
Granville

Catholic Church Record

Vol. II. No. 33.

August 16, 2026

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



~ OUR LADY'S CROWN OF GLORY ~

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is commemorated on 15 August, the Church celebrates one of the most glorious dogmas of our holy faith: that the Immaculate Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. Solemnly defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950 in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, this truth confirms what the faithful had devoutly believed and celebrated for centuries. Because Mary was preserved from all stain of Original Sin from the first instant of her Conception, it was entirely fitting that her pure body - which bore the Redeemer of the World - should not suffer the physical corruption of the tomb. We must always distinguish her Assumption from Christ's Ascension: while Our Lord ascended into Heaven by His own divine power, Mary was elevated into Heaven by the sovereign power and abundant grace of Almighty God.

To fully grasp this profound mystery, Catholic theology looks to

the Old Testament, where we find Mary prefigured as the true Ark of the Covenant. The ancient Ark, crafted from incorruptible wood and overlaid with gold, contained the manna from the desert, the rod of Aaron, and the stone tablets of the Law. Yet these were merely earthly shadows of the reality to come. Mary is the true and living Ark of the Covenant, for within her pure womb she carried Jesus Christ - the Living Bread descended from Heaven, the Eternal High Priest, and the Incarnate Word of God. Just as the ancient Ark was led triumphantly into the holy city of Jerusalem, so too was Mary, the ultimate sanctuary of the Lord, brought body and soul into the Heavenly Jerusalem to dwell forever in the presence of the Most Holy Trinity.

The Assumption is far more than an extraordinary tribute to Our Lady; it carried great meaning for every Christian pilgrim on earth. Above all, Mary's Assumption serves as a radiant beacon of hope, revealing the ultimate destiny that awaits all who remain faithful to Christ. Where

Mary, the first and most perfect disciple, has gone in her full humanity, the rest of the Mystical Body is called to follow at the general resurrection on the Last Day. Furthermore, this dogma offers a powerful remedy to modern materialism by proclaiming the sacred dignity of the human body. Our bodies are not disposable instruments or mere biological shells; they are sacred temples of the Holy Spirit, redeemed by Christ's Precious Blood and destined for eternal glorification.

Finally, being assumed into Heaven does not render Our Lady distant from our daily trials. On the contrary, exalted above the choirs of angels and saints, she stands directly before the throne of her Divine Son as our advocate and loving mother. From her place in heavenly glory, she continuously intercedes for us, hearing our prayers, comforting our sorrows, and guiding us along the narrow path of virtue. Let us commit to living holy lives and remain confident that our heavenly Mother will lead us safely home to her Son.

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

Nigerian Community

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, 7:15 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 Racquel La Rosa, Gerry Pinto,
Rebecca Hanson

10:00 a.m. Armani Barakat, Sisters,
Jasmine Miranda

Children's Liturgy

Sr. Susanne and Shanthi Xavier

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 Warden, 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

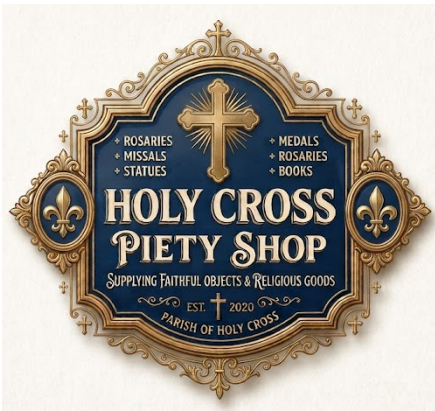
Geoff Armstrong, Norma Armstrong, Victor Azzopardi, Joseph
Baini, Carmen Bonello, Charlie Bonello, Dick Cahill, Gwen
Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Alan Frost, Carmen Galea, Maria
Gambin, John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech,
Melissa Irons, Salim Karaki, Paul Karam, Nouhad Khoury, Kaye
King, Thomas Lam, Rustica La Rosa, Laurie Lowe, Mouna
Malkoun, Bette McGrath, Roy McDonald, Aileen McIntyre,
Jack McIntyre, Lindsay McIntyre, Nancy McIntyre, Mary
McIntyre, Marie McDonald, Anthony Newell, Jack Newell,
Jean Newell, Jessica Nguyen, Vincent Nguyen, Michael
O'Brien, Peter Olsen, Zackary Orenshaw, Jack Pickering,
Samuel Pickering, Edward Pidgeon, Robert Pidgeon, Sheila
Pidgeon, Flory Pinto, Peter Robertson, Grace Saliba, Louis
Saliba, Geoff Senior, Garry Smith, Kerry Savvas, Alex Taktak,
John Toye, John Vella, Graham Wales, Carmel Watts, Phyllis
Webb, Mershed Wehbe, Yesmine Wehbe, Noelene Yott,
William Yott, Jessie Zammit, Dib Zaiter, Laila Zaiter

Maintaining the Cleanliness of Our Churches

A reminder to all parishioners and visitors to help maintain the beauty and solemnity of our churches. Recently, a noticeable amount of rubbish, including used tissues, service bulletins, and empty water bottles, has been left behind in the pews following Masses.

Our churches are the house of God, and caring for these holy places is a shared act of reverence and deep respect for His presence. Please take a moment to check your area before departing, ensuring all personal belongings and rubbish are taken with you.

Thank you for your thoughtful cooperation and continued stewardship in keeping our parish churches clean, welcoming, and worthy of solemn worship.



Visit our Church Piety Shops

Are you looking for a holy gift for an upcoming Sacrament, or a devotional aid for your own spiritual life? Our parish piety shops offer a beautiful selection of sacred items to deepen your faith and assist your daily prayers. Stop by after Holy Mass this weekend to browse our stock.

Our collection includes blessed rosaries, missals, Bibles, crucifixes, holy cards, and spiritual reading. Find the perfect sacramental keepsake or religious item to inspire devotion.

Thank you Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Last Friday evening we celebrated the vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with Holy Mass at Holy Trinity Church, followed by a candlelight procession of the Blessed Virgin Mary from Holy Trinity Church to Holy Family Church.

Thank you to all those who made these celebrations possible, in particular, those who arranged the music and lead the singing, to all our altar servers that served the Mass and the procession, to Joe Chidiac for driving the parish bus both before the Mass and after the procession, to Rosette Chidiac and Claudette Takchi for leading the procession, to Richard Zaiter for organising safety marshals and securing the route, to all those who volunteered as marshals and all those who helped carry the statue of Our Lady.

Thank you to those who made the beautiful arrangements of flowers for both our churches and the arrangement that decorated the bier that carried the statue of Our Lady, and to all who devotedly joined us in the procession to give witness to the love of Our Lady to the world.

It is because of those who generously give their time and talents to the parish that we are able to make these events possible and for that we are truly grateful.

Finally, thank you to all those that joined us and took part in the procession and honouring Our Blessed Mother in this special way. May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for you and your families, and just as we walked with her and took our faith to the streets, may she walk with us during our earthly pilgrimage and finally lead us to her Beloved Son, Our Lord and Saviour.

Reminder for Mobile Phones to be Switched Off Before Commencement of Holy Mass

Before the Holy Mass begins, parishioners are reminded to turn off or switch their mobile phones to silent upon entering the church.

The church is the house of God and a place of sacred silence. A ringing phone directly disrupts the solemnity of the liturgy and distracts others from prayerful devotion before the Blessed Sacrament.

Please leave the noise of the world outside the church doors, offering our Lord your undivided attention. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining quiet reverence and sanctity in our churches.

Holy Trinity Church Audio System Upgrade Appeal

A sincere thank you to everyone supporting the audio system upgrade at Holy Trinity Church. To help fund this next vital step in our parish refurbishment, we have applied for a NSW Government Community Building Partnership Grant.

If you would like to make a contribution toward this project, please contact the Parish Office or donate securely online at holycrossgranville.org.au/donate or by scanning the QR code below.

Thank you for your enduring stewardship and care in preserving our sacred buildings.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Volunteers Needed!



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

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





THE KING'S DAUGHTER IN GILDED CLOTHING

~ The Armenian Tradition ~

Our liturgical pilgrimage through the rich tapestry of the universal Church brings us to the towering peaks of the Caucasus mountains and the sacred shadow of Mount Ararat. It was here, in the year A.D. 301, that the Kingdom of Armenia earned the historic distinction of becoming the very first sovereign nation on earth to officially adopt Christianity as its state religion. Following the miraculous conversion of King Tiridates III through the untiring witness of St. Gregory the Illuminator, the faith took deep, indelible root in the Armenian soul. From the heroic apostolic dawn arose the Armenian Tradition - a liturgical family celebrated for its regal magnificence, deep theological clarity, and poignant, hauntingly beautiful sacred music.

Today, this sacred inheritance is cherished and preserved in full communion with the Holy See by the Armenian Catholic Church, alongside its sister Apostolic Tradition. Throughout the centuries marked by severe persecution, foreign domination, and tragic exile, the Armenian people have fiercely safeguarded their faith as the ultimate anchor of their cultural identity. Rather than extinguishing their spiritual life, these historic tribulations refined Armenian worship into a luminous witness of glorious faith-filled hope, carrying the light of the Gospel from their historic homeland across every corner of the globe.

At the core of the Armenian Tradition is its sacred language, *Grabar* (Classical Armenian). Created in A.D. 405 by St. Mesrop Mashtots specifically to translate the Holy Scriptures, the Armenian alphabet is revered as a divine gift designed to sanctify human speech. The Divine Liturgy - known in Armenian as the *Badarak* - is a sacred drama of divine beauty. Its ancient prayers are enveloped in the soaring, melancholic melodies of *Sharagans* (traditional hymns), which infuse the liturgy with an atmosphere of profound solemnity, sacred grandeur, and heavenly longing.

Liturgically, the Armenian Rite possesses a fascinating blend of Eastern and Western elements, complemented by vestments and visual symbols entirely unique to its heritage. Unlike most Eastern traditions that use leavened bread and dilute wine with water, the Armenian *Badarak* uniquely employs completely unleavened bread and pure, unwatered wine, emphasising the singular purity and divinity of the Eucharist. The sanctuary itself is dominated by a majestic altar curtain (*Varagoyr*), which is drawn closed at sacred intervals to shield the most solemn mysteries of the consecration from public view.

The vestments worn by the Armenian celebrants are among the most regal in all of Christendom. The priest wears the *Shoorchar*, a heavy, embroidered cape-like mantle, paired

with the *Vakass* - a stiffened standing collar embroidered with the images of the Twelve Apostles, worn around the neck to symbolise spiritual authority. On his head sits the *Saghavart*, a high, crown-like mitre adorned with jewels and sacred imagery. When bestowing blessings, the priest holds a delicate, veil-covered metal hand cross (*Dzerats Khatch*), raising it to impart God's grace upon the congregation. Furthermore, during the Eucharistic prayer, the altar servers gently shake the *Kshotz* - circular liturgical fans rimmed with small bells and bearing the faces of six-winged seraphim - creating an angelic chiming sound that symbolises the unseen presence of the heavenly host surrounding the altar.

Today, Armenian Catholic communities flourish in traditional centres across the Middle East and Europe, as well as in vibrant diaspora parishes across Australia, North America, and South America. In encountering the Armenian Tradition, we behold a heroic faith that has endured through centuries of trial while continuing to sing the praises of God in unblemished splendour. As our feature series nears its final chapter, exploring these distinct Eastern liturgical families reminds us of the true universality of the Church. In every tongue, rite, and culture, the King's daughter shines in gilded clothing, offering her timeless praise to the Heavenly Bridegroom.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

WEDNESDAY
AFTER 6:00PM MASS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH
AFTER 7:00PM MASS

*Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore;
Oh, make us love thee more and more.
Oh, make us love thee more and more!*

Saints & STUFF

St. Monica

In today's Gospel, a Canaanite woman earnestly begs Jesus to heal her daughter. Despite initial silence, her humble persistence deeply moves Christ, who praises her great faith and grants her request. A profound historical mirror to this unwavering devotion is St. Monica, a fourth-century North African woman whose decades of tearful prayer transformed Christian history.

St. Monica watched her brilliant but headstrong son, Augustine, drift into a hedonistic lifestyle and dangerous secular philosophies. Where others would have surrendered to heartbreak, St. Monica refused to abandon his soul. For nearly twenty years, she followed him across the Mediterranean to Italy, continuously offering tears, fasting, and prayers for his conversion.

Her relentless intercession was gloriously answered when Augustine experienced a radical conversion, eventually becoming one of the Church's greatest theologians. A wise bishop famously comforted her during her trial, saying, "It is impossible that the son of so many tears should perish." St. Monica's life powerfully echoes the Canaanite woman's courage, reminding us that persistent, trusting prayer in difficult times is never ignored by God.

St. Monica, Pray for us!

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Blessed Virgin Mary

964 Mary's role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it. This union of the mother with the Son in the work of salvation is made manifest from the time of Christ's virginal conception up to his death...

966 "Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death." The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians...

972 After speaking of the Church, her origin, mission, and destiny, we can find no better way to conclude than by looking to Mary. In her we contemplate what the Church already is in her mystery on her pilgrimage of faith, and what she will be in the homeland at the end of her journey. There, "in the glory of the Most Holy and Trinity,"... "the Church is greeted in the person of the Mother of God, whom she venerates as her own Mother and as the Queen of heaven."

CATHOLIC Trivia

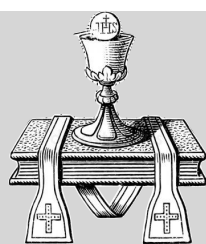
The Blessing of Herbs and Flowers

Did you know that flowers and fragrant herbs were traditionally blessed in Catholic churches on 15 August? On the Solemnity of the Assumption, parishes around the world observe a beautiful ancient custom known as the "Blessing of the Harvest."

This tradition stems from a beloved early Christian legend. According to ancient accounts, when the Apostles opened the Virgin Mary's tomb three days after her burial, they found her body gone. In its place lay an abundance of sweet-smelling lilies, wild flowers, and aromatic herbs. The fragrant blossoms symbolised her purity and grace, while the medicinal herbs represented spiritual healing.

From the fifth century onwards, farmers and gardeners brought their harvest—medicinal plants, wheat, and garden blossoms—to Mass to be blessed. These bouquets were taken home to protect dwellings, heal sickness, and express gratitude for God's provision.

This charming custom reminds us that Mary's Assumption was the first fruits of humanity's redemption. Just as herbs bring healing and flowers bring beauty, Mary's sinless life brought the fragrance of Christ into our world. Bringing blossoms to church on her feast remains a delightful way to praise the Creator.



MASS MATTERS

~ The Mystery of Faith and Great Amen ~

Right after the Consecration, the priest proclaims, "The mystery of faith." We respond by proclaiming Christ's death, resurrection, and promised return. This is not just remembering past history; through the power of the Mass, Christ's one saving sacrifice becomes truly present to us today.

The priest then prays for the whole Church—our Pope, local bishop, the living, and the faithful departed. This reminds us that every Mass unites the entire Church on earth with the saints in heaven.

The Eucharistic Prayer reaches its climax as the priest lifts up the Body and Blood, giving all glory to the Father. We then offer our Great Amen ("So be it!"), our most important response of the Mass, giving our personal "Yes" to the entire prayer.

The Readings

Introit
(Psalm 83:10-11)

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading
The Prophet Isaiah
(Isaiah 56:1.6-7)

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm
(Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8)

℟. O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. ℟.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. ℟.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. ℟.

Second Reading
Letter of St. Paul to the Romans
(Romans 11:13-15. 29-32)

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are

disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation
(Matthew 4:23)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Gospel
The Gospel of Matthew
(Matthew 15:21-28)

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Communio
(Psalm 129:7)

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

"This woman of Canaan shows us an example of humility and the path of godliness... She cried out while the Lord acted as though He heard her not, not to refuse mercy, but that her desire might be enkindled and her humility set forth. By acknowledging her position and asking for crumbs, her humility raised her up, and she obtained what she sought."

- St. Augustine of Hippo