



Holy Family Parish

A praying, caring community, centred in Christ

A member of the North Belfast Pastoral Community: comprising the parishes of Holy Cross, Holy Family, Sacred Heart, St Patrick's & St Vincent de Paul

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Family Church: 7pm & 9pm Vigil & 10.30am

St Thérèse of Lisieux Church: 7pm & 9pm Vigil, 9am & 12noon

CHRISTMAS WEEK

Holy Family Church: 9.15am Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

St Thérèse of Lisieux Church: 10.00am Thursday, Friday & Saturday

RECONCILIATION

Holy Family Church: Sat. 31st Dec. 5.15pm-5.45pm

St Thérèse of Lisieux Church: Sat. 31st Dec. after 10am Mass

BAPTISMS

(Prior booking via Parish Office)

Baptisms will resume January 7th & 8th.

DEVOTIONS

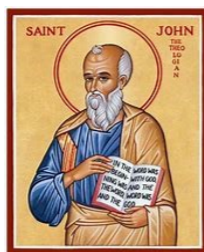
Eucharistic Adoration: Will resume daily 10am-10pm from 28th December (St Thérèse)

Pilgrim Prayer: Tuesday 8pm on Parish website & Facebook

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

- Mon. 26th Dec: St Stephen, Martyr, Feast
- Tue. 27th Dec: St John, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast
- Wed. 28th Dec: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, Feast
- Fri. 30th Dec: The Holy Family, Feast

St John is "the disciple whom Jesus loved" and the one to whom he confided the care of his mother Mary. He wrote a Gospel, three Epistles and the book of Revelation.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy: Very Rev. Michael Spence PP, Rev. Robert Sloan CC & Rev. Deacon Brendan Dowd

Parish Telephone (Office hours): 90743119
Office hours: Mon-Thu 9.30am-2.30pm, Fri 9.30am-1.30pm
Address: 226-228 Limestone Road, Belfast BT15 3AP

Emergency Sick Calls only (24hrs): 07802458240
Society of St Vincent de Paul (Helpline): 028 90351561

Email: holyfamily@downandconnor.org
Website: www.holy-familyparish.com
Webcam: available on Parish website homepage



CHRISTMAS DAY

25 December 2022

Readings: A (I) ♦ Psalter: Week 1



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Source of divine light, Emmanuel, God with us,
Your radiant love illuminated our waiting world
with the surprise of your Bethlehem birth.

Each year since then we celebrate this astonishing event,
rejoicing in your coming anew, not as a new-born Babe,
but as a hidden presence of divinity contained within each of us.
To our great astonishment, we have become your dwelling place.
We are now your Bethlehem.

Now you are secret **Treasure** birthed in the secret place of our soul.
Now you are **Light** gleaming through our gestures of generosity.
Now you are **Hope** radiating inside the core of our courage.
Now you are **Joy** shining into the dark caves of our gloom.
Now you are **Peace** glowing quietly in the crevices of our anxiety.
Now you are **Love** brilliantly reflected in our kindness.

O Christ, Light of all lights, Star of all stars,
dweller within these human homes of ours,
open our wandering minds and hesitant hearts
so your endless goodness radiates more completely in us.

We welcome you again and again, with gratitude and trust,
not only in this Christmas season of remembrance and celebration
but all through the New Year that awaits us.

Joyce Rupp



Fr Michael and Fr Robert would like to thank all our parishioners for the warm welcome we have received since our arrival in August. We thank all of the staff and volunteers who give so generously of their time to the life of this parish in so many ways, very often behind the scenes. Thank you all!

Along with Deacon Brendan, we would like to wish all our parishioners, your families and visitors, every blessing for the Christmas season and a happy New Year.

REST IN PEACE

Recently deceased: Bridget Lavery
Anniversaries: James O'Brien and Joseph Campbell, Jim McGreevy, Brian Delargey, Tommy & Eileen McDade, Nuala Leonard, Sean Neeson, George & Rita McQuillan, Seamus Goan

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!



PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

WEEKLY OFFERING

The weekly offering on Sunday 18th December came to £2,682.45. Thank you for your contribution and continued support.

URBI ET ORBI

Pope Francis will deliver his Papal Blessing to the city of Rome and the world from St Peter's on Christmas Day at 12noon. Tune in on RTE1 at 11:45am.

ARCHBISHOP TREANOR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Archbishop Treanor's Christmas Message is available to read on the Parish webpage and Facebook.

POINSETTIA DONATION MASS

Many thanks to all who donated poinsettias to adorn the Church. Mass will be offered on 26th December in Holy Family and 31st December in St Thérèse for all those in whose memory the poinsettia plants were donated.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS PRAYER RESOURCE

A booklet of prayers and reflections for each of the twelve days of Christmas (Dec 25th – Jan 6th) has been produced by the Northern Pastoral Network and is available on the parish website & Facebook page. A hardcopy of the booklet is available to collect after Mass for every home. You may find this a help to prayer at home over the Christmas season, for both individuals and families.



PARISH 100 CLUB

The Parish 100 Club Draw will commence January 26th and new members are welcome. Please consider supporting the Parish and be in with a chance to win cash prizes every week and year-end big cash prizes. Contact the Parish Office for more details.

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is at the heart of our faith and our relationship with God. Why not begin the year with learning how to read the Bible, understand it and so draw closer to Christ? Facilitated by Fr Paul Byrne & Aishling Steen, the course begins on Monday 9th Jan. at 7pm for 6 weeks online via zoom with a retreat day on Feb. 18th. Cost and materials £30. For more information please contact the Living Church office at livingchurch@downandconnor.org or Tel. 90690920.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon 26th: *Special intention: Poinsettia donations*
- Tue 27th: Sean Neeson
- Wed 28th: George & Rita McQuillan
- Thu 29th: *Priest's intention*
- Fri 30th: *Priest's intention*
- Sat 31st (10am): *Special intention: Poinsettia donations*
- Sat 31st (6pm): May Mooney & Mary Maguire
- Sun 1st (9am): *Priest's intention*
- Sun 1st (10.30am): Kitty D'Arcy
- Sun 1st (12Noon): Deirdre McCann



The Parish Office will close over the Christmas period at Noon on Friday 23rd December. It will reopen and resume normal office hours from Wednesday 4th January.

Both Churches will remain open for private prayer from 9am to 12noon every day from Dec. 26 - Jan. 3.

For more information and resources:
www.holy-familyparish.com