



# 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 website

**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)

# 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Readings: A (I) ♦ Psalter: Week 2



## SIGNS OF RESURRECTION

By night and by day, we can see signs of resurrection, for the Lord Jesus has shed the shroud enwrapping humility.

We glimpse the glint of resurrection, when the rising sun dispels the darkness; when a chrysalis erupts to release the dappled beauty of a butterfly...

The resurrection penetrates our world, when those who were estranged are reconciled; when grief abates, and a new way forward is pieced together; when the darkness of depression is lightened by friendship and affection.

Resurrection gleams when one who is disliked receives goodwill...when a sinner (each of us) finds pardon and peace.

When an alcoholic conquers dependency, then there is resurrection—*aiséirí*; when a drug addict breaks the imprisoning habit, then there is liberation; when a baby leaves the tiny world of the womb, enters a vast new realm, and takes its first breath, then there is a birth that points to resurrection.

The signs of resurrection are all around...

## HOMILY OF POPE LEO XIV, ST PETER'S SQUARE, EASTER SUNDAY, 5 APRIL 2026

"Dear brothers and sisters,

Today all of creation is resplendent with new light, a song of praise rises from the earth, and our hearts rejoice: Christ is risen from the dead, and with him, we too rise to new life...death no longer has power over us! This is a message that is not always easy to accept, a promise that we struggle to embrace, because the power of death constantly threatens us, both from within and without.

From within, this power threatens us when the weight of our sins prevents us from "spreading our wings" and taking flight, or when the disappointments or loneliness we experience drain our hope.

From without, death is always lurking. We see it present in injustices, in partisan selfishness, in the oppression of the poor, in the lack of attention given to the most vulnerable. We see it in violence, in the wounds of the world..

Easter is the new creation brought about by the Risen Lord; it is a new beginning...We need this song of hope today. It is ourselves, risen with Christ, who must bring him into the streets of the world.

Let us then run like Mary Madgalene, announcing him to everyone, living out the joy of the resurrection, so that wherever the spectre of death still lingers, the light of life may shine".

**PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 5.00pm - 6.00pm in Clonard Church... responding to Pope Leo's call for a worldwide prayer vigil for peace, to address global violence, especially in the Middle East. This will coincide with Pope Leo's prayer vigil at St Peter's Basilica. All are most welcome.



## REST IN PEACE

**Recently Deceased:** Daniel Callaghan, Rita Doyle, Paul O'Brien

**Anniversaries:** Patrick & Maureen McMenamin, McMahan & Dillon Families, Jim McGarry, Josephine Marley, Bernadette Horner (1st), Alannah Crawford, Angela McKenna, Thomas Gilmore, James, Anne & Catherine Gillen, John Smyth, Patrick Devine

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!*

## 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

## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

**WEEKLY OFFERING.** The Good Friday collection for the Catholics in the Holy Land came to £2,717.98; the white Easter Sunday, envelope for the support of the parish, totalled £4,150.81, and the pink Easter Offering, for the priests of the parish, amounted to £4468.12. Standing order contributions to the white and blue envelopes, during March, were £1,850 & £490 respectively. Contactless and website donations in March amounted to £864.40. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.



On behalf of Trócaire, and all those who will benefit from this year's Lenten campaign, many thanks for your support and generosity this Lent. Boxes & Donations can still be returned to the church. You can also donate directly to the Lenten campaign through the Trócaire website, at www.trocaire.org.

**PARISH 100 CLUB.** The new parish draw will commence 14<sup>th</sup> May. We hope current members will rejoice, and we look forward to welcoming new members. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for details.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY.** Will resume next Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**RECHARGE.** Based in St Colmcille's Church, East Belfast, for 18- to 35-year-olds. Next meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April @ 7.30pm: Group study course, followed by social.

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS.** You are invited to join in a 9-day journey of prayer (18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April), asking the Lord to bless our diocese, with vocations to the priesthood. Visit Down & Connor Facebook and Instagram for details.

**ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE.** 11<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm, at Castle Junction, in front of Primark, Belfast city centre. Contact Owen on 07933038124 or Sheila on 07795517503.

**DOWN & CONNOR DIOCESE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK.** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, www.eucharisticadoration.ie. Includes a St Carlo Acutis Teenagers Retreat, with games, testimonies and catechesis. T: 07972103130 (Patricia) or 07963581543 (Patrick), for bus details.



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, TODAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

St Pope John Paul II canonized a Polish mystic, Sister Faustina (1905 – 1938) on the Sunday after Easter in 2000, and declared that from then on, the second Sunday of Easter would be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. In a revelation to Sister Faustina (recorded in her Diary 1109) Jesus told her, 'I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to confessions and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy' (Divine Mercy Sunday). Celebrated in St Peter's Cathedral at 2.30pm, and in Sacred Heart church at 2.15pm.

## SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Mon 13: S Martin I, Pope and Martyr  
Sat 18: St Laserian of Leighlin

"Those who sincerely say 'Jesus, I trust in You' will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears." *St John Paul II*



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

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 11 (6pm): Patrick & Maureen McMenamin  
Sun 12 (9am): For the People of the Parish  
Sun 12 (10.30am): McMahan & Dillon Families  
Sun 12 (12 Noon): Jim McGarry  
Mon 13 : Patrick Devine  
Tue 14: Priest's Intention  
Wed 15: Josephine Marley  
Thu 16: Bernadette Horner (1st)  
Fri 17: Alannah Crawford  
Sat 18 (10am): Gerard & Fr Martin O'Callaghan

