Granville Catholic Church Record

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The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



~ The Four Last Things ~

A Solemn Reflection on Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell

As the liturgical year draws closer to an end, our Holy Mother the Church invites us to reflect upon a sobering yet essential spiritual reality; the Four Last Things. These are Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell. Modern secular culture goes to great lengths to ignore the reality of human mortality, our inevitable end is not a morbid exercise, but a necessary preparation for eternity. It grounds us in the truth and helps us to keep our eyes fixed on our ultimate destination.

The first of the Four Last Things is Death. It is the definitive end of our earthly existence and the conclusion of our time for earning merit. At the moment our soul separates from our body, our capacity to choose God or reject Him is permanently fixed. Because we know neither the day nor the hour when our Lord will call us, we must strive to remain in a state of sanctifying grace.

Immediately following death, the soul faces the Particular Judgment. We will stand alone before Our Lord, who will judge us with perfect justice and profound mercy. In that blinding light of truth, all our thoughts, words, actions, and omissions will be laid bare. There will be no excuses and no hiding. The trajectory of our entire life will determine our eternal destiny. This week, on 16 November, we honour Saint Gertrude the Great, who was deeply devoted to the souls in Purgatory and constantly meditated on this reality of divine judgement, urging us to prepare our hearts unceasingly.

Based upon this judgement, the soul will enter into one of three states. For those who die in unrepentant mortal sin, having definitively rejected God's love and mercy, the tragic reality is Hell. Hell is the eternal separation from our Creator, an agonising existence devoid of all goodness, light, and hope. God does not actively cast souls into Hell out of spite; rather, He respects our free will. If we choose to live entirely apart from Him in this life, He will sadly grant us that separation for all eternity.

Conversely, for those who die in God's grace and friendship, and are perfectly purified, the glorious reality is Heaven. Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfilment of our deepest human longings. It is the state of supreme, definitive happiness where we will behold Almighty God face to face in the heavenly vision, united with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and all the saints.

Meditation on the Four Last Things should fill us not with paralysing fear, but with a holy reverence and a renewed zeal for personal holiness. We must live each day as if it were the exact day we will stand before the judgement seat of Christ. Frequent Confession, worthy reception of Holy Communion, and strict adherence to our Sunday obligation to attend Holy Mass are our greatest spiritual safeguards against eternal loss.

Let us remain constantly awake, alert, and spiritually prepared for His glorious coming. May we fervently pray for the grace of final perseverance, that we might one day hear our Saviour bid us "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter now into the joy of your Lord."

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
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Holy Trinity Primary School
T (02) 8633-8500

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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.
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Confessions
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, 4:00 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 Suong, Trinh Thi Xuan Thu, Hoang Duong, Anna, Chi Kieu

Flower Arranging
Patricia Robertson and Sharon Minns

SOCIAL MEDIA

holycrossgranville.org.au

HolyCrossGranville

Holy Cross Parish App

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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 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Confessions
Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 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.Pattalatah Joseph

Readers
Vigil Racquel La Rosa, Rosette Chidiac, Gerry Pinto

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

Children's Liturgy
Volunteers Needed

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Joseph Akkary, Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton, John Augustus, 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 Provest, Ricardo Tognini, Sam Wardan

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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

We prayerfully remember throughout November in a special way, all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and in particular, all those listed in the parish's Book of Remembrance.

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Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in peace. Amen
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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N O T I C E S

Appointment of Fr. Thomas Bui as Parish Priest of Holy Cross Parish, Granville

The Bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta has announced upcoming pastoral changes for our parish. Effective 1 January 2027, Fr. Thomas Bui has been appointed as the new Parish Priest of Holy Cross Parish for a term of 6 years. He will officially take up his duties and commence his ministry among us on this date. Fr. Thomas previously served our parish as Assistant Priest in 2015, and currently serves as Assistant Priest at St. Michael's Parish, Baulkham Hills.

At the same time, our current Parish Administrator, Fr. Galbert Albino, has been appointed as Parish Priest of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Riverstone. We wish to express our most sincere gratitude to Fr. Galbert for his faithful service, spiritual care, and dedication. We are deeply thankful for his time with us and the sacraments he has provided to our community.

Please keep both priests in your daily prayers as they prepare for these new assignments in their respective parishes. Please also remember our own parish in your prayers, seeking God's grace and peace as we undertake this period of change and transition. Let us pray together that the good works and fruitful ministries nurtured by our former priests will continue to be faithfully supported and bear fruit as we move forward under the care of our new Parish Priest.

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Almighty and ever-living God, we entrust our parish to your loving providence. As we enter this new chapter, bind us together in faith and charity. Grant us the grace to embrace your will, that it may continue to grow in holiness and faithfully proclaim your Gospel. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Mass to Commemorate Red Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday, 25 November for Holy Mass as we stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians. Holy Mass will be offered at Holy Trinity Church at 8:15 a.m. and at Holy Family Church at 6:00 p.m. We invite you to wear RED that day to honour those who are persecuted and ignored.

Please take the time to join us for Holy Mass to pray for those who do not have the same opportunities as we do to freely attend Mass without the threat of persecution. The regular Wednesday evening schedule for Confession and Adoration will also be available.

In addition, and as a visible sign of our support, both parish churches will be lit up in red from Monday, 23 November until Sunday, 29 November. This special lighting is part of our parish's Red November commemorations, serving as a powerful visual reminder to our community to keep those who suffer for their faith in our prayers throughout the week.

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

New Saturday Vigil Mass and Confession Times at Holy Trinity Church

A reminder that the Saturday Vigil Mass at Holy Trinity Church now commences at the earlier time of 5:00 p.m.

Additionally, to assist with your spiritual preparation, the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) is also available weekly at Holy Trinity Church prior to the Saturday Mass, from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Parking is available on the primary school grounds with entry via Randle Street. Parking is also available on the surrounding streets.

This permanent adjustment has been made to retain an earlier Vigil Mass option that was so warmly received by many.



The Zaiter family have again generously arranged a raffle in support of the parish and in memory of their parents, Dib and Laila Zaiter. There are three prizes to be won, and consist of a large assortment of children's toys. These would make a wonderful gift for Christmas.

Raffle tickets are available for $2.00 each or three tickets for $5.00. Tickets are on sale after the weekend Masses and will be drawn on Sunday, 20 December after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Thank you very much to the Zaiter family for their generosity and their support of the parish. All the prizes were arranged and donated by them and we are very grateful to them for their tremendous kindness.

Honouring *the* Holy Sacrifice *of the* Mass: Receiving Our Lord *with* Profound Respect

The moment we step out of our pews to join the communion procession is one of the most sacred acts we will ever undertake. We are not simply joining a queue to receive a piece of bread; we are walking forward to meet the King of kings. Because this is an encounter with the living God, our outward physical demeanour must directly reflect our deep, inward faith. How we walk, where we look, and how we hold our hands all matter immensely when we are in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

As we approach the sanctuary, it is essential to maintain a posture of quiet adoration. Our hands should be respectfully joined in prayer, and our eyes should remain focused ahead toward the altar, rather than looking around at our fellow parishioners. The communion line is a place for focused, silent preparation. As we step up to receive Our Lord, making a gentle bow of the head is a necessary and beautiful act of reverence, physically acknowledging the awesome reality of Christ's presence before us.

When the Priest or Extraordinary minister of Holy Communion present the Sacred Host and proclaims, "The Body of Christ," our response must be a clear, audible, and affirming "Amen," which is our personal declaration that "I believe." Whether you receive Our Lord on the tongue or in the hand, your posture must be deliberate and careful to ensure there is absolutely no risk of the Sacred Host falling. If receiving in the hand, we must make a respectful throne with our hands, placing one underneath the other, and consume the Host immediately facing the altar. Every movement must convey the utmost care and devotion for the physical Body of Christ.



The reverence we show does not end once we have received Communion. The journey back to our pew is a deeply intimate time, as we now carry the Saviour of the world within us. We must return to our seats in strict, prayerful silence, with our hands joined and our focus remaining entirely on the One we have just received. This is not the time to exchange greetings or let our attention wander. Instead, we should immediately kneel, close our eyes, and spend those precious, quiet minutes speaking heart-to-heart with God in profound thanksgiving, perhaps praying silently: *"My Jesus, I love You and adore You. Thank you for coming into my heart. Grant me the grace to never be separated from You."*

Quick Guide for Holy Mass

A Sacred Procession: *Walk to the alter with your eyes focused and hands joined in prayer.*

Bow in Adoration: *Make a reverent bow of the head just before receiving Our Lord.*

A Clear Amen: *Respond clearly to affirm your absolute belief in the Real Presence.*

Utmost Care: *Receive with deliberate care to protect the Sacred Host from falling.*

Prayerful Return:
Return to your pew in silence, kneel, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.



FACES OF COURAGE

The Triumphant Witness *of* Today's Persecuted Church

As we reach the third week of our parish's observance of Red November, we move beyond the history and global statistics of Christian persecution to look closely at the human faces behind the numbers. Through the vital work of Aid to the Church in Need, the silent cries of our Christian family are brought to our attention. These are not distant news stories; these are our spiritual brothers and sisters, united to us through Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. Their extraordinary courage in the face of brutal hatred serves as a great testament to the truth of the Gospel, and a necessary mirror for our own faith here in Australia.

Consider the heroic witness of the faithful in Nigeria. Africa's most populous nation has tragically become one of the most dangerous places on earth to wear a Roman collar or attend Sunday Mass. Extremist groups routinely target Catholic communities with horrific brutality. Priests and seminarians are frequently kidnapped on remote roads, held for exorbitant ransoms, or brutally martyred for their vocation. Parishes have been violently attacked even during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Yet, despite the constant, terrifying threat of death, the churches in Nigeria remain full every single week. The faithful there do not stop bringing their children to receive the Holy Sacraments. They joyfully risk their lives every Sunday because they firmly believe that the grace of Our Lord is worth far more than temporal safety.

Meanwhile in Latin America, we see a different equally sinister form of persecution. In Nicaragua, a totalitarian regime has waged an aggressive and systematic war against the Church. The government has mercilessly expelled religious orders - including the devoted sisters of the Missionaries of Charity - shut down Catholic radio stations, and unjustly imprisoned faithful priests and bishops. Good shepherds have consciously chosen to endure severe imprisonment in dark, maximum-security cells rather than abandon their flock or accept forced exile. These courageous priests and bishops stand firm against secular tyranny, absolutely refusing to dilute the traditional teachings of Christ to appease a corrupt government.

When we hear these stories of modern heroism, it must immediately stir our consciences right here at home. It is very easy to admire the courage of Nigerian parishioners or Nicaraguan clergy from the safety of our homes and churches. However, their steadfast witness poses a direct and uncomfortable question to each of us: Are we willing to suffer even a little for our Catholic faith? As we have reflected upon in previous weeks, we are not immune to persecution; it simply wears a different mask in our secularised Western society. The "white martyrdom" we currently face involves the daily threat of social rejection, the mocking of our traditional moral values, and the increasing legal pressures on our Catholic schools and hospitals to abandon the truth of the Gospel. If our brethren overseas are willing to lose their actual lives for attending Holy Mass, surely we can find the courage to defend life, traditional marriage, and our faith in our workplaces without fear of human respect.

The time for lukewarm faith has passed. We must respond to the courage of the persecuted Church with decisive action and unwavering solidarity. This naturally beings us to the heart of our campaign: Red Wednesday.

SAVE THE DATE:
Wednesday 25 November

On Wednesday, 25 November, our local community will visibly stand with our suffering family. Both Holy Trinity Church and Holy Family Church will be illuminated in striking red light, serving as a powerful, public beacon representing the blood of the martyrs.

We urgently call upon everyone across our parish to boldly mark your calendars and make every possible effort to attend our special Red Wednesday Masses, either at Holy Trinity Church at 8:15 a.m. or Holy Family Church at 6:00 p.m. You are highly encouraged to wear an item of red clothing to Holy Mass as a visible sign of solidarity.

Let us gather before the altar to offer our Holy Communion, our fervent prayers, and the Holy Rosary for those who carry the cross of persecution today.

HOLY CROSS PARISH
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GRANVILLE

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Win a wonderful selection of Christmas toy hampers



Get your tickets and support our parish

Tickets: $2 each or 3 for $5

Saints & STUFF

St. Homobonus

In today's Gospel reading, Our Lord tells the Parable of the Talents, praising the faithful servants who invest the Master's wealth to yield a rich return, while condemning the fearful servant who buries his share. A remarkable witness who used his earthly talents to build a heavenly fortune is St. Homobonus, a 12th-century Italian merchant and patron saint of business people.

Born into a prosperous family in Cremona, St. Homobonus inherited a successful tailoring and textile business. Rather than hoarding his profits or burying his God-given acumen out of selfish ambition, he saw his wealth as a direct trust from God. St. Homobonus lived austerely, reinvesting his profits into the community by constantly feeding the hungry, sheltering orphans, and clothing the destitute. He approached daily commerce with strict honesty, viewing every transaction as an opportunity to serve Christ.

St. Homobonus proves that the secular workplace can be fertile soil for profound sanctity. His inspiring witness challenges us to examine how we are investing our own unique gifts, reminding us that God expects us to leverage our time, talents, and resources to yield a rich harvest of charity for the Kingdom.

St. Homobonus, Pray for us!

CATECHISM *of the* CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faithful with His Gifts

1720 The New Testament uses several expressions to characterise the beatitude to which God calls man: the coming of the Kingdom of God; the vision of God... entering into the joy of the Lord; entering into God's rest...

1937 These differences belong to God's plan, who wills that each receive what he needs from others, and that those endowed with particular 'talents' should share the benefits with those who need them. These differences encourage and often oblige persons to practice generosity, kindness, and sharing of goods...

2046 By living with the mind of Christ, Christians hasten the coming of the Reign of God, 'a kingdom of justice, love, and peace.' They do not, for all that, abandon their earthly responsibilities; faithful to their master, they fulfill them with uprightness, patience, and love.

2094 One can sin against God's love in various ways... acedia or spiritual sloth goes so far as to refuse the joy that comes from God and to be repelled by divine goodness.

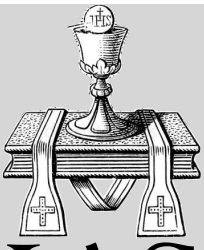
CATHOLIC Trivia

The Holy History of Tempura

When you order a delicious plate of crispy, golden tempura at your favourite Japanese restaurant, you are actually enjoying a meal invented because of strict Catholic fasting rules.

In the 16th century, Portuguese Catholic missionaries and traders arrived in Japan. Like all devout Catholics of the era, these missionaries strictly observed meatless Fridays and the traditional Ember Days. Known in Latin as Quattuor Tempora, these were set days of fasting and abstinence tied to the four seasons of the liturgical year. To make their meatless meals a little more appealing, the homesick Portuguese missionaries took to coating local seafood and fresh vegetables in a light batter and deep-frying them. The Japanese cooks were absolutely fascinated by this unique foreign cooking method, which was completely different to their traditional culinary practices.

When locals asked what this delicious fried dish was called, the missionaries explained they were eating it because of the Tempora (the Ember Days). The Japanese adopted both the brilliant cooking technique and a modified version of the Latin word, eventually giving birth to the world-famous dish we now know as tempura. So next time you enjoy a Japanese dinner, remember to thank a fasting Catholic missionary!



MASS MATTERS

~ Vestments (Alb, Amice, Cincture and Stole) ~

When the priest prepares for Mass, he does not just put on clothes; he vests in deep theological symbolism.

First, he often puts on the Amice, a rectangular white linen cloth worn around the neck. As he ties it, he prays for the "helmet of salvation" to protect his mind from worldly distractions. Next, he puts on the Alb, a long white garment representing the pure grace of Baptism.

He then ties the Cincture, a cord around his waist, symbolising chastity and spiritual readiness. Finally, he places the Stole over his shoulders. This cloth band is the primary mark of ordained authority, representing the "yoke of Christ." It shows he acts in persona Christi (in the person of Christ) to serve our parish.

The Readings

Introit
(Jeremiah 29:11,12,14)

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.
You will call upon me, and I will answer you,
and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading
The Book of Proverbs
(Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31)

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm
(Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2)

℟. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. ℟.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. ℟.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. ℟.

Second Reading
First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
(1 Thessalonians 5:1-6)

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation
(John 15:4. 5)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel
The Gospel of Matthew
(Matthew 25:14-30)

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."'

Communio
(Psalm 72:28)

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.