



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

Sun. 28: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Mon. 29: 5th day in the Octave of Christmas (& St Thomas Becket)
Tues. 30: 6th day in the Octave of Christmas
Mon. 31: 7th day in the Octave of Christmas
Thurs 1: MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Fri 2: Ss Basil the Great, and Gregory Nazianzen
Sat. 3: The Holy Name of Jesus, and St Munchin

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



Feast of the Holy Family

28th December 2025

Readings: A Psalter: Week 1



Fr Michael, Fr John and Deacon Brendan wish all our parishioners and their families every blessing for the New Year and the remainder of the Christmas season.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE CANONISATION OF ST THÉRÈSE

As 2025 closes, a year in which we have celebrated the centenary of the canonisation of St Thérèse, the words of the late Pope Francis speak to us of her lasting impact.

"In an age that urges us to focus on ourselves and our own interests, Thérèse shows us the beauty of making our lives a gift. At a time when the most superficial needs and desires are glorified, she testifies to the radicalism of the Gospel. In an age of individualism, she makes us discover the value of a love that becomes intercession for others. At a time when human beings are obsessed with grandeur and new forms of power, she points out to us the little way. In an age that casts aside so many of our brothers and sisters, she teaches us the beauty of concern and responsibility for one another. At a time of great complexity, she can help us rediscover the importance of simplicity, the absolute primacy of love, trust and abandonment, and thus move beyond a legalistic or moralistic mindset that would fill the Christian life with rules and regulations, and cause the joy of the Gospel to grow cold. In an age of indifference and self-absorption, Thérèse inspires us to be missionary disciples, captivated by the attractiveness of Jesus and the Gospel.

A century and a half after her birth, Thérèse is more alive than ever in the pilgrim Church, in the heart of God's people. She accompanies us on our pilgrim way, doing good on earth, as she had so greatly desired. The most lovely signs of her spiritual vitality are the innumerable "roses" that Thérèse continues to strew: the graces God grants us through her loving intercession in order to sustain us on our journey through life."

*Dear Saint Thérèse
the Church needs to radiate the brightness,
the fragrance and the joy of the Gospel.
Send us your roses!
Help us to be, like yourself,
ever confident in God's immense love for us,
so that we may imitate each day
your "little way" of holiness. Amen.
Amen.*



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Tuesday 6th January

Mass Times for Holy Day of Obligation

9.15am (Holy Family)
7pm Vigil & 10am (St Thérèse)

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

WEEKLY OFFERING. The weekly offering on Sunday 21st December came to £2,483.41. Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Figures for the Christmas Day collection will be given next weekend.



CRIB OF HOPE. This year, our crib donations are going to the Order of Malta **Holy Family Maternity Hospital in Bethlehem**. Located only 800 metres from the birthplace of Jesus, the hospital stands as a beacon of Christian compassion, hope and medical excellence, in a region marked by hardship. Your generous donations will be greatly appreciated.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS. In St Patrick's Church, at 11pm on Dec. 31st. All welcome.

NEW YEAR'S DAY, THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY 2026

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and World Day of Peace.

Mass at **11am in Holy Family Church**. Please note, there will be no 10.00am Mass on that day, in St Thérèse Church.



PARISH 100 CLUB. Week 37 winners: Adelaide Moreland, A McConvey, O Murdoch & Mary Shannon (Promoter). Congratulations to all the winners.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL. Sincere thanks from the 3 Parish Conferences to all those who have generously given over the past year, from the Red Boxes, to one-off payments, to buying our SVP Christmas cards, or donating gift cards. Thanks also to all who supported our annual Christmas appeal. We would particularly like to thank the students & staff of Dominican College, Fortwilliam, for their tremendously generous donations.

THANKS TO THE DOMINICAN SISTERS. The Dominican Sisters, formerly based at the Iona House community, have kindly gifted St Thérèse church with a wooden statue of Our Lady. We sincerely thank them for this. It will be a reminder to us of the historical bonds between the Dominican Sisters and the Parish.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ALAN. "May God bestow his blessing upon all of you this Christmas and into the new year, as you continue to contemplate the face of the Christ-child, the herald of Peace, Joy and Hope". Visit Latest News and Facebook to read Bishop's message in full. Hard copies are also available in each church.

CLOSING OF JUBILEE YEAR. Bishop Alan will mark the closing of the Jubilee Year with Mass at St Peter's Cathedral on Sunday 4th January at 3pm. All welcome.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 27 (6pm):	May Mooney & Mary Maguire
Sun 28 (9am):	John, Margaret & Henry Kelly, & Sr Christina Kelly
Sun 28 (10.30am):	Seán Neeson
Sun 28 (12Noon):	Caolan McCormack
Mon 29:	John Walls
Tue 30:	Poinsettia Mass
Wed 31:	George & Rita McQuillan
Thurs 1 (11am):	Kitty D'Arcy
Fri 2:	Larry Duffin
Sat 3:	Deirdre McCann



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



REST IN PEACE

Recently Deceased: Pauline McCarthy, Bernadette Keenan, Máire Finnegan & Maureen Mulvenna
Anniversaries: Seán Neeson, May Mooney, Mary Maguire, John, Margaret & Henry Kelly, Sr Christina Kelly, Caolan McCormick, John Walls, George & Rita McQuillan, Kitty D'Arcy, Larry Duffin, Séamus Goan, Maureen Begley, Mary Treanor, Edmund Treanor, Mary Worthington, Joan & Seán Murphy
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!