



# 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)  
**Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:** Wed 9:15am Mass  
**Pilgrim Prayer:** Tuesday 8pm on Parish website & Facebook  
**Rosary:** 20mins before Mass Wednesday & Saturday  
**First Saturday:** 10am (Holy Family)  
**Taizé Prayer:** last Friday of the month 8-9pm (Holy Family)

## SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Tue 26: Ss Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs  
Wed 27: St Vincent de Paul, Priest  
Fri 29: Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels  
Sat 30: St Jerome, Priest, Doctor

*"If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary; your mere presence will touch hearts."  
- St Vincent de Paul (1581-1660)*



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Parish Clergy:** Very Rev. Michael Spence PP, Rev. John O'Lavery 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

## 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 September 2023 ❖ Readings: A (I) ❖ Psalter: Week 1



Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good. Anyone who has grown up in the hills or used to sit by the spring to drink, or played outdoors in the neighbourhood square; going back to these places is a chance to recover something of their true selves.

God has written a precious book, "whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe". The Canadian bishops rightly pointed out that no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: "From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine". The bishops of Japan, for their part, made a thought-provoking observation: "To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope". This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since "for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice". We can say that "alongside revelation properly so-called, contained in sacred Scripture, there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night". Paying attention to this manifestation, we learn to see ourselves in relation to all other creatures: "I express myself in expressing the world; in my effort to decipher the sacredness of the world, I explore my own".

**(Pope Francis, Laudato Si', On Care For Our Common Home, #84-85)**



## 'A PRAYING, CARING COMMUNITY IN ACTION'

The Pastoral Council have organised a Volunteer Fair to showcase the work of our many parish voluntary groups. This will take place in Holy Family Church Gathering Space after the 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 30th September, and after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 1st October; and in St Therese Church after the 9am and 12 noon Masses on Sunday 1st October.

As we celebrate and highlight the work of our wonderful volunteers, this is a great opportunity for parishioners to meet some of our volunteers, and find out more about the services provided by our various ministries and groups within our parish, as well as the many volunteering opportunities available. We hope you can join us.



## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

**WEEKLY OFFERING.** The weekly collection on Sunday 17 September amounted to £2,554.16, and the Autumn collection, for the support of our priests, was £863.00. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

**PARISH 100 CLUB.** Week 35 winners: Margaret Moreland, Paddy McLaughlin, Mr McCarthy, Ms. C Starkey & Brian Shannon (Promoter).

**TAIZÉ PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS.** You are warmly invited to Taizé Prayer Around The Cross on Fri 29 Sept, 8pm-9pm in Holy Family Church. Everyone is very welcome. Refreshments served afterwards in the Gathering Space.

**ST THÉRÈSE PRIMARY SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY.** Congratulations to all associated with St Thérèse PS, on their 50th anniversary. The Opening of Year Mass will be on Friday 29 September at 11am.

**NEWINGTON DAY CENTRE.** Solicitor Des Loughrey will deliver 2 free talks for carers:- Tues 03 Oct at 11am: *Enduring Power of Attorney, registration and capacity to grant power &* Fri 13 Oct: *Preparation and execution of wills.* If interested in attending please contact 90351947 with your name and a contact number.

**SYNOD OCTOBER 2023 - TOGETHER: GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.** To mark the opening of the Synod in Rome, a prayer service will be held in St. Patrick's, Donegall St, on Sat. 30 Sept at 7pm. All welcome. Let's pray for the Irish delegates, Bishop Alan McGuckian S.J. & Bishop Brendan Leahy.

**DRUMALIS ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.** *Christian Women; Hebrew Foremothers:* Starts Sept 25th; *Pathways:* Oct-June & *Certificate in Christian Thought:* Sept-May. Contact 028276455 or maura@drumalis.co.uk.

### A BLESSING OF PETS & ANIMALS

The Season of Creation will draw to a close on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Wednesday 4th October). To mark this occasion in Holy Family Parish, a BLESSING OF PETS/ANIMALS will take place in the grounds of St. Thérèse Church, Somerton Road at 12 Noon on Saturday 30th September 2023. Please note, for Health & Safety reasons, pets must be appropriately controlled (on a lead, caged or carried). The short ceremony should last about 10-15minutes.



## MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 23 (6pm): Brendan Vernon  
Sun 24 (9am): Priest's Intention  
Sun 24 (10.30am): Priest's Intention  
Sun 24 (12Noon): Eugene Rogan MM  
Mon 25: Priest's Intention  
Tue 26: Priest's Intention  
Wed 27: Priest's Intention  
Thu 28: Anna & Frank Greene  
Fri 29: Priest's Intention  
Sat 30 (10am): Joe McNamee



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

## REST IN PEACE



**Recently deceased:** Christy Matthews & Vincent O'Toole **Month's Mind:** Catherine Doran & Eugene Rogan **Anniversaries:** Brendan Vernon, Anna & Frank Greene, Agnes & James Lucey, Patrick Cassidy, Patrick Camplisson, Brian Hughes, Fiona McCloskey, Joseph Catney, Brian Campbell, Mary Watson & Sally Murphy

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!*