th-century Italy. After her husband was murdered, she famously hid his bloodied shirt to prevent her sons from seeking revenge, even praying they would die before committing murder—a request granted when both succumbed to illness shortly after.

Her entry into religious life was equally extraordinary. Initially rejected by the Augustinian nuns, tradition holds that she was miraculously transported into the monastery past locked doors by her patron saints. She was eventually accepted and spent forty years in prayer, marked by a "partial stigmata"—a single, painful wound on her forehead that appeared to come from a thorn from Christ's crown.

The symbol of the rose stems from her final days when, in freezing January, she asked for a flower from her former home. Against all odds, a red rose was found blooming in the frosted garden, a sign that even withered hope finds new life through the Resurrection.

St. Rita of Cascia, pray for us.

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Ascension of the Lord

661 This final stage stays closely linked to the first, that is, to his descent from heaven in the Incarnation. Only the one who "came from the Father" can "return to the Father": Christ. "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man." Only Christ can open to man such access that we, his members, might have the confidence that we too shall go where he, our Head and our Source, has preceded us.

664 "Being seated at the Father's right hand" signifies the inauguration of the Messiah's kingdom, the fulfilment of the prophet Daniel's vision regarding the Son of man: "To him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

849 The missionary mandate. "Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be 'the universal sacrament of salvation,' the Church, ultimately in obedience to the holy demands of her own catholicity and because of the command of her founder, constantly endeavours to proclaim the Gospel to all men."

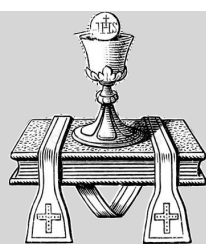
CATHOLIC Trivia

Coffee with a Capuchin

Next time you visit your favourite café for a morning coffee, admire your cappuccino. This beloved staple of Australian coffee culture actually has a surprising history, dating back to the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. The name is no coincidence; it is a direct tribute to the reddish-brown robes and long, pointed hoods worn by these friars. In Italian, a hood is called a "cappuccio," leading to the diminutive "cappuccino" for the drink that shared their wardrobe's colour palette.

It is a charming historical irony that an order founded on radical poverty and simplicity became the namesake for a worldwide favourite. While the friars were famously humble, the visual resemblance between a monk's brown tunic and the blend of espresso and frothed milk was too striking for 17th-century Europeans to ignore.

Today, enjoying that perfect layer of foam and chocolate, you follow a tradition that bridges the gap between the monastery and the milk jug. Whether in a busy city, a quiet parish hall or in the comfort of your own home, every sip carries a caffeinated reminder of this centuries-old holy heritage. It is a beautiful way to see how faith subtly permeates even the most ordinary parts of our daily modern lives here in Australia and around the world.



MASS MATTERS

The Greeting

Following the Sign of the Cross, the priest initiates the Greeting, most commonly stating, "The Lord be with you." This significant exchange is not a casual "hello" but a formal liturgical greeting with deep biblical roots, mirroring the words of Boaz to his harvesters and the Archangel Gabriel to Mary.

When we respond, "And with your spirit," we are not simply returning a pleasantry. We are acknowledging the grace of the Holy Spirit received by the priest at his ordination, which enables him to act in the person of Christ during the Sacrifice. This ancient dialogue establishes a spiritual bond between the celebrant and the congregation, uniting us as one Body as we advance further into our sacred pilgrimage.

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Year A

The Readings

Introit

(Acts of the Apostles 1:11)

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

The Acts of the Apostles

(Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11)

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6)

℟. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. ℟.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. ℟.

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.℟.

Second Reading

Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

(Ephesians 1:17-23)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

(Matthew 28:19. 20)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of Matthew

(Matthew 28:16-20)

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Communio

(Matthew 28:20)

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.



*"My Immaculate Heart will
be your refuge and the path
that will lead you to God".*

Our Lady of Fatima