



# 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 SCHEDULE

### SUNDAYS

Holy Family Church: 6pm Vigil & 10.30am

St Thérèse of Lisieux Church: 9am & 12noon

### WEEKDAYS

Holy Family Church: 9.15am Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

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

## SACRAMENT OF 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 Church: Saturdays at 4pm

St Thérèse of Lisieux Church: 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. 22: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious  
Thu. 25: St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor  
Fri. 26: St. Philip Neri, Priest  
Sat. 26: St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop



*"I was no longer the centre of my life and therefore I could see God in everything."  
- Venerable St Bede*

## 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 & Webcam:** www.holy-familyparish.com

# ASCENSION OF THE LORD

21 May 2023 ❖ Readings: A (I) ❖ Psalter: Week 3

## WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2023

**Pope Francis writes:** Listening without prejudice, attentively and openly, gives rise to speaking according to God's style, nurtured by closeness, compassion and tenderness. We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters...

Today more than ever, speaking with the heart is essential to foster a culture of peace in places where there is war; to open paths that allow for dialogue and reconciliation in places where hatred and enmity rage. In the dramatic context of global conflict we are experiencing, it is urgent to maintain a form of communication that is not hostile...

As Christians, we know that the destiny of peace is decided by conversion of hearts, since the virus of war comes from within the human heart. From the heart come the right words to dispel the shadows of a closed and divided world and to build a civilization which is better than the one we have received. Each of us is asked to engage in this effort, but it is one that especially appeals to the sense of responsibility of those working in the field of communications so that they may carry out their profession as a mission.

*May the Lord Jesus, the Word of truth and love, help us speak the truth in charity, so that we may feel like protectors of one another.*

## PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

In the Gospel this Sunday, we hear the mission that Jesus gives his Church - "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations." And that is still our mission today. Here in Down and Connor, our Pathways to the Future programme has been set up to help us go out, make disciples and share the love of Christ more effectively in the coming years. One initial task is the count of Mass attendance, which is happening across the diocese this weekend. On a practical level, this helps us to get an accurate snapshot of who is connecting with our local parishes at this time. But it also encourages us to reflect about who isn't coming, and how we might go out and share the Gospel with them. That might seem a daunting task, and it will mean doing some things differently in the future. But if we work together as a whole Church - lay people, religious and clergy, guided by the Holy Spirit - God promises that our efforts will be fruitful. Let's pray for the courage and imagination to go out and make disciples here in Down and Connor.

### Pathways to the Future Prayer

God of Love,  
You are with us in every transition and change. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.



## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

**WEEKLY OFFERING.** The weekly collection on Sunday 14 May amounted to £2,109.46, and the monthly offering on 07 May, for the support of our priests, was £2,732.45. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

**PARISH 100 CLUB.** Week 17 winners: Aislinn McParland, Moya Hinds, Dr Neeson, Karen Campbell & Connie Hawkins (Promoter).

**TAIZÉ PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS.** You are warmly invited to Taizé Prayer Around The Cross on Friday 26th May from 8-9pm in Holy Family Church, followed by refreshments. All welcome to come along, and bring your friends.

**PENTECOST IRELAND.** Free event in St. Joseph's Church, Antrim on 27 May, 10am—10pm. Register online at <https://forms.office.com/e/FM651d2yrJG0d>

**QUB GRADUATION MASS.** Thursday 01 June at 5.15pm, followed by refreshments and entertainment. RSVP by Mon 22 May to [catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk](mailto:catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk).

**SACRISTANS SOUGHT** For St. Patrick's Parish. Job share, 12 hours p.w. £10.40 p.h. [www.downandconnor.org](http://www.downandconnor.org) (click job vacancies). Closes 08/06 @ noon.

**BELFAST JESUIT CENTRE EVENTS.** *St Ignatius of Loyola - a Saint for Troubled Times:* a 2hr talk and open forum, 2-4pm Sat. 20th May. Also, *Encountering the Holy Spirit in our Lives:* A Pentecost retreat: a time of discovery, re-creation, and deepening of our relationship with God. 26-28 May. For more details: <https://belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk/courses/>



**DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING REVIEW.** To be held 06—09 June. You are invited to give your views, and further details are on the parish website.

## NOVENA TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

Our weekly Novena will commence Wednesday 24th May, at the 9.15am Mass in Holy Family. Fr Peter Burns, CSsR, Rector of Clonard Monastery, will offer the Mass. The Novena prayers will be said at this Mass.



## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 22: Priest's Intention  
Tue 23: Priest's Intention  
Wed 24: Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help  
Thu 25: Gerry Steele  
Fri 26: Paul Harding  
Sat 27 (10am): Margaret Magill MM  
Sat 27 (6pm): Mary Gowdy MM  
Sun 28 (9am): Frank Donaldson  
Sun 28 (10.30am): Rita & Tommy Hill  
Sun 28 (12Noon): James McAtamney



For more information and resources:  
[www.holy-familyparish.com](http://www.holy-familyparish.com)

## REST IN PEACE

**Recently deceased:** Helen Walsh  
**Month's Mind:** Gemma O'Grady Nohilly  
**Anniversaries:** John Salters, Mary Service, John Lagan, Annamma Chacko, Gerry Steele, Paul Harding & Eileen Donnelly.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!*

