
Granville

Catholic Church Record

Vol. II. No. 42.

October 18, 2026

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



CONTEMPLATING THE FACE OF CHRIST

TRANSFORMING VOCAL PRAYER INTO MENTAL PRAYER

When praying the Holy Rosary, it is very easy for our minds to slip into a routine of mechanical repetition. We recite the familiar words of the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary with effortless fluency, yet sometimes our hearts remain distant from the sacred realities those holy words describe. The Church reminds us, however, that vocal prayer in the Rosary is never meant to be an isolated end in itself. Rather, it serves as a gentle, rhythmic background that allows our souls to enter deeply into mental prayer, lifting our minds and hearts upward to Almighty God in silent, loving contemplation.

Without thoughtful meditation, the Rosary risks becoming an empty recitation devoid of its true spiritual power. Pope St. Paul VI wisely observed that without contemplation, the Rosary is like a body without a soul. The rhythmic chanting of the Hail Marys is specifically designed to quiet our restless thoughts and daily worldly distractions. Just as a mother's gentle humming calms a troubled child, the repetitive cadence of the prayers soothes our

imagination, clearing a sacred space within our consciousness where the Holy Spirit can work. In this quiet stillness, the spoken words fade slightly into the background, and the interior gaze of the soul becomes fully focused upon the divine mystery at hand.

The interior gaze is what the saints call mental prayer - a loving, silent conversation with God wherein we contemplate the great mysteries of our redemption. When we meditate upon a decade, we are not simply recalling historical events from two thousand years ago; we are stepping spiritually into the scene. Whether we stand beside Our Lady at the Annunciation, witness the quiet patience of Christ during the scourging, or rejoice in the blazing light of the resurrection, we allow the grace of the mystery to penetrate our daily lives. We learn to see the world, our sufferings, and our joys through the luminous perspective of faith.

To cultivate this deeper form of prayer during October, we can adopt a few simple spiritual habits. Before beginning each decade, pause for a

moment of silence to read the assigned scripture passage or visualise the sacred event. Allow a specific spiritual image or virtue associated with that mystery to anchor your thoughts while your fingers move along the beads. If distractions intrude - as they inevitably will in our busy lives - do not become discouraged. Simply offer the stray thought to Almighty God and gently guide your attention back to the holy face of Christ and His Blessed Mother.

Through this mindful practice, our daily Rosary is transformed from a burdensome obligation into a profound encounter with the divine master. It becomes a true school of prayer where our souls are gently formed, healed, and elevated. As we continue our journey through this sacred month, let us strive to look beyond the spoken words on our lips and open the inner sanctuary of our hearts, allowing the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary to draw us into a transformative, living communion with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

THE PARISH OFFICE

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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

Patricia Robertson and Sharon Minns

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,
Rosette Chidiac

10:00 a.m. Merlin Sandhiya,
Armani Barakat, Mary Georges

Children's Liturgy

Sr. Susanne and Volunteer

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, Joseph Baine, Carmen
Bonello, Charlie Bonello, John Borg, Joyce Bush, Alexandra
Caruana, Anette Caruana, Carmelo Caruana, Victor Caruana,
Alan Frost, Carmen Galea, John Graham, Jim Goodwin,
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, Thomas McIntyre, Marie McDonald, Iris Murphy,
Anthony Newell, Jack Newell, Jean Newell, Michael O'Brien,
Mary Olsen, Peter Olsen, Zackary Orenshaw, Jack Pickering,
Lorna 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, Janisi Xuereb, Anthony Xuereb, Noelene
Yott, William Yott, Jessie Zammit, Dib Zaiter, Laila Zaiter

Important Notice Regarding Adjustment to Saturday Vigil Mass Times

Following directives issued by the Diocese, Holy Cross Parish will now implement the final phase of returning to our regular Mass schedule, concluding the temporary operational adjustments that were initially introduced during the COVID-19 health pandemic.

As many parishioners will recall, a temporary 4:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass was established at Holy Family Church to accommodate the strict health and density restrictions imposed at the time by Government and Health Authorities. Given that these restrictions have now been lifted for a considerable period, the Diocese has determined that maintaining this Mass is no longer necessary. **Consequently, the temporary 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass at Holy Family Church will conclude at the end of October, with the final Mass celebrated on Saturday, 31 October.**

However, because the earlier Vigil Mass time has been so warmly received by parishioners, the decision has been made to introduce a permanent timetable adjustment at Holy Trinity Church. **Commencing on Saturday, 7 November, the Saturday Vigil Mass at Holy Trinity Church will be moved forward from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Additionally, to assist parishioners in preparing spiritually, the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) will be available weekly at Holy Trinity Church prior to Saturday Mass from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., also starting on Saturday, 7 November.

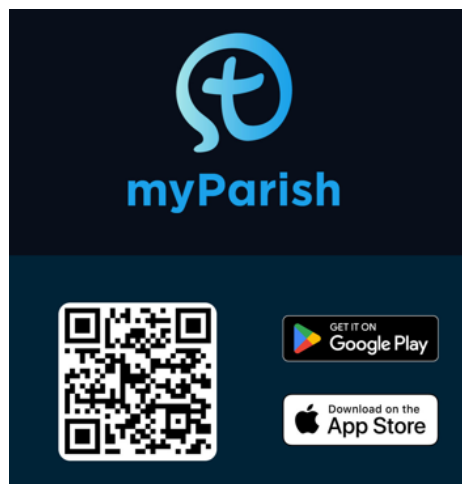
We sincerely thank all members of our parish for your ongoing understanding, patience, and continued prayers and support as we finalise these timetable changes across our parish churches.

Download the New Version of Our New Parish App

Our parish has proudly used the myParish App for almost 10 years, and we are thrilled to make available this brand-new, improved version for all of our parishioners and visitors!

The myParish app was designed specifically with you in mind. Whether you are seeking to deepen your faith, stay actively involved with everything happening across our parish, or simply access essential Catholic resources in one convenient location, this updated app has you fully covered.

Through the app, you can easily read the latest weekly bulletin, view our complete parish calendar so you never miss Mass times or special ministry events, and explore a rich library of traditional Catholic prayers alongside daily scripture readings and other supplementary items.



If you currently have the older version installed on your mobile phone or tablet, please note that it will not update automatically. You will need to visit the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to download the brand-new app. When searching, please ensure you search for and select "my parish" and NOT "my parish classic." Alternatively scan the QR code.

Download the new app today, and stay seamlessly connected with our parish wherever you go!

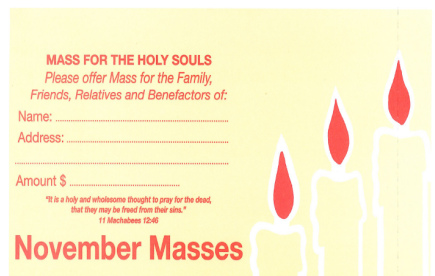
November Mass Intentions for the Souls in Purgatory

Envelopes for the parish's Book of Remembrance are now available at the doors of the church.

The Book of Remembrance is a special way to honour and pray for the repose of the souls of our beloved dead throughout the month of November.

If you wish to have the names of your deceased loved ones inscribed in the book, please take an envelope, clearly write the names, and place the sealed envelope in the clearly marked boxes located near the church doors.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



Holy Mass and Blessing of the Graves at Rookwood Cemetery

Save the date and join us on Saturday, 7 November for Holy Mass at 11:00 a.m. at Rookwood Cemetery, and where we will visit the graves of the past Parish Priests of Granville, bless the graves and pray for the repose of their souls.

For those who would like to attend but are unable to drive themselves or to arrange transport, the parish bus will be available to drive people to and from the cemetery. For those who would like a spot on the bus, please contact the parish office for further details.

Please be aware that there are limited places available on the bus and we may not be able to accommodate all requests for transport.



HOLY MASS AND BLESSING OF THE GRAVES OF
Priests at Rookwood

Visitation of the graves of past Priests of Granville
 at Rookwood Cemetery including Holy Mass at St. Michael's
 Chapel followed by the blessing of the graves.

11:00 a.m. | Saturday, 7th November



*Enter Rookwood Cemetery on the corner
 of East St. and Victoria St. East, Lidcombe
 then continue down Necropolis Drive
 until you get to the roundabout,
 then turn left into the roundabout,
 then the first left to St. Michael the Archangel Chapel*





The Sanctification of Suffering Through the Sorrowful Mysteries

The spiritual life is not exempt from the reality of human suffering, trial, and contradiction. While the mysteries of Christ's public life illuminate our minds with divine truth, the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary take us into the school of the Cross, revealing how Our Divine Redeemer transformed human pain into the instrument of redemption. Contemplating the suffering of Our Saviour, we learn that suffering is never meaningless when united to His Sacred Passion. These five mysteries offer every Christian soul a guide for enduring earthly trials with patience, conquering temptation, and conforming our wills entirely to the heavenly Father.

The First Sorrowful Mystery, the Agony in the Garden, brings us into the shadows of Gethsemane, where Our Divine Lord experienced overwhelming anguish as He foresaw the sins of the world and the bitter Passion awaiting Him. In this hour of deep interior struggle, Christ prayed until His sweat became as drops of blood falling to the ground. Yet, His sacred prayer reached its summit in total submission: "Not My will, but Thine be done." When facing seasons of spiritual desolation, anxiety, or heavy trials, this mystery teaches us to turn to God in persistent prayer, surrendering our plans and conforming our hearts to His holy will.

In the Second Sorrowful Mystery, the Scourging at the Pillar, Our Blessed Redeemer was bound to a stone column and subjected to cruel,

brutal lashes at the hands of Roman soldiers. His sacred flesh was torn in reparation for human sins of impurity, sensuality, and worldly indulgence. Contemplating the suffering of Christ's innocent Body calls us to cultivate purity of heart, mind, and senses. It reminds us of the value of voluntary penance and self-denial, encouraging us to offer up daily mortifications to heal our souls and make reparation for the sins of the world.

The Third Sorrowful Mystery, the Crowning with Thorns, reveals Our Saviour mocked as a fake king by a brutal soldiers' guard. A crown of sharp thorns was pressed deeply into His sacred head, while a reed was placed in His hand as a mock sceptre. Our Lord endured this deep humiliation and physical torment in quiet majesty to atone for our pride, intellectual vanity, and desire for human applause. This mystery invites us to subdue our pride and fear of human disapproval, choosing instead the crown of humility and remaining steadfast in loyalty to Christ, even when the world ridicules our faith.

In the Fourth Sorrowful Mystery, the Carrying of the Cross, Our Blessed Lord stumbles along the painful road to Mount Calvary, bearing upon His bleeding shoulders the heavy wooden beam of the Cross. Though exhausted and crushed by the weight of human sin, He perseveres in His journey toward total self-offering. Along this bitter way, He meets His sorrowful Mother, whose heart is pierced by a sword of grief. This mystery reminds us that

every follower of Christ must carry a daily cross of duty, illness, or contradiction. By enduring our burdens patiently without complaint, we walk in the footsteps of Our Redeemer.

Finally, the Fifth Sorrowful Mystery leads us to the summit of Calvary for the Crucifixion and Death of Our Divine Redeemer. Raised between heaven and earth, Christ hung upon the Cross for three excruciating hours, offering His life as the perfect sacrifice to reconcile fallen humanity with Almighty God. Before drawing His last breath, He entrusted His Blessed Mother to Saint John, giving her to us as our heavenly Mother. Standing at the foot of the Cross with Our Lady, we learn the art of total self-surrender, dying to sin so that we may live in sanctifying grace.

Through the Sorrowful Mysteries, Our Redeemer reveals that the path to heavenly glory passes through the Cross. By uniting our daily sufferings, disappointments, and trials to the Sacred Passion of Christ, our pain is sanctified and transformed into a source of merit for our souls. May Our Lady of Sorrows, who stood faithfully beside the Cross of her Divine Son, obtain for us the strength to embrace our crosses each day, so that having shared in His suffering, we may also share in His eternal triumph. Therefore, let us never shrink from the lessons of the Cross, but rather find refuge within the open Heart of Christ, trusting that our temporal pain is the very path to eternal glory.

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Saints & STUFF

St. Margaret Clitherow

In today's Gospel, when challenged about paying taxes to the emperor, Jesus famously answers, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." A courageous witness who navigated this balance between earthly law and divine allegiance is St. Margaret Clitherow, a 16th-century English martyr known as the "Pearl of York."

Living during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, Margaret was a dutiful citizen and businesswoman who managed her household and respected civic authority. However, when statutory laws explicitly prohibited Catholic worship and the hosting of priests, Margaret drew a clear boundary. Recognising that human laws cannot override divine command, she secretly harboured priests in her home and arranged for hidden Masses, risking everything to preserve the faith for her family and community.

In 1586, when arrested for her actions, she remained resolute in her primary loyalty to Christ, ultimately suffering martyrdom rather than betraying her conscience. St. Margaret Clitherow's life powerfully reminds us that while we are called to be good citizens of our earthly country, our supreme loyalty always belongs to God alone.

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

Give God Your Heart

357 "Being in the image of God the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone. He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons. And he is called by grace to a covenant with his Creator, to offer him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give in his stead."

2240 "Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country: 'Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.'"

2242 "The citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospel. Refusal of obedience to civil authorities, when their demands are contrary to those of an upright conscience, finds its justification in the distinction between serving God and serving the political community."

CATHOLIC Trivia

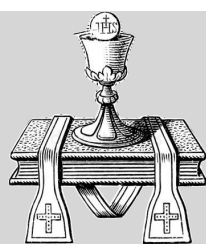
The Holy Origin of the Clock

You can thank a brilliant tenth-century Catholic pope who wanted to ensure his monks woke up on time for their prayers for the invention of the mechanical clock.

Before he was elected Pope Sylvester II in A.D. 999, Gerbert of Aurillac was a French monk and one of the most renowned scholars in Europe. At the time, medieval monasteries relied on traditional water clocks and basic sundials to track the strict daily schedule of the Divine Office. However, these methods were notoriously inaccurate, particularly at night or during the freezing winter months when the water would turn to ice.

Frustrated by monks constantly oversleeping and missing the early morning Matins prayers, Gerbert invented the very first weight-driven mechanical clock featuring a revolutionary escapement mechanism. Interestingly, its primary original function was not to display the time with hands on a dial, but rather to reliably ring a loud bell in the middle of the night to rouse the sleeping brothers.

So the next time your alarm rudely jolts you awake early in the morning, remember to direct your frustration towards an ingenious medieval pope who valued perfect punctuality just as much as prayer!



MASS MATTERS

~ The Tabernacle & Sanctuary Lamp ~

Prominently placed within our church is the Tabernacle, alongside the glowing flame of the Sanctuary Lamp.

The word tabernacle means "dwelling place" or "tent", recalling the biblical tent of meeting that housed the Ark of the Covenant. It is the new Ark, reverently housing the consecrated Body of Christ reserved for the sick, the dying, and quiet prayer. Beside it burns the red Sanctuary Lamp. Kept perpetually alight, this flickering flame symbolises our vigilance and signals Christ's living, sacramental presence dwelling among us day and night. Whenever you see that steady light, take a moment to genuflect and remember that our Lord is not distant—He is truly here, waiting to meet you.

The Readings

Introit

(Cf Psalm 16:6,8)

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading
The Prophet Isaiah
(Isaiah 45:1.4-6)

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm
(Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7)

℟. Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. ℟.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. ℟.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. ℟.

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. ℟.

Second Reading
First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
(1 Thessalonians 1:1-5)

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how

you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation
(Philippians 2:15. 16)

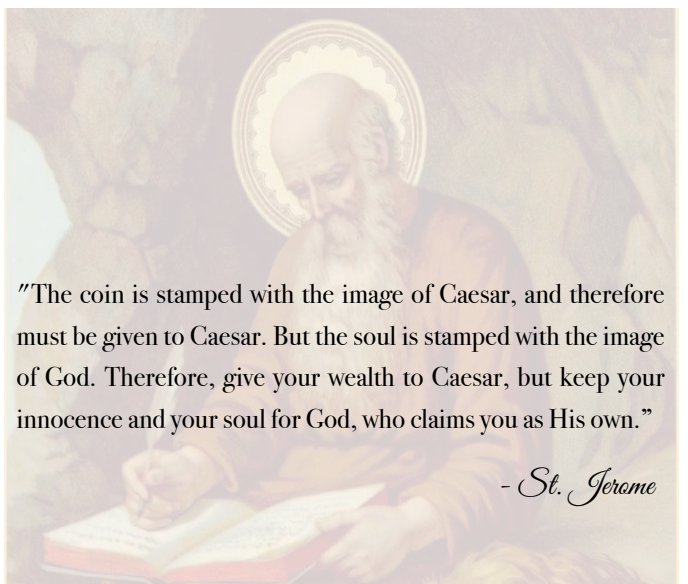
Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel
The Gospel of Matthew
(Matthew 22:15-21)

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

Communio
(Cf Psalm 32:18-19)

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from
death, to keep them alive in famine.



"The coin is stamped with the image of Caesar, and therefore must be given to Caesar. But the soul is stamped with the image of God. Therefore, give your wealth to Caesar, but keep your innocence and your soul for God, who claims you as His own."

- St. Jerome