



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

Mon 9: St John Henry Newman, Priest
Wed 11: St John XXIII, Pope & St. Canice, Abbott
Sat 14: St Callistus I, Pope, Martyr

"My God, give me courage, a true instinct determining between right and wrong, humility in all things, and a tender longing love of you."

- St John Henry Newman (1801-1890)



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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 October 2023 ❖ Readings: A (I) ❖ Psalter: Week 3

SYNOD 2023

The Synod, dear brothers and sisters, is not a parliament. The Holy Spirit is the protagonist. We are not here to form a parliament but to walk together with the gaze of Jesus, who blesses the Father and welcomes those who are weary and oppressed. So let us start from the gaze of Jesus, which is a blessing and welcoming gaze.

Let us look at the first aspect: a gaze that blesses. Though having experienced rejection and having seen around him so much hardness of heart, Christ does not let himself be imprisoned by disappointment, he does not become bitter, he does not cease to praise; his heart, founded on the primacy of the Father, remains serene even in the storm. This gaze of the Lord that blesses also invites us to be a Church that, with a glad heart, contemplates God's action and discerns the present.... Jesus' gaze that blesses invites us to be a Church that does not face today's challenges and problems with a divisive and contentious spirit but, on the contrary, turns its eyes to God who is communion and, with awe and humility, blesses and adores him, recognizing him as its only Lord. ... And this is the primary task of the Synod: to refocus our gaze on God, to be a Church that looks mercifully at humanity. A Church that is united and fraternal – or at least seeks to be united and fraternal –, that listens and dialogues; a Church that blesses and encourages, that helps those who seek the Lord, that lovingly stirs up the indifferent, that opens paths in order to draw people into the beauty of faith. A Church that has God at its centre and, therefore, is not divided internally and is never harsh externally.

After reflecting on the gaze that blesses, let us now look at the welcoming gaze of Christ. ... This welcoming gaze of Jesus also invites us to be a welcoming Church, not one with closed doors. In such a complex time as ours, new cultural and pastoral challenges emerge that call for a warm and kindly inner attitude so that we can encounter each other without fear.... The doors of the Church are open to everyone, everyone, everyone!

Extracts from Pope Francis' homily at the Mass opening the Synod in Rome, 4th October 2023



PRAYER OF ST. JOHN XXIII

Every day I need you, Lord, but today especially, I need some extra strength to face whatever is to come. This day, more than any other day, I need to feel you near me to strengthen my Courage and to overcome any fear. By myself I cannot meet the challenge of the hour. We are frail human creatures and we need a Higher Power to sustain us in all that life may bring. And so, dear Lord, hold my trembling hand. Be with me, Lord, this day and stretch out your powerful arm to help me. May your love be upon me as I place all my hope in you. Amen.

PARISH VOLUNTEER FAIR – THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone involved with last weekend's Parish Volunteer Fair- to all who helped with the organisation, and attended to represent their group, to the Hospitality & Welcome team for the wonderful refreshments and to all who supported the event. We hope it has given you some sense of the vibrancy and variety of parish life and the opportunities available – maybe this has planted a seed, and volunteering is something you might consider. There are many ways to contribute to parish life and any time given would make a real difference. For more info about our parish groups, visit the parish website or contact the Parish Office. Our parish is greatly enriched by every one of our volunteers and we extend our appreciation and thanks to all, past and present, for their commitment, dedication and generosity of service.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 25 November @ 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. Ballot tickets will be distributed after Masses next weekend, 13th & 14th October. Top prizes as follows:- **1. A 2 night Classic Manor Break (includes 1 dinner) in Manor House Hotel** **2. £300 cash** **3. £200 cash** **4. 20" child's bicycle & helmet** **5. £100 toy voucher**, plus loads more fantastic prizes, including vouchers for family activities, pampering and dining out. We also have a fabulous range of hampers, including turkey & other foods, toys and wine/spirits. If you have any unwanted gifts at home, please hold on to them for us.



PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

WEEKLY OFFERING. The weekly collection on Sunday 01 October amounted to £2,946.74, and the monthly collection, for the support of our priests, was £2,293.81. Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Donations can also be made by standing order. or via the Donate button on the website. In addition, contactless donation terminals are now functioning in both churches.

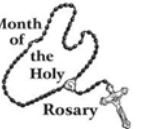
PARISH 100 CLUB. Week 37 winners: M. McConvey, Adelaide Moreland, Collette Costello, Tommy Carson & Sheila O'Brien (Promoter).

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION ANNIVERSARY & DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS. Fri 13th October 10am-10pm with Eucharistic Adoration in the main body of St. Thérèse Church. Anniversary Mass @ 7.30pm, Day of Prayer closing with Rosary, Night Prayer and Benediction from 9.15pm. All welcome.

NEWINGTON DAY CENTRE. Second talk with solicitor Des Loughrey on Fri 13 Oct at 11am "The preparation and execution of wills", with a short Q & A after. If interested in this free event, contact the Centre (90351947) with your details.

OCTOBER, MONTH OF THE ROSARY. Today (Sunday), Annual Rosary procession from St John's Church to St Peter's Cathedral, starting 2.30pm. Details at legionofmarydc.co.uk & 07955386288.

OCTOBER, MISSION MONTH is a time for to show our appreciation and support missionary activities in 1,100 dioceses across the world. www.missio.ie



"LAUDETE DEUM". Pope Francis, on 04 October, issued his latest Apostolic Exhortation on the climate crisis. It is available at www.vatican.va.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR. Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 November, 10am – 4pm. If you are interested in exhibiting/selling your craft goods, contact patchworkgoose@gmail.com for information and details.



FOOD DRIVE. We will continue our annual food donations until Sunday 15 October. Donations will be shared amongst local food kitchens, and can be left in both churches:- in the Gathering Space in Holy Family, and in the sacristy at St. Thérèse.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 7 (6pm): Tom Downey MM
Sun 8 (9am): Priest's Intention
Sun 8 (10.30am): Michael Eugene Hannon (65th)
Sun 8 (12Noon): Jim Magill
Mon 9: Priest's Intention
Tue 10: Priest's Intention
Wed 11: Elizabeth Gavin
Thu 12: Priest's Intention
Fri 13: Edward Brennan
Sat 14 (10am): Kathleen Fearon



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

REST IN PEACE

Recently deceased: Philomena McDonnell

Month's Mind: Tom Downey

Anniversaries: Teresa & Patrick Monaghan, Michael Eugene Hannon (65th), Jim Magill, Elizabeth Gavin, Edward Brennan, Robert Gerard Hamilton, Brendan Lynn, Brendan Crummey, Damian Cooper, Larry Hart, John Hart, Alice O'Kane, Gerry Megahey, Joan Boden

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!

