



# 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)

**Pilgrim Prayer:** Tuesday 8pm on Parish Facebook page

**Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:** Wed 9:15am Mass

**First Saturday:** 10am (Holy Family)

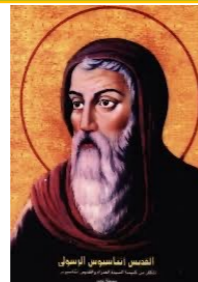
**Taizé Prayer:** last Friday of the month 8-9pm (Holy Family)

## SAINTS OF THE WEEK

- Mon. 27: St Asicus
- Tue. 28: St Louis de Montfort
- Wed. 29: St Catherine of Siena
- Thu. 30: St Pius V
- Fri. 01: St Joseph the Worker
- Sat. 02: St Athanasius

*"God became like us, so that we might become like Him"*

(St Athanasius)



## 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

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

Readings: A (II) ♦ Psalter: Week 4



### MESSAGE FROM POPE LEO ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF POPE FRANCIS

*On the first anniversary of the death of our beloved Pope Francis, his memory lives on in the Church and throughout the world. ...*



Pope Francis' resting place in Santa Maria Maggiore

Death is not a wall, but a door that opens out onto the Mercy that Pope Francis tirelessly proclaimed. The Lord called him to Himself on 21 April last year, in the heart of the Paschal light. He concluded his earthly pilgrimage in the embrace of the Risen Christ, in that "joy of the Gospel" that inspired one of his most incisive Apostolic Exhortations.

He was the Successor of Peter and Shepherd of the universal Church at a time that marked, and continues to mark, an epochal change—a change of which he was fully aware, offering all of us a courageous witness that represents a significant legacy for the Church.

His teaching was lived as a missionary disciple as he liked to say. He remained a disciple of the Lord, faithful to his Baptism and to his consecration in the episcopal ministry, to the very end. He was also a missionary, proclaiming the Gospel of mercy "to everyone, everyone, everyone", as he often said. The good that came from his witness as a caring Shepherd touched the hearts of so many people, even to the ends of the earth, thanks also to his apostolic pilgrimages and especially to that final "journey" of his illness and his death.

In harmony with his predecessors, he took up the legacy of the Second Vatican Council and urged the Church to be open to mission, a guardian of the world's hope, passionate about proclaiming that Gospel which is capable of giving every life fulfilment and happiness.



We still hear his exhortations, expressed in eloquent words, to make the Good News more accessible: mercy, peace, brotherhood, the odour of the sheep, the field hospital and many others. Each of these expressions leads us back to the Gospel he lived out in a new language that proclaims the same Gospel as always.

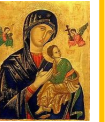
Pope Francis nurtured a deep devotion to Mary throughout his life; indeed, we recall that he visited Saint Mary Major, the site of his burial, on many occasions, as well as numerous Marian shrines around the world. May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, help us to be, in every circumstance, tireless apostles of her divine Son and prophets of His merciful love.

## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

**WEEKLY OFFERING.** The weekly collection on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April came to £2,444.93. 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.** We ask promoters to please return any outstanding members lists as soon as possible. The new parish draw will commence 14<sup>th</sup> May. We hope current members will rejoin, and we look forward to welcoming new members.

**ANNUAL NOVENA TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP.** In St Gerard's church, 11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May, with the theme of "Living Our Baptism". For Mass times and information, please visit [www.stgerardsparish.org](http://www.stgerardsparish.org), or Latest News on our parish website.



**BELFAST JESUIT CENTRE.** As part of the Faith & Film series, *A Hidden Life* (2019), will be shown at the BJC, on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. This is the true story of an Austrian farmer, whose quiet conscience leads him into a costly, luminous resistance during WWII. Booking not required, small donation welcome.

**CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY.** OCNNI level 2 certificate in Youth Work Practice, starting May 2026. Visit the parish Facebook or Latest News, to register with the QR code.

**DOWN & CONNOR DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG:** 19<sup>th</sup>—21<sup>st</sup> June, £100 incl. transport & island admission. Contact Claire at 02890690920, or email [pathwaytothefuture@downandconnor.org](mailto:pathwaytothefuture@downandconnor.org). Also visit [www.loughderg](http://www.loughderg), for details of the 1 & 3 day retreats in the 2026 pilgrimage season.

**MILLTOWN CEMETERY BLESSING OF THE GRAVES.** Sunday 10 May at 3pm.

**CITY CEMETERY BLESSING OF THE GRAVES.** Sunday 17 May at 3pm.

**CRAOBH NAOMH PÁDRAIG** thank the parishioners of Holy Family, for their generosity to the Irish language collection on St Patrick's Day, which raised a total of £894.95. Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

**WELCOME TO THE MEDICAL MISSIONARIES OF MARY.** Sr Sheila Campbell, a native of Holy Family Parish, will speak at all Masses this weekend. Sr Sheila will speak of the work of the Medical Missionaries of Mary, mainly in Africa and South America, and their mission to bring Christ's healing love to those most in need.



## REST IN PEACE

**Recently deceased:** Patricia Kerr, Liam Butcher, Bridghe Halim, Maureen Magee, Seán Quigley

**Month's Mind:** Mary Henderson & Catherine Quigley

**Anniversaries:** Margaret & Joseph Mascolino, Kevin Burns (40<sup>th</sup>), Patti Glynn, Jane McIlwee, Bronagh Maguire, Patricia & John Martin, Kitty Maguire, Evelyn Brennan, Henry McMahon (10<sup>th</sup>), Fr Hugh McMahon, John Lowry, Gerry McCrudden, Pat Shannon

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!*

**For more information and resources:**

[www.holy-familyparish.com](http://www.holy-familyparish.com)

## MASS INTENTIONS

- Sat 25 (6pm): Bronagh Maguire
- Sun 26 (9am): For the People of the Parish
- Sun 26 (10.30am): Danny & Marie Gault
- Sun 26 (12 Noon): Patricia & John Martin and Kitty Maguire
- Mon 27: Evelyn Brennan
- Tue 28: Mary Henderson MM
- Wed 29: Special intention
- Thu 30: Henry McMahon & Fr Hugh McMahon
- Fri 1: John Lowry
- Sat 2 (10am): Fr Brendan Beagon

