
Granville

Catholic Church Record

Vol. II. No. 37.

September 13, 2026

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

This week brings us to the very heart of Holy Cross Month as our parish gathers to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 14 September. For us at Holy Cross Parish, Granville this is not merely another date on the liturgical calendar; it is our solemn Patronal Feast Day. Belonging to a parish dedicated to the supreme instrument of our salvation is a singular privilege and a great spiritual responsibility. Under this sacred title, our parish is called to be a living example of where the triumph of the Crucified Redeemer is proclaimed, lived, and joyfully celebrated across our local area.

The historical origins of this feast carry us back to the early fourth century and the pious devotion of Saint Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine. Journeying to Jerusalem in A.D. 326, Saint Helena sought to locate the sacred places of Our Lord's Passion. Beneath centuries of pagan shrines, she uncovered the site of Mount Calvary and discovered the buried remnants of the True Cross. Its authenticity was revealed through a

miraculous healing, leading to the construction and dedication of the magnificent Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. Three centuries later, when Persian forces captured the sacred relic during war, Emperor Heraclius recovered the Holy Cross and personally carried it back into Jerusalem in A.D. 628. Dressed in simple garments and walking barefoot in humble penance, the Emperor carried the wood of salvation up to Calvary, where the Holy Cross was exalted before the faithful for public veneration, giving rise to the annual feast we observe today.

In the ancient Latin hymn *Vexilla Regis* (The Royal Banner Forward Goes), the Church sings of the Royal Banner that leads the Christian faithful into spiritual triumph. To worldly eyes, the cross was a gruesome tool of Roman execution, designed to inflict public shame, terror, and agonising death. Yet through the absolute obedience and Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, what was once an emblem of defeat became the ultimate sign of victory

over sin, hell, and death. By His death on the Cross, Christ transformed a gallows into a royal throne. As Catholic theology teaches, the Cross is the divine weapon by which our Lord conquered the rule of this world, disarming darkness and opening the gates of Paradise to redeemed humanity.

As we mark our parish's patron, we are invited to renew our devotion to Christ's Holy Cross and our commitment to our local parish home. To live under the banner of the Cross means embracing the daily trials of life with quiet faith, offering our personal sacrifices in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and bearing witness to the Gospel in our daily lives. Let us celebrate our parish and our patron with joyful hearts gathering at Holy Mass to give thanks for the countless blessings bestowed upon our parish over many generations, praying that Holy Cross Parish remains a beacon of faith, hope, and redemptive love for all who call our parish home.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

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

Tuyet Duong, Savelina Sikimeti

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, 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 2:

P. Zaiter, N.Chidiac, C.Buultjens

Readers

Vigil Gerry Pinto, Rebecca Hanson,
Racquel La Rosa

10:00 a.m. Jasmine Miranda, Merlin
Sandhiya, Sisters

Children's Liturgy

Armani Barakaet and Victor Liu

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Joseph Akkary, Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton,
John Augustus, Antonio Bifulco, Ann Blesson, Vincenzo
Colosimo, Lucy Farrugia, Carmello Giovenco, 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 Provost, 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

Geoff Armstrong, Norma Armstrong, Victor Azzopardi, Joseph
Baini, Carmen Bonello, Charlie Bonello, John Borg,
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

Parish Office Reopens This Week

The Parish Office will reopen for normal business hours this week on Tuesday, 15 September, following our closure period.

We kindly ask for your patience and understanding as our Business Manager works through emails, phone messages, and enquiries that were received while the office was closed.

Fr. Galbert Attending Religious Education Conference in Belgium

Fr. Galbert has been selected by the Diocese to attend an international Religious Education Conference in Belgium. He will travel alongside fellow Diocesan clergy and Religious Education Coordinators from our Catholic schools to discuss Religious Education and Catechises.

Fr Galbert leaves later this week and will return to the parish in mid-September. In his absence, Fr. Joseph will be available for any sacramental needs.

We ask Almighty God to grant Fr Galbert a safe journey and abundant grace. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom, protect all delegates attending the conference.

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.

Find the perfect sacramental keepsake or religious item to inspire devotion.



*Make frequent visits to Jesus
in the Blessed Sacrament
and the devil will be
powerless against you.*

—St. John Bosco

WEDNESDAYS

Holy Family Church at 6:30 p.m.



FIRST FRIDAYS

Holy Trinity Church at 7:30 p.m.

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 peace of Christ's mercy.

Reminder to switch off Mobile Phones Before Holy Mass Commences

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.

Online Donations in Support of the Parish

Online donations can be made through the Holy Cross Parish website (holycrossgranville.org.au) using our BPoint facility by visiting the website or scanning the QR code below. Thank you to all those who regularly support the parish by your contributions. Your regular support of the parish is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue to undertake the many works of the parish and to look at what other works we can achieve, including the continuing restoration and maintenance of our two parish churches for generations to come.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

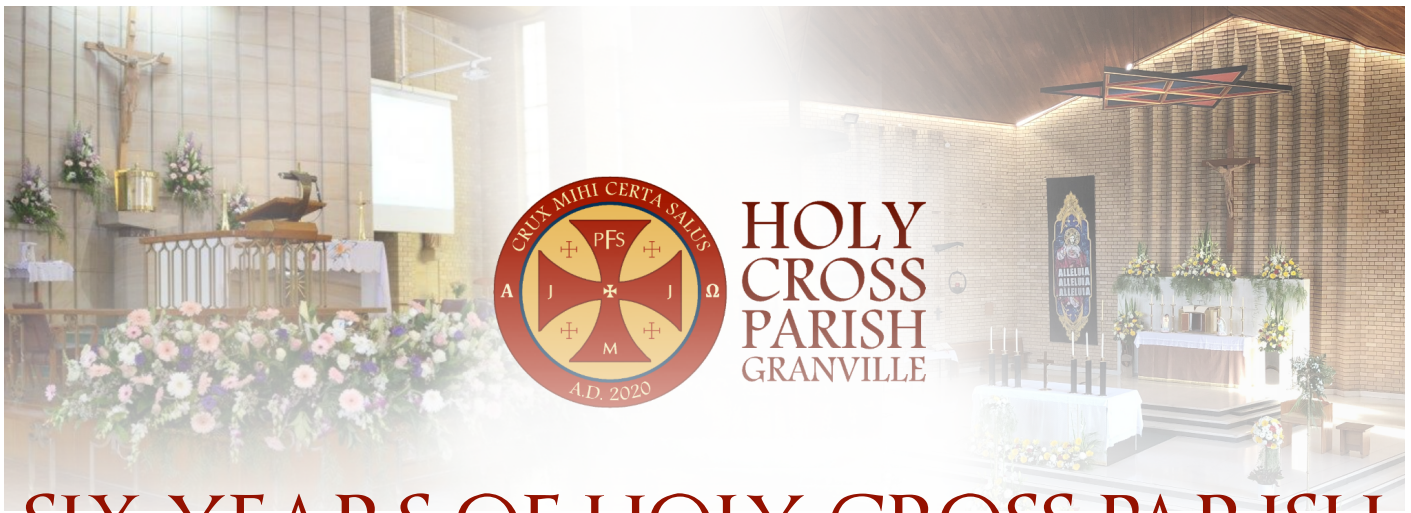
Volunteers Needed!



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





SIX YEARS OF HOLY CROSS PARISH

~ Victory in the Shadows of the Holy Cross ~

For centuries, our Holy Mother Church has lifted high the True Cross of Christ, celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 14 September. What was once an instrument of Roman execution became, through the Precious Blood of Our Saviour, the tree of eternal life, the royal standard of salvation, and the ultimate sign of divine love.

In Granville, this sacred feast carries an even deeper resonance, as it marks the sixth anniversary of the formation of Holy Cross Parish. Our parish story did not begin six years ago; it rests upon a foundational legacy laid over a century ago by pioneering clergy, families, devout migrants, and generations of faithful Catholics who poured their sweat, prayers, and hard-earned wages into building the Faith in this district. From the historic foundation of Holy Trinity Parish in 1886, to the formation of Holy Family Parish in 1946, Granville has long been a place where Catholic life was lived with loyalty and deep devotion. Six years ago, under the providential patronage of the Holy Cross, these distinct streams of history and local heritage were brought together once again into a single, unified community.

Unifications in parish life are rarely simple. They demand patience, grace, and above all, sacrifice. Yet, like the Cross itself what initially seemed like a daunting trial has been transformed into a beacon of spiritual renewal. Looking back over these six

fruitful years, every parishioner ought to stand tall with profound gratitude and holy pride. We did not simply survive a transition; but rather have come together to honour the legacy of our predecessors, and have built a thriving home for the Catholic Faith. Through the quiet labours of past and present clergy and parishioners, Holy Cross Parish has grown into a faithful centre of Catholic life, where our churches are adorned for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, our Confessionals frequented, devotional experiences enhanced and our pews filled with families and people seeking the beauty and truth of Holy Tradition.

Yet as we celebrate this double milestone, we must recognise that our work is far from complete. A parish is not a static monument to past achievements, nor is the Holy Mass an event where we are meant to be passive spectators. The Church on Earth is the Church Militant, and every baptised soul is called to take up their cross and join the work of the Kingdom.

This great work requires a unified front, where both shepherd and flock strive together for the glory of God. To build up a parish, the priest is called to profound sacrifice, imitating Christ the Good Shepherd in his total self-gift to the community. Like our predecessors, the current clergy have the holy duty of being spiritual fathers, ever present to feed, teach, and protect their people, ensuring

they do culminate in their work for the care of souls.

Likewise, we, the laity, must step up to our own responsibilities. Our service within the parish - whether at the altar, in the choir, teaching catechesis, or working quietly behind the scenes - is an offering made directly to God, not a personal favour to any individual. Priests and people will come and go, but the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Real Presence of Christ in the Tabernacle remain constant. Whatever changes of season or leadership our parish experiences, the call to labour in the Lord's vineyard remains unchanged, and we should always welcome those ready to serve for His glory.

To sit in the pews as a bystander is to miss the fullness of our Catholic calling. Holy Cross Parish belongs to every one of us who walk through its doors. Under the shadow of the Holy Cross, let us move forward not as casual observers, but as devoted stewards, safeguarding our sacred heritage and building a parish of faith that will endure for decades and generations to come. As we honour the rich legacies of both Holy Trinity and Holy Family, let us look forward with a singular heart, dedicated to the salvation of souls under the shadow of our unified patron. Happy Anniversary and Happy Feast, Holy Cross Parish!

Crux Mihi Certa Salus!
The Cross is my Sure Salvation!



WEEKDAY HOLY MASS

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

TUES, THURS, FRI, SAT
9:15AM

WEDNESDAY
6:00PM

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

TUES
6:30PM

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY
8:15AM

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

~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Saints & STUFF

St. Josephine Bakhita

In today's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus how often we must forgive someone who sins against us, proposing seven times. Jesus replies, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times," teaching that divine forgiveness knows no boundaries. A heroic modern example of this radical mercy is St. Josephine Bakhita, a 19th-century Sudanese saint who survived brutal enslavement.

Kidnapped as a child, Josephine endured years of severe physical torture, beatings, and humiliation at the hands of her captors. Yet, after eventually gaining her freedom in Italy, entering the Canossian Sisters, and encountering the love of Christ, her heart remained entirely free from hatred or resentment. She famously remarked that if she were to meet her former captors, she would kneel and kiss their hands, because without them she would never have known Jesus.

Josephine did not merely forgive once; she harboured no bitterness or malice despite a lifetime of unspeakable suffering. Her extraordinary life echoes Christ's call to boundless mercy, reminding us that true forgiveness frees us from the self-imposed prison of resentment and transforms our hearts into instruments of God's love.

St. Josephine Bakhita, Pray for us!

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

Victorious Wood of Salvation

550 The coming of God's Kingdom is the defeat of Satan's kingdom... The Kingdom of God will be definitively established through Christ's cross: *Regnavit a ligno Deus* ("God has reigned from the tree").

617 The Council of Trent emphasises the unique character of Christ's sacrifice as "the source of eternal salvation" and teaches that "his most holy Passion on the wood of the cross merited justification for us."

618 The cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, the "one mediator between God and men." But because in his incarnate divine person he has in some way united himself to every man, "the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery" is offered to all men... In fact Jesus desires to associate with his redeeming sacrifice those very ones who are to be its first beneficiaries.

662 The lifting up of Jesus on the cross symbolises and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven... Jesus Christ... "entered once for all into the sanctuary" of heaven, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

CATHOLIC Trivia

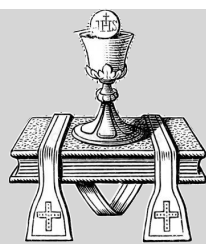
The Sweet Basil Connection

Did you know your favourite kitchen herb has a direct connection to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 15 September?

According to fourth-century tradition, when Saint Helena travelled to Jerusalem in A.D. 326 to search for the Lord's Cross, she was guided to a hill covered in a sweet-smelling, vibrant green plant. Legend says the rich aroma filled the air, pointing her directly to the hidden location. Excavating beneath this fragrant carpet, workers unearthed the True Cross. The plant was named basilikon, derived from the Greek word for "king" or "royal," earning it the title of the "Royal Herb."

To this day, Eastern Christians commemorate this discovery by adorning the Cross with fresh sprigs of basil during liturgical celebrations. At the end of Mass, the priest often distributes basil leaves to parishioners, encouraging them to take the fragrance home as a symbol of spiritual healing and Christ's royal victory. Many keep these blessed sprigs in their prayer corners at home.

Next time you savour the aroma of fresh basil in a meal, remember its sacred story. It serves as a delightful reminder of the True Cross, inviting us to spread the sweet fragrance of faith, hope, and love in our everyday lives.



MASS MATTERS

~ Thanksgiving and Prayer after Communion

After receiving Holy Communion, we return to our pews for a period of sacred silence. This is not a passive pause; it is a precious moment of personal intimacy with Jesus, who now dwells truly within us. In the quiet of our hearts, we offer Him our gratitude, bringing Him our secret worries, joys, and needs.

The priest then stands and bids us, "Let us pray," offering the Prayer after Communion. On behalf of the whole parish, this prayer asks God that the heavenly sacrament we have just received will bear real fruit in our daily lives—strengthening our faith, healing our weaknesses, and equipping us to reflect Christ's love in the world throughout the coming week.

The Readings

Introit

(Cf Sirach 36:18)

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

First Reading

The book of Ecclesiasticus

(Sirach 27:30 – 28:7)

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8)

℟. The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. ℟.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. ℟.

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. ℟.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. ℟.

Second Reading

Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

(Romans 14:7-9)

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

(John 13:34)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Gospel of Matthew

(Matthew 18:21-35)

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Communio

(Cf Psalm 35:8)

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.