Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. 11. No. 45. November 8, 2026 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



~ The Grace of Purgatory ~

Unlocking the Treasury of the Church for the Faithful Departed

In our continued prayers for the faithful departed, the Church invites us to delve deeper into the profound reality of Purgatory. In our modern world, this traditional Catholic teaching is often misunderstood or entirely forgotten. Yet, Purgatory is fundamentally a doctrine of immense hope and divine mercy. It is not a place of despair, but the threshold of heaven, a final purification prepared by a loving Father for His children before they enter eternal happiness.

When we consider the absolute holiness of God, we understand why this purification is strictly necessary. The Book of Revelation clearly states that nothing unclean shall enter the heavenly city (Revelation 21:27). When we fall into sin, the Sacrament of Penance restores us to a state of grace and forgives the eternal guilt of our offences. However, the temporal effects, ingrained habits, and unhealthy attachments caused by our past sins often remain. Purgatory is the cleansing fire of God's love, stripping away these remaining imperfections. Saint Catherine of Genoa teaches that while these souls experience a painful longing for God, they also suffer with immense peace, knowing their eternal reward is now permanently secure.

These holy souls, however, can no longer pray for themselves or earn merit. As scripture reminds us, "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins" (2 Mac 12:46). They rely entirely upon the charity of the Church Militant - those of us still living on earth. This is where the beautiful practice of gaining indulgences comes into focus. Christ entrusted the Church with the power to bind and loose, granting her access to the infinite treasury of His own merits, along with the superabundant merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints. Through an indulgence, the Church applies these infinite merits to remit the temporal punishment due to sin.

During this dedicated season of remembrance, the Holy Church offers us extraordinary opportunities to assist the faithful departed. We are highly encouraged to visit a cemetery and offer prayers for the dead. Under the usual conditions, we can obtain a plenary indulgence applicable only to the souls in Purgatory. These conditions require us to make a good Confession, receive Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, and maintain a heart completely detached from all sin, even venial sin.

This is an immense privilege and a serious spiritual responsibility for every Catholic. Imagine the profound joy of a soul suddenly released from its purification because of your specific prayers and sacrifices. This week, resolve to perform these acts of charity. Offer your Sunday Mass, daily rosary, fasting, almsgiving, and your devout visits to the graves of your loved ones for their swift deliverance into the arms of Our Lord. You might also recite devotions like the 'De Profundis' or the 'Eternal Rest' prayer. By participating in this great exchange of spiritual goods, we not only assist the holy souls in reaching their heavenly homeland, but we also actively prepare ourselves for the life to come.

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.
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 Duong and Savelina Sikimeti

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 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 3: Vietnamese Community

Readers
Vigil Gerry Pinto, Rebecca Hanson, Rosette Chidiac

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

Children's Liturgy
Wanda Krasinski and Chloe Zaiter

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.

Thank you

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to all parishioners who faithfully attended the Holy Mass and the blessing of the graves of our former Parish Priests at Rookwood Cemetery on Saturday. Your presence and prayers for the repose of their souls were a true testament to your enduring faith and respect for those who served our parish.

We also offer special thanks to those parishioners who gave of their time and talent. Special thanks goes to John Portelli for organising the program for the day, and to Joe Chidiac who assisted with the transportation by driving the parish bus, allowing those without transport to be a part of this prayerful day.

We also thank Doris from Avanti Florist for her continued support of our parish by supplying the wreaths that were placed on the graves of each of our priests.

Please continue to remember our deceased priests in your prayers and pray that the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Priests, will hold them close and take them safely to her Son in heaven.

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

New Saturday Vigil Mass and Confession Times at Holy Trinity Church

The Saturday Vigil Mass at Holy Trinity Church will now commence at the earlier time of 5:00 p.m. from this week.

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

This permanent adjustment has been made to retain an earlier Vigil option that has been so warmly received by many. We look forward to welcoming you to this new regular schedule and thank all parishioners for your ongoing support during this transition.

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.

Honouring *the* Holy Sacrifice *of the* Mass: The State *of* Grace *and the* Sacrament *of* Penance

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass culminates in the greatest gift imaginable: Our Lord Jesus Christ offering His very Body and Blood for our nourishment. When we approach the altar to receive Holy Communion, we are stepping forward to participate in a significant and sacred union. Because this gift is so immense, God asks us to ensure that the dwelling place of our soul is swept clean and ready to welcome such a divine guest. We must be fully and properly prepared, which means being in a state of grace.

To be in a state of grace means that our inward relationship with God remains unbroken by grave sin. While daily faults and everyday struggles—known as venial sins—can be cleansed through our sincere prayers and the penitential rites at the beginning of Mass, grave sins completely sever our vital connection to God. Before we leave our pews to join the communion procession, we are called to honestly examine our consciences. We must ask ourselves if we have committed any serious offences against God's commandments, His Church, or our neighbours since our last Confession.

The Church teaches with absolute clarity that anyone who is aware of having committed a grave sin must not present themselves to receive Holy Communion without first seeking sacramental absolution. To receive the King of kings into a soul that is separated from Him by serious sin is a deep contradiction and a profound failure of reverence. The Eucharist is a sacrament of the living; it strengthens the spiritual life already present within us, but it must not be received by a soul that has lost that vital life through a grave offence.



Fortunately, Our Saviour's mercy is infinite and always available to us. He gave us the Sacrament of Penance precisely because He knows our human weakness. Confession is not a punishment, but a beautiful, healing encounter where our souls are washed clean and our state of grace is completely restored. Making regular use of Confession is the absolute and best way to ensure our hearts are always prepared for Sunday.

If you find yourself aware of a serious sin and have not yet had the opportunity to go to Confession, the most respectful and pleasing action to God is to remain in your pew. By kneeling in silent prayer and making a spiritual communion, you offer Him the utmost adoration and honesty He truly deserves.

Quick Guide for Holy Mass

Spiritual Readiness:
You must be in a state of grace to receive Holy Communion.

Examine Your Conscience:
Reflect honestly on your actions before approaching the altar.

Seek Absolution:
If you are aware of grave sin, you must go to Confession first.

Embrace God's Mercy:
Regular Confession is the best preparation for Sunday Mass.

Adore from the Pew:
If you are unprepared to receive, remain seated and make a spiritual communion.



THE HIDDEN REALITY

Confronting *the* Hidden Crisis *of* Christian Persecution

As we continue our observance of Red November, a sacred time dedicated to our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ, we must turn our attention to a harsh and often ignored reality. Throughout this month, Catholic parishes across Australia and the world are partnering with the pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) to break the silence surrounding the global persecution of Christians. The striking red illumination of churches and monuments during this campaign is not merely a dramatic display; it is a profound visual reminder of the blood of the martyrs, both past and present, who have laid down their lives for the Holy Catholic Faith.

In our comfortable Western society, there is a prevailing illusion that the brutal persecution of Christians is a dark relic of the Roman Empire or the totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century. The secular media rarely reports on the daily atrocities committed against the Church. Yet, the sobering truth is that the scale of severity of Christian persecution today amounts to a global catastrophe. According to recent data from ACN and global monitors, hundreds of millions of Christians live in countries where the fundamental right to religious freedom is violently suppressed, with approximately 220 million directly exposed to severe persecution. It is estimated that one in seven Christian worldwide faces high levels of hostility, discrimination, or violence simply for their faith.

This suffering take many forms across different continents. In parts of Africa, such as Nigeria and Burkina Faso, religious extremism has led to the systematic targeting of Catholic communities. Priests and seminarians are routinely kidnapped, faithful villagers are violently driven from their homes, and historic parishes are burned to the ground by militant groups. In these regions, simply attending Holy Mass on a Sunday required heroic courage, as parishioners know they may not return home.

In Latin America, authoritarian regimes have launched aggressive campaigns to silence the Church. In Nicaragua, the government has exiled bishops, unjustly imprisoned priests, and expelled religious orders, attempting to extinguish the light of Christ through state-sponsored repression. Meanwhile, in vast regions of Asia, including India and Pakistan, aggressive ethno-religious nationalism and false blasphemy accusations regularly result in mob violence, the destruction of churches, and the imprisonment of innocent believers.

Yet, as we consider these horrifying statistics and the great physical suffering of the universal Church, we must again heed the warning that we are not entirely safe here in Australia. While we do not currently face the threat of armed militants or government labour camps, a different, more subtle form of hostility is rapidly growing. It is the "polite persecution" of a secularised culture that increasingly views Catholic morality as a direct threat. When faithful Catholics are marginalised in their workplaces for defending the sanctity of human life and the sacrament of marriage, or when legislation seeks to force our Catholic schools and hospitals to compromise their God-given mission, we are witnessing the creeping shadows of anti-Christian intolerance.

We must thoroughly understand that the physical martyrdom endured by our brethren overseas and the "white martyrdom" of social exclusion we face in the West stem from the exact same source: a world that rejects Jesus Christ and His Holy Church. This is why the mission of Aid to the Church in Need is so vitally important. ACN does not merely provide material relief - such as rebuilding destroyed churches, supporting impoverished priests, and funding the pastoral care of refugees - it also serves as a crucial spiritual bridge. It connects our parish directly with the suffering mystical Body of Christ. By supporting ACN, we fulfil our sacred and obligated duty to our spiritual family.

As we prepare for our Red Wednesday Mass on 25 November, let us stand in solidarity with the persecuted. Offer our prayers, especially the Holy Rosary, and our material sacrifices for those who risk everything for the Gospel. But we must also pray for the fortitude to live as unapologetic Catholics in our own daily lives. Let the blood of today's martyrs inspire us to boldly proclaim the Truth, no matter the cost.

HOLY CROSS PARISH
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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

Bl. Benedetta Bianchi Porro

In today's Gospel, Our Lord tells the Parable of the Ten Virgins, urging us to stay vigilant and keep our lamps filled with the oil of faith, since we know neither the day nor the hour the Bridegroom arrives. A radiant modern example of a soul who kept her lamp burning brightly through overwhelming darkness is Blessed Benedetta Bianchi Porro, a 20th-century Italian medical student.

As a young woman pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor, Benedetta was diagnosed with a rare, progressive disease that slowly stripped away her hearing, sight, and mobility. Rather than falling into despair as her physical world went dark, she filled her spiritual lamp with profound prayer and complete trust in God's will. Confined to her bed and communicating only through touch, her room became a beacon of joy for countless visitors who sought her spiritual counsel.

Dying at twenty-seven, Blessed Benedetta proves that true vigilance is a matter of the heart. Her inspiring witness reminds us that even when life's sufferings threaten to extinguish our hope, the oil of unwavering faith will keep our souls ready to meet the heavenly Bridegroom.

Bl. Benedetta Bianchi Porro, Pray for us!

CATECHISM *of the* CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ready for His Return

673 Since the Ascension Christ's coming in glory has been imminent, even though 'it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority.' This eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are 'delayed'.

1041 The Last Judgement will reveal even to its furthest consequences the good each person has done or failed to do during his earthly life: 'All that the wicked do is recorded, and they do not know. When "our God comes, he does not keep silence" ... he will turn towards those on his left hand...

1612 The nuptial covenant between God and his people Israel had prepared the way for the new and everlasting covenant in which the Son of God, by becoming incarnate and giving his life, has united to himself in a certain way all mankind saved by him, thus preparing for 'the wedding-feast of the Lamb.'

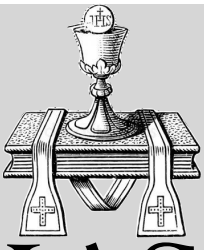
2612 In Jesus 'the Kingdom of God is at hand.' He calls his hearers to conversion and faith, but also to watchfulness. In prayer the disciple keeps watch, attentive to Him Who Is and Him Who Comes, in memory of his first coming in the lowliness of the flesh, and in hope of his second coming in glory…

CATHOLIC Trivia

The Holy Origin of Reading Glasses

If you are currently squinting to read the small print in this bulletin, you owe a massive debt of gratitude to a group of brilliant thirteenth-century Italian friars. Before the 1280s, fading eyesight was considered a devastating, career-ending tragedy for dedicated scholars. For medieval monks whose entire lives revolved around illuminating manuscripts, copying Scripture, and studying ancient texts, failing vision meant they could no longer actively participate in their most important daily work.

Fortunately, human ingenuity combined with a desire to serve God led to a breakthrough. Dominican friars in Italy, most notably Friar Alessandro della Spina, figured out how to carefully shape and polish small glass lenses to successfully magnify text. They mounted these curved lenses into simple wearable frames, creating the world's very first practical pairs of reading glasses. This brilliant invention kept aging monks at their desks and revolutionised human learning forever. It is a beautiful reminder that the Church has always sought to bring clarity and light into the world. So the next time you frantically search the house for your misplaced glasses, perhaps say a quick prayer of thanks for the wonderfully innovative medieval monks who originally envisioned them!



MASS MATTERS

~ Praying for the Departed ~

November is dedicated to the Holy Souls, making it the perfect time to highlight a deep moment in the Mass: the remembrance of the departed within the Eucharistic Prayer.

After the consecration, the priest prays for those who have "fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection." This is not a mere tribute, but a powerful spiritual action. Our faith teaches that the bonds of love do not unravel with death. Through the Communion of Saints, we remain deeply connected.

Because the Mass makes Christ's perfect sacrifice present, it is the greatest prayer we can offer for them. We actively assist the Holy Souls, asking God to welcome them into the light of His face.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Readings

Introit
(Cf Psalm 87:3)

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading
The Book of Wisdom
(Wisdom 6:12-16)

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

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

℟. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. ℟.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. ℟.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. ℟.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. ℟.

Second Reading
First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation
(Matthew 24:42. 44)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel
The Gospel of Matthew
(Matthew 25:1-13)

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Communio
(Matthew 5:8-10)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.

