



Holy Family Parish

A praying, caring community, centred in Christ

Holy Family Parish is a member of a Family of Parishes, comprising the parishes of St Patrick's, Holy Family and St Gerard's.

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 Facebook page

Rosary: 20mins before Mass Wednesday & Saturday

First Saturday: 10am (Holy Family)



SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Wed. 3: St Francis Xavier
Thurs 4: St John Damascene
Sat 5: St Nicholas



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday 8th December (Holy Day of Obligation)

Mass at 9.15am in Holy Family and 10am & 7pm in St. Thérèse

NB: THERE IS NO FEAST DAY VIGIL MASS ON SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER



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): 07928968773

Society of St Vincent de Paul (Helpline): 028 90351561

Email: holyfamily@downandconnor.org

Website & Webcam: www.holy-familyparish.com



First Sunday of Advent

30th November 2025

Readings: A (1) * Psalter: Week 1

The Year of Matthew Year A

Matthew is our principal teacher through the liturgical year of 2026. He is a particularly challenging teacher for us in the Church today in his profound belief that God is not limited to the tradition: God can do and is doing new things today. The question faced by Matthew's community is the same question faced in our own time: will the new things that God is doing today be acknowledged and welcomed in the community of believers?



JOURNEYING TOWARDS JESUS IN ADVENT

We are offering a parish programme, reflecting on the Sunday gospels, for the four weeks of Advent. It will run on Wednesday mornings (3rd, 10th & 17th December) at 10.15am, in the meeting room in Holy Family Church. All welcome.

TRÓCAIRE GIFTS OF CHANGE. The full range of Trócaire Gifts will be on sale in both churches after all Masses this weekend. Give comfort and hope this Christmas, with Trócaire Gifts of Change. www.trocaire.org



ST VINCENT DE PAUL. Christmas cards are still available. Holy Family Conference are also appealing for Gift Card donations for teenagers, eg Superdrug, Sports Direct or One4all. Donations can be given to SVP after Mass in Holy Family Church, or into the parish office. Next weekend, members of St Vincent de Paul

will speak at all Masses, to publicise their Annual Christmas Appeal. With growing demand for financial assistance, any support you can give will be greatly appreciated. Those who are in need of financial assistance can contact the Society on 028 90351561.

WAITING IN WONDER: Lectio and Visio Divina for Advent. In Belfast Jesuit Centre. Registration at belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk / 07955282371.

NI HOSPICE CHRISTMAS EVENTS. Carol service in St Peter's Cathedral on Sunday 7th December at 3pm & *Lights to Remember* at Dominican College Fortwilliam on Thursday 18th December at 7pm.

STELLA MARIS SHOEBOX APPEAL. Stella Maris is a charity that supports seafarers. They are organising a Christmas Shoebox Appeal, and would be grateful for donations, including hats, gloves, toiletries, winter coats, jumpers, chocolates & biscuits etc. Please leave filled shoeboxes into the parish office by Friday 12th December.

RECHARGE YOUNG ADULT GROUP - ADVENT RETREAT. Sat 13th Dec., 10am-6pm in St Colmcille's Church, Belfast. Free event. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/quo-vadis-a-retreat-by-recharge-tickets-1758337688359>. Take some time to ask yourself: Where are you in life? Where are you going? Have you found your vocation? How can you live your vocation out more faithfully?



CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE CANONISATION OF ST THÉRÈSE

At St Thérèse's canonisation, Pope Pius XI explained that the reason for her canonisation was in order to exalt her before the whole world, as the teacher of the Little Way of Spiritual Childhood. "We desire," he said. "above all that the faithful should study her in order to imitate her by becoming children themselves, since otherwise, according to the words of the Master, they cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven." He also called her "my guiding star" and said that he never felt so happy in the whole of his life as he did on that day.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

WEEKLY OFFERING. The weekly collection on Sunday 23rd November was £2,373.30. Thank you for your continued generosity and support. For information on standing order and contactless methods of donation, please contact the parish office.

PARISH 100 CLUB. Week 33 winners: J Privilege, F Rogan, J Thompson & Anne Cromie (Promoter). Congratulations to all the winners.

PARISH OFFICE. Will be closed on the Wednesdays in December.

PERPETUAL ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. Adorers needed for Wednesdays 11am—12noon & 12noon - 1pm; Fridays 2pm-3pm and Saturdays 3pm-4pm. Please contact the parish office.

WELCOME & HOSPITALITY GROUP. Serving tea & coffee after the 10am Mass on Thursday 4th December, in St Thérèse Church. We hope you will stay for a cuppa & a chat.

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS FOR 2026 INTAKE. Victoria Nursery School (90744247) on 9th Dec. at 2pm; Holy Family PS (90351023) on 10th Dec. at 10am & Holy Family Nursery Unit (90351023) on 11th Dec. at 2pm; St Thérèse PS (90770215) on 11th Dec. at 10am.



PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair took place last Sunday, 23rd November. It was a great success – a day of community fun for all ages. Thanks are owed to so many people. Thanks to Blessed Trinity College for hosting. Thanks to all those parishioners and local businesses who generously provided donations. Thanks to the army of volunteers of all ages who made it all possible. Thanks to the organising committee – the brains behind the operation! Thanks to all who attended on the day and/or bought ballot tickets. A list of ballot winners is available in Latest News on the parish website and on our social media pages. Finally, we are delighted to announce that we raised over £10,000 for parish funds. Amazing! Thanks again to everyone. Visit our Facebook page to see the photos.

HOLY FAMILY YOUTH MINISTRY. We will be celebrating our second Youth Ministry Mass on Saturday 13th December at 6pm. We will meet to plan for our Youth Ministry Mass on Sunday 30th November at 4pm, in Holy Family gathering space. Join us as we gather together in faith and friendship, with fun and food.



THANK YOU FROM NEWINGTON DAY CENTRE.. for your generosity to the Centre, with last weekend's collection raising £3950. All donations go directly to support the work of the Centre, without administration fees. Many parishioners and individuals have asked how they can help, this will appear on our Newington Day Centre facebook page soon. Without your support and the wonderful trust funds, the Day Centre could not operate. We wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas. *Margaret Mc Crudden, Manager.*

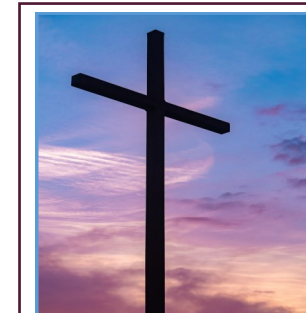
MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 29 (6pm):
Sun 30 (9am):
Sun 30 (10.30am):
Sun 30 (12Noon):
Mon 1:
Tue 2:
Wed 3:
Thurs 4 (10am):
Fri 5: (10am):
Sat 6 (10am):

For the People of the Parish
Geraldine Smye MM
Donal MacManus (1st)
Tom Gillen
Sarah & Michael Quinn
Sarah Quinn
James Patrick & Frances Byrne
Jane McCusker (1st)
Special intention
Caoimhe & Deirdre McCullough



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



REST IN PEACE

Recently deceased: John McStravick & Laurence Flannery
Month's Mind: Geraldine Smye & Fr Hugo McBride
Anniversaries: Sammy Keenan, Donal MacManus (1st), Tom Gillen, Sarah & Michael Quinn, Sarah Quinn, James Patrick & Frances Byrne, Jane McCusker (1st), Noelle Macaulay, Ellen Holbrook, George Mooney, James & Josephine Ferguson, Mollie Lecky, Maria Moloney, Molly Field, Ted McCormack

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!