



# 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,

On Palm Sunday, as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem in triumph, even the donkey had its function to perform. G. K. Chesterton penned a poem on the donkey.

### The Donkey

When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood,  
Then surely I was born

With monstrous head and sickening cry  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.



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

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 28 (6pm): John Martin  
Sun 29 (9am): For the People of the Parish  
Sun 29 (10.30am): Vincent Meenehan  
Sun 29 (12 Noon): The Cleary Family  
Mon 30: Special intention  
Tues 31: Maudie Valley  
Wed 1: Special intention



### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Parish Clergy:** Very Rev. Michael Spence PP,  
Rev. John O'Laverty CC & Rev. Deacon Brendan Dowd

**Parish Telephone (Office hours):** 02890743119  
**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):** 02890351561

**Email:** [holyfamily@downandconnor.org](mailto:holyfamily@downandconnor.org)  
**Website & Webcam:** [www.holy-familyparish.com](http://www.holy-familyparish.com)



## PALM SUNDAY

29 March 2026 ❖ Readings:A (II)❖  
Psalter: Week II



## 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*)

7.00pm The Lord's Supper (*Both*)

9.00-10.00pm Holy Hour & Night Prayer (*Both*)



### GOOD FRIDAY

9.15am Morning Prayer (*Holy Family*)

10.00am Morning Prayer (*St Thérèse*)

3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (*Both*)

7.00pm Stations of the Cross (*Holy Family*)

### HOLY SATURDAY

9.15am Morning Prayer (*Holy Family*)

10.00am Morning Prayer (*St Thérèse*)

9.00pm The Easter Vigil (*Both*)

### EASTER SUNDAY

9.00am Mass (*St Thérèse*)

10.30am Mass (*Holy Family*)

12noon Mass (*St Thérèse*)



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Lenten Parish Penitential Service will take place **TODAY, PALM SUNDAY at 7pm, in Holy Family church.** A number of priests will be available for individual confession.

Confession will also be available on Holy Saturday:-

10.15am-11.30am in St Thérèse church  
5pm-6pm in Holy Family church

### RECONCILIATION SERVICES IN LOCAL PARISHES:-

St Gerard's: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm  
St Patrick's: See St Patrick's bulletin for details



## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

**WEEKLY OFFERING.** The weekly offering on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March came to £2,328.43, and the collection for migrants, taken up on St Patrick's Day, amounted to £2,017.70 Thank you for your continued generosity and support. For information on standing order and contactless methods of donation, please contact the parish office. If you have not received your new box of envelopes, please contact the parish office.

**HOLY THURSDAY.** A collection for the Poor will be held at all Holy Thursday Masses, with monies distributed via St Vincent de Paul.

**GOOD FRIDAY.** there will be an envelope collection for the welfare of Christians living in the Holy Land, at the Good Friday Liturgy. The following is an excerpt from the Good Friday Appeal from Fr Francesco Ielpo OFM Custos of Holy Land :-



"The last few years have been particularly difficult for the Christian communities of the Middle East. The war has brought death, destruction, and fear, not only to Gaza, but also to the West Bank, Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. The suffering caused by the conflict has been compounded by the prolonged absence of pilgrims, which has exacerbated an already profound economic and employment crisis. Many Christian families, who once relied on the Holy Places and pilgrimage related activities, are now experiencing great difficulty.

On Good Friday, as we contemplate the Crucifix, we ask you not to forget the Holy Land, to remember in prayer and concrete charity those who continue to live and bear witness to the Gospel in the Places of Redemption. Your closeness is a precious sign of hope and fraternity: help us to give hope and sow peace!

Through this Collection, it is possible to support schools, parishes, charitable works, social projects, and emergency interventions, keeping the Christian presence alive in the places where Christianity was born".

**TROCAIRE LENTEN CAMPAIGN** draws to a close in Holy Week. Please remember to return your Trocaire box to either church from Holy Thursday onwards, or donate online at [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org).

Also, the Developing World Group invite you to the **Trocaire Lenten Lunch in Holy Family Gathering Space, after the 6pm Vigil & 10.30am Masses this weekend. We thank you for your support this Lent for Rwandan families like Uwamahoro's.**

**PARISH 100 CLUB. Week 50 winners:** Gemma Curran, Mary Todd, Claire Canham & Tara Cullinan (Promoter). **Big Draw winners:** M Shields, Nell Barbour, Ann-Marie Laverty & Bernie Konrad (Promoter). The new draw will start in May, and details will be in the bulletin. Sincere thanks to the organising committee, promoters and members, for your support of the parish draw.

**PARISH OFFICE** Will be closed Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, and also Easter Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. The office will reopen on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am.

**FOOTWASHING ON HOLY THURSDAY.** If you would be willing to participate, please contact the parish office.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION EASTER ARRANGEMENTS.** Adoration will be suspended at 6.45pm on Holy Thursday, resuming Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, after 10am Mass.

**CHRISM MASS** will be celebrated by Bishop Alan McGuckian in St Peter's Cathedral, on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 12noon. All welcome.

**FIRST CONFESSION.** Congratulations to the children from our local primary schools, who celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this past week.

**LISBREEN APOSTOLIC.** Sincere thanks to all those who so generously contributed to the recent Lisbreen Apostolic fundraiser. The amazing total of £2,070 was raised.

**BELFAST JESUIT CENTRE. Always the Same and Always New: Holy Week Through Poets' Eyes.** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm—9pm. A reflective exploration of Holy Week through selected poems. Register at [belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk](http://belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk).

**GOOD FRIDAY FALLS/SHANKILL ANNUAL INTER-CHURCH PRAYER WALK.** Beginning 4.45pm at Clonard Church, returning by 6pm. All are welcome.

**FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY.** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Celebrated in St Peter's Cathedral at 2.30pm, and in Sacred Heart church at 2.15pm. Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Mass.



### REST IN PEACE

**Recently Deceased:** Catherine Quigley & James McConville  
**Anniversaries:** Kay Rolston (1st), John Martin, Vincent Meenehan, Maudie Valley, Norman O'Connor, Gerald & Betty Cleary, Mark, Eugene & Louise Cleary, Oliver Begley, Pat O'Neill, Seamus Quinn

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!*