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# Granville

## Catholic Church Record

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Vol. 5. No. 51

December 20, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent, Year B

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The Official Bulletin of the Granville Catholic Community of Holy Cross Parish

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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."

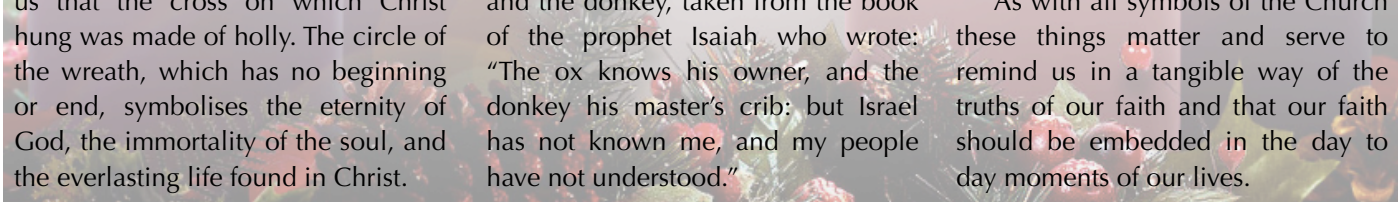
### **The Christmas Tree**

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

200 The Trongate,  
South Granville, N.S.W. 2142

**T** 0497 190 444

**E** granville@parracatholic.org

### Parish Priest

Rev. Fr. Andrew Bass PP

### Business and Projects Manager

John Portelli

### Director of Music

John Portelli

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### Catechist Co-ordinators

Joe Elias

Lana Leatherby

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

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### Principal of Holy Family School

Cheryl Fortini

### Principal of Holy Trinity School

Philip Mahony

### Principal of Delany College

Paul Easton

## 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, 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

### Confessions

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### Holy Rosary

### Rosters

### Altar Society

### Readers

8:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

### Counters

### Bus Driver

## SOCIAL MEDIA



granvilleparish.org.au  
eastgranvilleparish.org.au



HolyCrossGranville



Holy Trinity Parish App  
Holy Family 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. and 3:00 p.m.

### Confessions

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

### Holy Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### Traditional Latin Mass

### 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

### Rosters

### Church Cleaning

### Readers

### Vigil

10:00 a.m.

### Children's Liturgy

### Counters

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton, John Augustus, Frank Azzopardi, Ann Blesson, Vincenzo Colosimo, Lucy Farrugia, Carmel Galea, Samir Gibrine, Evangeline Grabato, John Graham, 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, Flory Pinto, Don Provest, Anna Saunig, Therese Smeal, Phil Thompson, Ricardo Tognini, Miriam Welangoda, Lorraine Vella, Sam Wardan.

## IN MEMORIAM

Rosanna Agius, Miklina Azzopardi, Badwi Barakat, Kathleen Bradbery, Paul Bradbery, John Chalhoub, Francis Xavier Chee, Maria Gambin, Joe Gatt, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Peter Ha, Tony Haynes, Nouhad Khoury, Jack Koop, Mary Koop, Maria Krasevic, Frouzine Malkoun, Jacob Malkoun, Mona Malkoun, Ofimia Malkoun, Maryse Mariasson, Eileen Michael, Paul Michael, Betty McGrath, Giovanni Molinaro, Joseph Nammour, Mary Nguy, Barbara Nicholas, Jack Newell, Edward James Pidgeon, Boutros (Peter) Rahme, Eid Rezik, Grace Saliba, Christable Sejarajasinghe, Michael Succar, Mershed Wehbe, Yesmine Wehbe, Dib Zaiter.

## Thank You to Toni Sassine and StepUp Personal Training

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



## THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

This weekend the first of the three yearly appeals for the Catholic Foundation will be taken.

This particular appeal will support CatholicCare's "Project Elizabeth" pregnancy support services, family and relationships counselling and positive parenting programs.

Project Elizabeth, which operates from CatholicCare Penrith is a service that helps women and families throughout the diocese, who are expecting or have just had babies, with ongoing counselling, practical parenting groups and parenting strategies sessions.

Each parish is assigned a quota which it is required to pay in support of these appeals. Your generous support of this appeal helps the parish to meet the quota we are assigned.

If you would like to make a contribution in support of this appeal, there are envelopes available on the pews and can be left in the specially marked box by the church doors. Contributions can also be made by credit card, either by completing one of the envelopes or by visiting the Catholic Foundation website at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au).

## Thank You to Viviane Malkoun

Thank you to Viviane, Georgia, Melanie, Raghida, Rita and Teresa for their generous donation to the parish. Each year they arrange a collection amongst themselves to raise money and they have very kindly donated that money in support of the needs of the parish. We are very grateful to them for their thoughtfulness and their generosity and we pray that almighty God may bless them and their families for their support of the Church.

## Thank You for Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Over the past few weeks Masses have been said for the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and for the reception of first Holy Communion.

The restrictions we have endured for most of the year meant that it was only recently that it was possible to arrange for these Sacraments, and so a great deal of work was done very quickly to make these possible.

We owe our thanks to all those who generously assisted and supported these Sacraments—in particular Rosette Chidiac, John Portelli, Claudette Takchi, Maryanne Takchi, Lana Leatherby, and Joe Elias.



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# Christmas

## HOLY MASSES

### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

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#### *Christmas Eve*

7:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m.

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#### *Christmas Day*

Midnight

10:00 a.m.

3:00 p.m.

### HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

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#### *Christmas Eve*

4:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

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#### *Christmas Day*

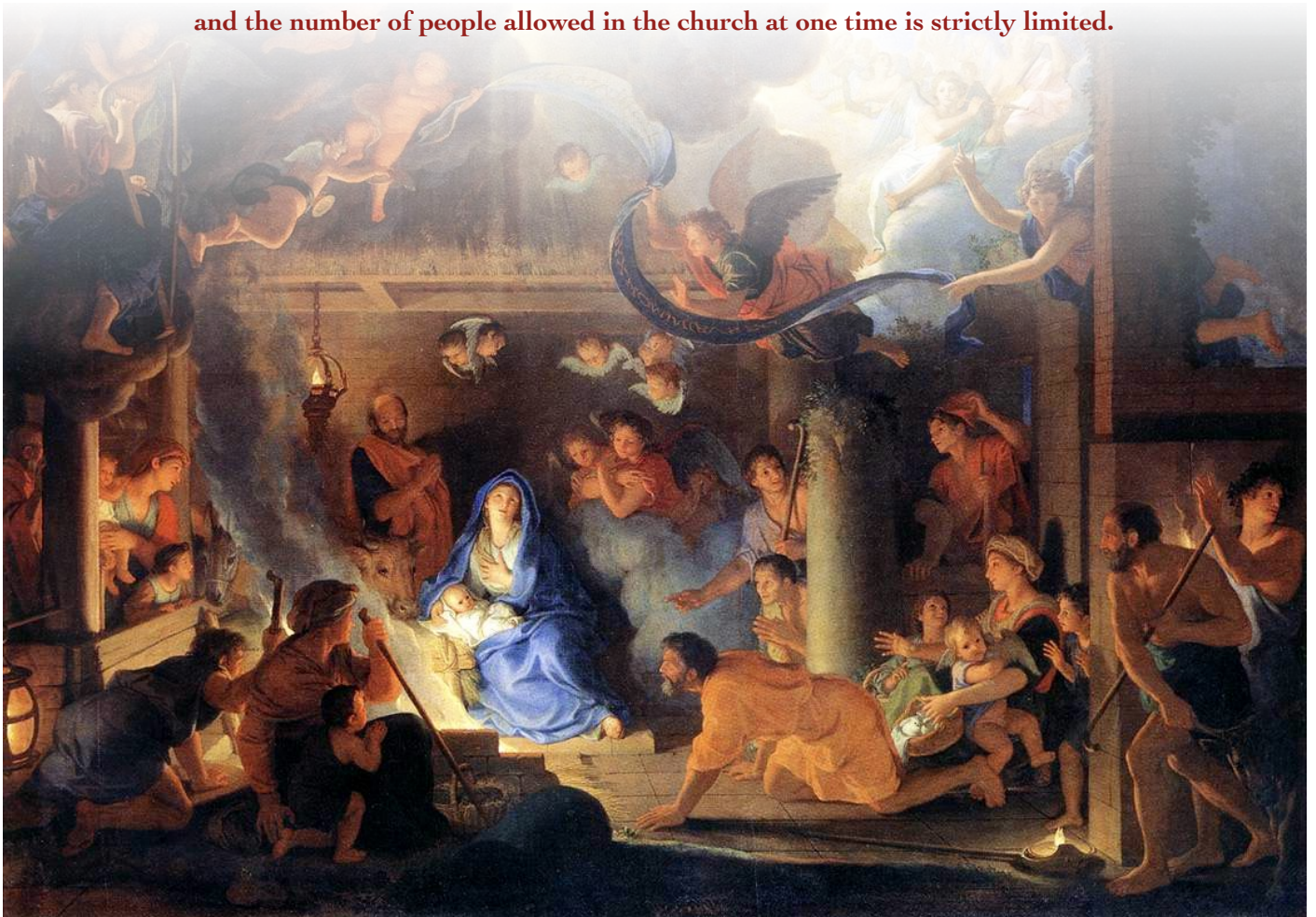
Midnight

7:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

Current public health restrictions remain in place  
and the number of people allowed in the church at one time is strictly limited.



# 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 "1st 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.



Granville- Guildford

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# TEMPORARY SUNDAY MASS TIMES

SATURDAY  
VIGILS

Holy Family Church 4:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity Church 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAYS

Holy Family Church 7:30 a.m.

Holy Family Church 8:30 a.m.

Holy Trinity Church 10:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Church 3:00 p.m.

Holy Family Church 5:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays, Holy Family Church 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays, Holy Trinity Church 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

In order to allow as many people as possible to attend Mass  
and to comply with N.S.W. Government legislation  
regarding church occupancy limits and physical distancing,  
additional temporary times for Mass have been arranged.

Please consider attending one of these additional times  
so that we can ensure compliance with the restrictions that have been placed on us.

These times are temporary and will only remain in place  
until physical distancing restrictions are removed.

*Please be aware that the N.S.W. Government will impose fines on the parish  
and individually on those attending Mass if these limits are exceeded.*

Maryanne Takchi  
Vocalist

0467 342 984

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# This Christmas, let us unite in demonstrating God's unconditional love and keep families together



"Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare to support vulnerable families to build strong, loving relationships. You can help give people the emotional and practical support they need to live their lives in love and joy."

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv  
Bishop of Parramatta



PARRAMATTA  
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## 4th Sunday of Advent, Year B

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### The Readings

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#### Introit (Is 45:8)

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

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#### First Reading

##### The Second Book of Samuel (61:1-2, 10-11)

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

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#### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29. R. see v. 2)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. R.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' R.

He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. R.

#### Second Reading

##### The Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (16:25-27)

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

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#### Gospel Acclamation (Lk 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

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#### Gospel of Luke (1:26-38)

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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#### Communio (Is 7:14)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.