



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

MASS TIMES

SUNDAY

Holy Family Church: 6.00pm Vigil & 10.30am

St Thérèse of Lisieux Church: 9.00am & 12noon

WEEKDAYS

Holy Family Church: 9.15am Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

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

RECONCILIATION

Holy Family Church: Saturday 5.15pm-5.45pm

St Thérèse of Lisieux Church: Saturday after 10am Mass

BAPTISMS

(Prior booking via Parish Office)

Holy Family: Saturdays at 4pm

St Thérèse: Sundays at 1pm

DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration: Daily 10am-10pm (St Thérèse)

Pilgrim Prayer: Tuesday 8pm on Parish website & Facebook

First Saturday: 10am (Holy Family)

Taizé Prayer: last Friday of the month 8-9pm (Holy Family)

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Mon. 12th Dec: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tue. 13th Dec: St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
Wed. 14th Dec: St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor



Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need? - Our Lady of Guadalupe to St Juan Diego

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

Email: holyfamily@downandconnor.org

Website: www.holy-familyparish.com

Webcam: available on Parish website homepage

3rd Sunday of Advent

11 December 2022

Readings: A (I) ❖ Psalter: Week 3



THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS



HISTORY

According to tradition, St. Francis of Assisi was the initiator of living nativity scenes. The practice became popular and later on, figures were used instead of people and animals.

THE FIRST MANGER



It is said that the first nativity scene was built in Naples, Italy in the late fifteenth century and was made of clay figures.



THE MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE



EXPANSION

Charles III ordered the mangers to be spread throughout the Spanish and Italian kingdom. The Franciscan friars carried this tradition to America.

NOWADAYS

The figures of a nativity scene can be of different sizes (even real size) and they represent the different scenes of the birth of Baby Jesus

INFORMATION FROM ACIPRENSA.COM



DONATIONS OF POINSETTIAS FOR CHURCH

With the season of Christmas approaching, you are invited to donate a Poinsettia plant in memory of a loved one. The plants will be used for the decoration of the church and crib.

The plant's association with Christmas began in 16th-century Mexico, where legend tells of a girl, commonly called Pepita or Maria, who was too poor to provide a gift for the celebration of Jesus' birthday and was inspired by an Angel to gather weeds from the roadside and place them in front of the church altar. Crimson blossoms sprouted from the weeds and became beautiful poinsettias. From the 17th century, Franciscan friars in Mexico included the plants in their Christmas celebrations. The star-shaped leaf pattern is said to symbolize the star of Bethlehem, and the red colour represents the blood sacrifice through the crucifixion of Jesus.



Plants can be left in either Holy Family or St. Thérèse church. You may wish to attach a card with the name of your loved one. A Mass will be offered on 26th December in Holy Family and 31st December in St Thérèse for all those in whose memory the plants are donated.

REST IN PEACE



Recently deceased: Colette O'Neill, Jeanne McBrierty, Sr. Mary (Poor Clares), Brendan Crummey & May McGuigan
Month's Mind: Patrick McKenna & Sadie McAllister
Anniversaries: Caoimhe McCullough, Stanley O'Kane (1st), Joe D'Arcy (25th), Patrick & Eilis White, Daniel McCaughey, Orla Melaugh, Nuala Steele, Frank McElkerney, Maureen Ryan, Robert Ryan, Dr. Eoin Maguire, Peter Comer-ton, Estelle Comer-ton, Bernice Campbell, Angela Hamilton, Pat McLaughlin, Louie Stone, Seán Hughes, Elizabeth Madden & Myrette Heaney

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES

HOLY FAMILY: Vigils 7pm & 9pm, 10:30am
ST. THÉRÈSE: Vigils 7pm & 9pm, 9am & 12noon

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

WEEKLY OFFERING

The weekly offering on Sunday 04th December came to £2,373.39, and the monthly collection, for the support of our priests, was £2,135.20. Thank you for your contribution and continued support.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

A big THANK YOU to all who made the Christmas Fair such a wonderful and successful event: the organizing committee, those who volunteered on the day and all our parishioners and local businesses that generously contributed to the great selection of gifts and hampers. And most importantly, thanks to all those who came along and supported the Fair. We raised an amazing £8,353.04, and a great afternoon was had by all!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

... will be taken up this weekend at all Masses. Many thanks to parishioners for your continued support. If you require assistance, please telephone SVDP Regional Office on 02890351561.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Today, Bambinelli Sunday, our parish families will bring along the figurine of the Baby Jesus to be blessed at Mass. We ask that you then take your figurine home, put it in the little red bag and place it under the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning let the 'Bambinello' be the first gift to be unwrapped and placed in the crib, as a symbol of the Christ Child being born in our hearts and homes.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration will be suspended just before the 7pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve, to resume at 10am on Wednesday 28th December.

100 CLUB PARISH DRAW RECOMMENCES 23 JANUARY

If you're not already a member and would like to join, contact the Parish Office.

LAGANSIDE SINFONIA 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Thurs 29 Dec at 7.30pm, in St Anne's Cathedral, with local soloists Ellen Quinn, Craig Lutton & Justine Gormley, conducted by Maebh Martin and Paul McCusker. Free entry & refreshments. Retiring collection in aid of The Welcome Organisation. Details at www.lagansidesinfonia.com.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 12th: Dr. Eoin Maguire
Tue 13th: Priest's Intention
Wed 14th: Orla Melaugh
Thu 15th: Funeral Jeanne McBrierty RIP
Fri 16th: Nuala Steele
Sat 17th (10am): Frank Kerr
Sat 17th (6pm): Brian McIvor
Sun 18th (9am): Ellen McNamee
Sun 18th (10.30am): Seamus McMahan
Sun 18th (12Noon): Anna O'Grady



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