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# Granville

## Catholic Church Record

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Vol. 4. No. 51

December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

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The Official Bulletin of Holy Trinity Church at Granville and Holy Family Church at East Granville

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# Advent

## SIGNS *and* SYMBOLS

### **The Advent Wreath**

The four candles that light the wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, totalling the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ. Three candles are violet and one is rose. The violet candles in particular symbolise the prayer, penance, and sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. The wreath is usually made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning: the laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, mean immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: the prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells us that the cross on which Christ hung was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ.

### **The Nativity Scene**

On Christmas Eve in 1223, St. Francis of Assisi created the first nativity in the Italian city of Greccio. St. Francis celebrated the birth of Our Lord in a cave outside the town with a scene of a hay-filled manger with an ox and a donkey.

The figures which make up these scenes are themselves symbols of our faith and tell us the story of the birth of Christ. The crib filled with hay tells us of the feeding trough for animals in which our Lord was born. The Blessed Virgin Mary kneels beside her Son, adoring Him, and St. Joseph stands by them to guard them and to protect them as He protects the Church. The angels above, the messengers of God on high, who revealed to the shepherds, the lowest of the low, of the birth of the Saviour of Israel. The three kings from the East, a sign that this was also the birth of the Saviour of the world. And then there are the figures of the ox and the donkey, taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah who wrote: "The ox knows his owner, and the donkey his master's crib: but Israel has not known me, and my people have not understood."


### **The Christmas Tree**

Legend tells us that the first Christmas tree came from St. Boniface, 1,300 years ago, in the 8th century.

The tree itself is also a reminder of the tree in the Garden of Eden from which Eve took the forbidden fruit and tempted Adam and so caused the downfall of mankind. It is a reminder of the irony of our faith. That from death comes life, from darkness comes light, and that the tree that caused our damnation became the tree on which hung our salvation.

The Christmas tree, traditionally an evergreen tree, symbolises eternal life, the immortality of the soul. The tree, reaching upwards to the sky, points to heaven, from where our salvation comes. The lights that decorate the tree are a sign of that light that came into the world, to break through the darkness of sin and to illuminate the world with the light of truth.

As with all symbols of the Church these things matter and serve to remind us in a tangible way of the truths of our faith and that our faith should be embedded in the day to day moments of our lives.



## THE PARISH OFFICE

### Address

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### Parish Priest

Rev. Fr. Andrew Bass PP

### Business and Projects Manager

John Portelli

### Director of Music

John Portelli

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Jim Newell

### Catechist Co-ordinators

Joe Elias

Lana Leatherby

### Sacraments and T.Y.M. Co-ordinator

Rosette Chidiac

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Cheryl Fortini

### Principal of Holy Trinity School

Philip Mahony

### Principal of Delany College

Rob Muscat

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

### Holy Mass

Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, 9:15 a.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 6:50 p.m.

Sunday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

### Holy Rosary

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

### Children's Liturgy

Third Sunday of the Month, 8:30 a.m.

### Rosters

**Altar Society** Group 2: C. Boatswain,

C. Tiller, M. Whebe

### Readers

**8:30 a.m.** Rosette Chidiac

**5:00 p.m.** Joseph M.

**Counters** T. Burden and O. Meredith

**Bus Driver** John McIntyre

## SOCIAL MEDIA



granvilleparish.org.au  
eastgranvilleparish.org.au



Holy Trinity Granville  
Holy Family East Granville



Holy Trinity Parish App  
Holy Family Parish App



@holyltrinitygranville

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

### Holy Mass

Monday, 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday, 7:00 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

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

First Friday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

### Traditional Latin Mass

First Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

### Ghanaian Chaplaincy Mass

Second and last Sunday of the month,  
11:30 a.m.

### Vietnamese Chaplaincy Mass

Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

### Children's Liturgy

*Not during the school holidays*

### Rosters

**Church Cleaning** Group 3: Thi Vi Vu  
and the Vietnamese community

### Readers

**Vigil** Rosette Chidiac,

Paula El-Husseini, Gerry Pinto

**10:00 a.m.** Pierre Mariasson,

Tanya Martin, Joseph Ojiba

**Children's Liturgy** Elmo and Shanti

**Counters** D. Portelli, S. Portelli,

P. Adolphe, C. Takchi

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton, John Augustus, Frank Azzopardi, Ann Blesson, Antonia Bonaci, Vincenzo Colosimo, Eileen Dean, Lucy Farrugia, Carmel Galea, Samir Gibrine, Evangeline Grabato, John Graham, Mary Grech, Pat Hale, Thomas Hayek, Elizabeth Hicks, Peter Higgins, Ruth La Rosa, Kay King, Jacob Lee, Josephine Magro, Ester Matos, Sid Morgan, Scott Moulton, Tony Moussa, Ben Nursoo, Sarah-Joy O'Connor, Sheila Pidegon, Flory Pinto, Don Provest, Peter Rahme, Anna Saunig, Therese Smeal, Phil Thompson, Ricardo Tognini, Bay Tran, Miriam Welangoda, Lorraine Vella.

## IN MEMORIAM

Roberto Arribas, Kathleen Bradbery, Paul Bradbery, Emilio (Jim) Cutajar, Dib Family, Diane Dib, George Dib, Nadia Dib, Tony Dib, Carmen Galea, Evon Gatt, Maria Gambin, Youseff Hasbany, Nouhad Houry, Marie Ladkani, Anthony Magro, Domingo Marbella, Laura Marbella, Maryse Mariasson, Giovanni Mondello, Moussa Family, Mariane Moussa, Sam Moussa, Samantha Moussa, Tannous Moussa, Jack Newell, Edward Pidgeon, George Safadi, Saliba Family, Manuella Sassine, Geoffrey Senior, Moussa Sleiman, Antonia Spiteri, Gaetano Spiteri, Joe Spiteri, Angel Succar, Michael Wakim, Norma Yap, Phyllis Yott, Dib Zaiter.



## N O T I C E S

### Holy Trinity Church and Holy Family Church Piety Shops

With Christmas only a few days away this is the time to visit the piety shops at Holy Trinity Church and Holy Family Church and to have a look at the wonderful arrangement of gifts.

Have a look to see if there is anything you would like to give as a gift for someone or maybe you would like to have as decoration for your home this Christmas season. Sales from the piety shop support the parish.

So make sure to stop by before or after Mass to have a look at what is available.

### Christmas Holy Mass Times

There will be seven Holy Masses said across the parish at Holy Family Church and Holy Trinity Church to celebrate the great solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord. These Christmas Mass times are available on page 6 of this bulletin as well as online at our websites at [granvilleparish.org.au](http://granvilleparish.org.au) and [eastgranvilleparish.org.au](http://eastgranvilleparish.org.au) as well as on our parish Facebook pages.



### THANK YOU

Thank you to John Portelli, Director of Music, for his arrangement of the stunning Carols by Candlelight service last Friday evening. It takes months of hard work to prepare this service. It was, as always, a beautiful concert filled with incredible organ music, traditional and contemporary carols, readings telling the history of salvation, projected images of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Child, and all lit simply by candlelight. In particular, thank you to the soloists Elizabeth Chidiac, Maria De Leon, David Elias, Andrea Moussa, Maryanne Takchi, and the members of the choir. And thank you to Rosette Chidiac for arranging the readers and to Raphaella Chidiac, Anna Cox, Racquel La Rosa, Anne Nguyen, and Claudette Takchi for reading. And thank you to the Trinitarians Youth Ministry for their support, and to Rosette Chidiac for filming the service.

### Thank You to StepUp Personal Training

Thank you to Toni Sassine and to StepUp Personal Training for the donation they made to the parish for Christmas. Toni is a tremendous supporter of the parish and, throughout the year, helps us out whether by donations to the parish or by helping with the Holy Family Fair. We are very grateful to him for his constant support of the parish.

StepUp Personal Training run high intensity group training sessions that are fun, motivating and are proven to get results, including high intensity interval training, strength and conditioning, and boxing and circuit training. They train regularly at Holy Family Hall and offer sessions both in the mornings and in the evenings.

For more information on StepUp Personal Training visit their website at [stepuppt.com.au](http://stepuppt.com.au), or check out their Facebook page @StepupPersonalTraining, or have a look at their Instagram page @stepup\_pt.



Katrina Wehbe  
Dessert Artist

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GRANVILLE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

# Christmas

## APPEAL

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*Please support the good works  
of our parish by your gift this Christmas  
so that we can continue to offer to the glory of God  
worship and service  
for our salvation  
and for the salvation of all the world.*

The money you give to the second collection each Mass  
supports the day to day running costs of the parish  
and helps us to meet our repairs and maintenance costs  
to look after our churches, our halls, and our other buildings.

Like every family and every organisation the parish has many expenses to meet  
including electricity and water, telephone and internet,  
office and printing costs, and especially insurance.

These are in addition to the other costs which further support the works of the parish  
in public schools and the broader community.

Your gifts are a sign of your love and care  
for Our Lord and His holy Church in this place.

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.





## N O T I C E S

After four years of dedicated service as Principal of Delany College, Robert Muscat will be taking up a new appointment as Principal of Corpus Christi Catholic High School in Oak Flats in the Diocese of Wollongong.

On behalf of the Granville Catholic Community of Holy Family and Holy Trinity we congratulate Rob on this appointment, but we are certainly saddened to see him leaving us.

Rob has effected tremendous change and growth at Delany College and has brought about higher academic results, increased enrollments, an improved sense of discipline, and a greater connection with the parish. In his few years at the college he has achieved great success—a success which has been very much appreciated by parents and students alike.

### Farewell to Mr. Robert Muscat



Working closely with the parish and the parish's schools—with Fr. Andrew and John Portelli, with Cheryl Fortini of Holy Family Primary School and Philip Mahoney of Holy Trinity Primary School—Rob has contributed to us achieving an ever growing sense of unity and community.

Rob's generosity of spirit has been seen repeatedly by his support of many parish events. Whether it be supporting the Holy Trinity Fairs and the Holy Family Fairs, whether it be by providing the college bus for our annual Good Friday Crosswalk, whether it be by providing the college grounds for our Parish Pilgrimage Retreat, Rob has, from the beginning, always given his wholehearted assistance and help.

Rob will be greatly missed by the parish and by the college and we wish him all the very best as he takes up his new appointment. We pray that almighty God may bless him and reward him for his labours to the Church in education and to the parish and grant him His blessing and grace to encourage and to sustain him and his family in this new role.



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# Christmas

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

*Christmas Eve* 6p.m. Vigil Mass

*Christmas Day* Midnight Holy Mass

*Carols at 11:45p.m.*

10a.m. Holy Mass

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

*Christmas Eve* 6p.m. Vigil Mass

*Children's Nativity Play before Mass*

*Christmas Day* Midnight Holy Mass

8:30a.m. Holy Mass

5p.m. Holy Mass



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# Saints & STUFF

## St. John the Baptist

St. John the Baptist was born through the intercession of God to Zachariah and Elizabeth, who was otherwise too old to bear children. According to scripture, the Archangel Gabriel visited Elizabeth and Zachariah to tell them they would have a son and that they should name him John. Zachariah was skeptical and for this he was rendered mute until the time his son was born and named John, in fulfillment of God's will.

When Elizabeth was pregnant with St. John, she was visited by the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. John leapt in her womb. This revealed to Elizabeth that the child Mary carried was to be the Son of God.

St. John began public ministry around A.D. 30, and was known for attracting large crowds across the province of Judaea and around the Jordan River. When Jesus came to him to be baptised, St. John recognised him and said, "It is I who need baptism from you."

St. John instructed his followers to turn to Christ, calling Him the "Lamb of God" and these people were among the first Christians.

The Church celebrates his feast day on June 24. He is the patron saint of Jordan, Puerto Rico, French Canada, and many other places around the world.

## CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Advent

**522** The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the "1<sup>st</sup> Covenant". He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.

**523** St. John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way. John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the Gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being "the friend of the bridegroom", whom he points out as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world".

**524** When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, the faithful renew their desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

# CATHOLIC Trivia

## The crib

On Christmas Eve, A.D. 1223, St. Francis of Assisi created the first nativity in the Italian city of Greccio. With the help of a local nobleman, St. Francis celebrated the birth of Jesus in a cave outside the town. The scene featured a hay-filled manger in front of the temporary altar, and as St. Francis preached, the nobleman arranged to have an ox and a donkey stand at the altar as well.

His idea for the nativity scene came out of his pilgrimage two years before to the Holy Land, to Bethlehem. He wanted others to have the chance to see this place but with tensions in the Middle East at that time people were prevented from travelling. So he brought that scene to the people and re-created the stable and the manger.

Over time these scenes grew increasingly popular until every church in Italy was expected to have a nativity scene like this. Over time, however, the living people were replaced with statues.

As is customary, a massive nativity scene sits in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. This year the crib was donated by Malta and includes a *luzzu*, a traditional boat used by Maltese fishermen.



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## Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

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### The Readings

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#### First Reading

##### The Prophet Isaiah (7:10-14)

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

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#### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv. 7-10)

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;

on the waters he made it firm. R.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. R.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,

seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.

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#### Second Reading

##### The Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (1:1-7)

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

---

#### Gospel of Matthew (1:18-24)

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

**HE DID NOT SAY**  
**YOU WOULD NOT BE TROUBLED,**  
**YOU WOULD NOT BE TEMPTED,**  
**YOU WOULD NOT BE DISTRESSED,**  
**BUT HE DID SAY**  
**YOU WOULD NOT BE OVERCOME**

—St. Josemaria Escriva

