

**CORK CATHEDRAL FAMILY OF PARISHES**  
**South Parish - St Patrick's - Ss Peter & Paul's**  
**Blackpool – The Glen – Ballyvolane - Sunday's Well**  
**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Family of All Sorts**

Fashions in clothes come and go. The long and the short, the tight and the loose, make their appearance with surprising variety. Sometimes, when we look at old family photographs, we smile at the styles and cuts; sometimes we see those styles re-emerge under different disguises. St Paul speaks to us today about the essential wardrobe for every Christian: “be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness, and humility, gentleness and patience... put on love.”

Whatever the fashion of the day might be, whatever the age group, Paul tells us the essential clothing for every Christian. Without love, no Christian is properly dressed. And today, as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, we look with gratitude to our own families and to the family of believers. The family that needs the young, the middle-aged and the old.

In remembering the Holy Family, we look to our own family in gratitude for what we have received.

The feast of the Holy Family we celebrate today is not an old one – it was introduced to the whole Church in 1921; but the Christian family has been celebrated by all who care to admit their indebtedness to it as the lively place where they were at home with God and an assortment of weird and wonderful relatives. In the Christian family we learn that God never comes alone – God is always accompanied by a legion of others who, in their own shy and halting way, show us something of God’s loving kindness. In the Christian family we can catch something of the God who accepts us as we are and who keeps on loving us stubbornly to the end.

None of our families is all holy – each is a mixture of all sorts of conflicts, compulsions, and craziness that tests our love and forgiveness. But in the midst of all that, there is God. There is no other place to find God. It is a place where God found us.

**Christmas**

**Offerings/Autumn Dues**

Envelopes are available in all churches in the family of parishes

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***Our Prayer From the Boat***

Loving God, at baptism you have gifted us with a call to serve you and all people in all we do.

We ask you, Lord, to bless the people of Cork and Ross during this time of prayer and listening.

May we be attentive to the promptings of your Holy Spirit. Open our eyes to see where you wish us to go in our faith communities and families of parishes.

Open our ears to hear the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leading us.

Open our hearts to follow you with joy and childlike trust.

Open our minds to new possibilities and ways of being your Church.

Fill us with hope and humility as we build the Kingdom of God together in our diocese at this time.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

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**Priests of the Parishes**  
**Emergency Number**  
**086 4570292**

***Mass Times in the Family of Parishes over the next few days***

	<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>
<b>Cathedral</b>	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
<b>South Parish</b>	10:00am		10:00am
<b>St Patrick's</b>		10:00am	
<b>Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</b>		12:30pm	
<b>Blackpool</b>	9:15am		
<b>Ballyvolane</b>		9:15am	

**CORK CATHEDRAL FAMILY OF PARISHES South Parish/Ss Peter & Paul's/St. Patrick's/Blackpool/Glen/Ballyvolane/Sunday's Well**

+Canon John O'Donovan, Fr Seán Crowley, Fr. Shinu Varghese, Fr Jilson Kokkandathail, Fr. Marius O'Reilly |

Cathedral Parish Office Tel: 021 4304325 | Parish Mobile Emergency: 0864570292 or 0851471147 | Email: cathedralinfo@corkandross.org |

www.facebook.com/corkcathedral | South Parish Office Email: stfinbarrsouthparish@gmail.com |

Ss Peter & Paul's Parish Office Tel: 021 4276573 | Email: parishoffice@saintspeterandpauls.ie

St Patrick's Parish Office Tel: 021 4518191 | Email: stpatricksparishoffice1@gmail.com

Family of Parishes Website: [www.corkcathedralfop.ie](http://www.corkcathedralfop.ie)

# Thank You

**Every parish is a kind of family – an extended family. Together united in faith, hope and love, groups of followers of Jesus Christ gather in mutual support to live a Christian life. Together they worship God; especially at Mass. Together they share their faith with their children and others. Such it is, or should be, in every Parish.**

**As we near the start of 2025, we take the opportunity to thank God that in our family of parishes of the Cathedral, South Parish, Ss Peter & Paul's, St Patrick's, Blackpool, The Glen, Ballyvolane and Sunday's Well, there are so many families and individuals who live the faith they profess. In our parishes there are many people whose special contribution to parish life is essential and immense. Through their often unnoticed work, the parishes run smoothly and parish life is enriched.**

**Today we offer our SPECIAL THANKS to all involved.**

**The priests of the parishes thank you for the welcome you give on a daily basis and for your support in the Parish Dues, the Christmas and Easter Collections. It is very much appreciated.**

**We wish you a Happy and a Peaceful New Year.**

**-The Priests of the Parishes**

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## **1<sup>st</sup> January – Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God – World Day of Peace**

The thirst for the closeness and warmth of mother comes very readily to the lips in calling on her name, when the child, or even the young adult, feels stressed. We all have a need for a mother within us. This feast is an opportunity to see how perfectly reasonable it is for us as individuals and as a community of faith to want a motherly aura and touch from above, from God Himself, to soothe and comfort us in the journey of faith. God provides it and has given it in Mary; for she is the mother of the Son who is co-equal to God: 'I and the Father are one.'

In New York on a cold December day a little ten year old boy was standing before a shoe store on the street, barefoot, peering through the window and shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and asked: 'why are you in such deep thought staring in the window?' 'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' he replied.

She took him by the hand, went into the store and asked for a half dozen pairs of socks for the boy, then for a basin of water and a towel, which she quickly received. Along with the assistant she took him into the back of the shop, washed and dried his feet, put socks and a pair of shoes on him, placed the rest of the socks in a bag and giving them to him let him go. He turned, took her by the hand and looked her in the eyes with a tearful gaze and said: 'Are you God's Mother?'

God needs a mother for us as He did for this Son. God's need is really only symbolic; it is our needs that are abundantly real. God gives us Mary as mother; it does not impinge on the meditation of Jesus with God – it enhances it. It is in our litanies: Mother of God, Mother of the Church. Our homily could assure that Mary as Mother of God, in our Christian lives, is God mothering us as well as being our Father – but doing it in such a warmly feminine and truly convincing way for us and for the Church, in the person of one who treasured and pondered all relating to her Divine Son.

## **Celebrating Altar Servers**

Altar servers are a really important ministry in each of our Parishes. Since Covid some Parishes have struggled to reengage Altar Servers. The Office for Mission and Ministry and the Coordinator for Youth Ministry are looking at ways of supporting Parishes to develop or introduce Altar Servers.

A first step is to gather with all of our Altar Servers and those priests and adult volunteers who look after them to celebrate Altar Serving in a fun atmosphere and to look at how we can together develop this ministry. We are gathering on **Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 2.30pm to 4.00pm** (venue to be confirmed).

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## **Come and Discover Alpha**

Would your Parish or *Family of Parishes* like to find out more about Alpha? We are hosting a 'Come and Discover Alpha' day from 10am to 4pm in the **Visitor Centre of the Cathedral of St. Mary and St.**

**Anne on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm.** In the morning, you will have the opportunity to experience a full Alpha session, and we will be offering workshops in the afternoon on how to run Alpha. Registration is essential: <https://tinyurl.com/mission-ministry>

