



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

From Pope Francis:

Every year this liturgy leaves us amazed: we pass from the joy of welcoming Jesus as he enters Jerusalem to the sorrow of watching him condemned to death and then crucified. That sense of interior amazement will remain with us throughout Holy Week. Let us reflect more deeply on it. From the start, Jesus leaves us amazed. His people give him a solemn welcome, yet he enters Jerusalem on a lowly colt. His people expect a powerful liberator at Passover, yet he comes to bring the Passover to fulfilment by sacrificing himself. His people are hoping to triumph over the Romans by the sword, but Jesus comes to celebrate God's triumph through the cross. What happened to those people who in a few days' time went from shouting "Hosanna" to crying out "Crucify him"? What happened? They were following an idea of the Messiah rather than the Messiah. They admired Jesus, but they did not let themselves be amazed by him. Amazement is not the same as admiration. Admiration can be worldly, since it follows its own tastes and expectations. Amazement, on the other hand, remains open to others and to the newness they bring. Even today, there are many people who admire Jesus: he said beautiful things; he was filled with love and forgiveness; his example changed history, ... and so on. They admire him, but their lives are not changed. To admire Jesus is not enough. We have to follow in his footsteps, to let ourselves be challenged by him; to pass from admiration to amazement. What is most amazing about the Lord and his Passover? It is the fact that he achieves glory through humiliation. This is the amazing thing: to see the Almighty reduced to nothing. To see the Word who knows all things teach us in silence from the height of the cross. Let us ask for the grace to be amazed. A Christian life without amazement becomes drab and dreary. How can we talk about the joy of meeting Jesus, unless we are daily astonished and amazed by his love, which brings us forgiveness and the possibility of a new beginning? When faith no longer experiences amazement, it grows dull: it becomes blind to the wonders of grace; it can no longer taste the Bread of life and hear the Word; it can no longer perceive the beauty of our brothers and sisters and the gift of creation. ... During this Holy Week, let us lift our eyes to the cross, in order to receive the grace of amazement. ... Let us gaze upon Jesus on the cross and say to him: "Lord, how much you love me! How precious I am to you!" Let us be amazed by Jesus so that we can start living again, for the grandeur of life lies not in possessions and promotions, but in realizing that we are loved. This is the grandeur of life: discovering that we are loved. And the grandeur of life lies precisely in the beauty of love. Today's Gospel shows us, immediately after the death of Jesus, a splendid icon of amazement. It is the scene of the centurion who, upon seeing that Jesus had died, said: "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mk 15:39). He was amazed by love. Brothers and sisters, today God continues to fill our minds and hearts with amazement. Let us be filled with that amazement as we gaze upon the crucified Lord. May we too say: "You are truly the Son of God. You are my God".

Sunday, 28 March 2021

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 23 (6pm):	Joseph McCarthy MM
Sun 24 (9am):	Elizabeth Bradley
Sun 24 (10.30am):	James & Ellen McGarrity
Sun 24 (12 Noon):	Patricia & John Martin
Wed 27 (9.15am):	Monie Joy



CONTACT INFORMATION

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



PALM SUNDAY



24 March 2024 ❖ Readings: B (I) ❖ Psalter: Week 2

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

7.15am Mass (Holy Family)
8.55am Morning Prayer (Holy Family)
9.15am Mass (Holy Family)

HOLY THURSDAY

9.15am Morning Prayer (Holy Family)
10.00am Morning Prayer (St Thérèse of Lisieux)
7.00pm The Lord's Supper (Both Churches)
9.00-10.00pm Holy Hour & Night Prayer (Both Churches)

GOOD FRIDAY

9.15am Morning Prayer (Holy Family)
10.00am Morning Prayer (St Thérèse of Lisieux)
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Both Churches)
7.00pm Stations of the Cross (Holy Family)
(Led by the young people from Scouts and Guides Units)

HOLY SATURDAY

9.15am Morning Prayer (Holy Family)
10.00am Morning Prayer (St Thérèse of Lisieux)
9.00pm The Easter Vigil (Both Churches)

EASTER SUNDAY

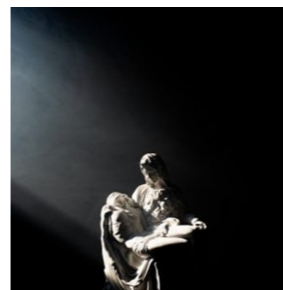
9.00am Mass (St Thérèse of Lisieux)
10.30am Mass (Holy Family)
12noon Mass (St Thérèse of Lisieux)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Palm Sunday **Penitential Service:** 7pm in Holy Family
Holy Saturday: 10.15am (St Thérèse) & 5pm (Holy Family)

REST IN PEACE

Recently deceased: Ciara McGuigan, Sheila Mullan, Pauline Cronin
Month's Mind: Joseph McCarthy
Anniversaries: Tilly Cash, Margaret Graves (1st), Gerard McGarrity, James & Ellen McGarrity, Niall McCullough, Elizabeth Bradley, Patricia & John Martin, Monie Joy, Kevin Vernon (1st)
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!



PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

WEEKLY OFFERING The weekly offering on Sunday 17th March came to £2,2448.80, and the collection for needy parishes was £1,029.22. Thank you for your continued support. Donations can also be made by standing order, or the web-site Donate button, or the contactless donation terminals in both churches.

HOLY WEEK COLLECTIONS. A collection for the Poor will be held at Holy Thursday Masses, and there will be an envelope collection for the welfare of Christians living in the Holy Land, at the Good Friday Liturgy.

PARISH 100 CLUB. Week 01 winner: Mrs Tanney, E Magee, Mrs Walsh, Patricia Orr & Anne Cromie (Promoter)

SINCERE THANKS. To all those involved in providing hospitality and entertainment on St Patrick's Day. It was a great occasion.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION EASTER ARRANGEMENTS: Adoration will be suspended at 6.45pm on Holy Thursday, resuming at 10am on Wed. 3rd April.

TRÓCAIRE LENTEN CAMPAIGN draws to a close in Holy Week. Please remember to return your Trócaire box to either church from Holy Thursday onwards, or donate online at www.trocaire.org. The Developing World Group warmly invite you to the Trócaire Lenten Lunch in Holy Family Gathering Space, after 10.30am Mass today, Palm Sunday. All proceeds go to the Trócaire Lenten Campaign.

CHRISM MASS will be celebrated by Bishop Alan McGuckian, in St Peter's Cathedral, on Wednesday 27th March, at 12noon. All welcome.

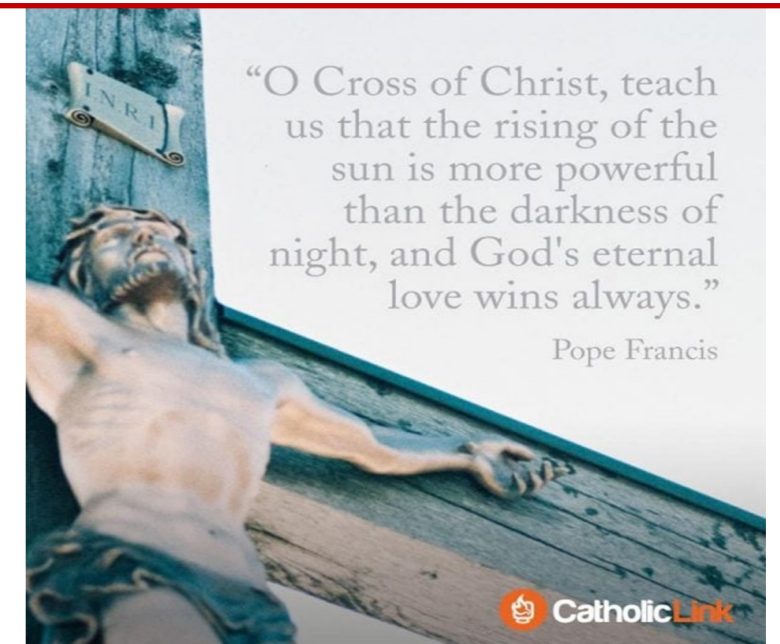
URBI ET ORBI Pope Francis' message and blessing to the City of Rome and the world will be aired on *RTE One* and *BBC1* at 11am on Easter Sunday.

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Good Friday and Easter Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. The office will reopen on Thursday 04th April.

DIVINE MERCY. For details of the novena starting on Good Friday, and Divine Mercy Sunday on 07 April, (both in Sacred Heart), see Latest News.

GOOD FRIDAY FALLS/SHANKILL ANNUAL PRAYER WALK. Beginning at 4.45pm, in front of Clonard Church, stopping midway at Shankill Methodist for a brief prayer, and returning to Clonard by 6pm. All welcome.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES IN LOCAL PARISHES:- Holy Family Church TODAY, Palm Sunday at 7pm. Also....Monday 25th March at 7pm in Holy Cross; Wednesday 27th March at 7pm in Sacred Heart, and also at 7pm on Wednesday 27th March, in St. Gerard's.



"O Cross of Christ, teach us that the rising of the sun is more powerful than the darkness of night, and God's eternal love wins always."

Pope Francis

