



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

10TH FEBRUARY 2019

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Parish Mass Times

10am Weekdays & Rosary
12pm Saturday & Rosary/Adoration
5.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
11.30am Sunday Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays
12.30pm—1.30pm Saturdays

Confessions After Every Mass

*Sunday 3rd February. St Blaise is not celebrated on Sunday
But Throats will be blessed after 11.30am Mass*



Feast of St. Agatha Tues 5th February Our Parish Patron Saint



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

St. Agatha's Feast Day was celebrated last Tuesday 5th February and the Daughters of Charity and myself would encourage you to visit her Altar Shrine in this Church, and say a little prayer for your intentions. The Altar is lit up with candles to mark her as the Patron of our Parish. St. Agatha is the Patron Saint of Nurses, Breast Cancer, Rape Victims, Earthquakes. She was to be put to death at the stake with a fire beneath her feet in the public Square in Sicily but Mt Etna, the volcano beside the island erupted and saved her life at that moment. The evil Prefect of Sicily, who she resisted his advances, as she had vowed her virginity and chastity to God, became angry with Agatha and threw her into a Brothel for a month where she was repeatedly raped. Her breasts were removed while she was later in prison. St. Peter appeared to her in prison and healed her, asking her to continue with her courage in bearing witness to the Faith. St. Agatha, please pray for us all in our times of need, despair bringing us courage and strength to journey in this pilgrimage of earthly life with Jesus always by our side. Amen

World Day of the Sick 2019

Mass for World Day of the Sick will be held on 10 February 2019 in Corpus Christi Church Drumcondra at 3.00pm.

JESUS CLIMBS INTO MY BOAT [MY HEART]

Simon, who we now know as St. Peter, was just an ordinary working fisherman. One day, he was going about his own business, washing his nets after a disastrous night of fishing, which resulted in catching nothing, when without warning, or without asking permission, Jesus got into his boat and asked him to; *put out a little from the shore*. Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. The Boat symbolises the Church and as we are members of the Body of the Church [Jesus], the boat also symbolises our bodies [hearts]. Notice every time Jesus Preaches, He always Teaches.

TRUST JESUS IN THIS LIFE

St. Paul tells us that Jesus comes into our lives unexpectedly and always brings something New! Not a net full of fish but a new belief in God's Good News, which leads us to a New Eternal Life. Under Jesus' guidance, and just a little off shore, Peter reluctantly puts out his nets into the deep water for an impossible catch. The deep water represents the environment surrounding God's Work and Mission, in this earthly life, to catch and convert souls. He asks us, like Peter, to put our trust in Him and in the Teachings of His Gospel. When we find Jesus in our heart [boat], to put out of our will and into His Will and not be afraid or slow to live the life He calls us to live. Trust Him.

I AM A SINNER

Jesus clarified this Mission for Peter saying, *Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching [the hearts and souls of] mankind*. Peter is given the role of Apostle, to go out into the depths of society and bring back a catch of converts, who will someday qualify for entry into the Banquet of Heaven. The catch of fish represents us, who are **caught** by the beauty of Jesus' Words and Teachings. We enter the Net which also symbolises the Church. Peter is overcome by such a miraculous catch, which was guided by Jesus, that now full of the Holy Spirit, he becomes aware that he is in the presence of the long awaited Messiah, the Lord Himself. In this powerful encounter, Peter exercises the virtue of humility and acknowledges his sinful way of life by saying; *Leave me Lord, I'm a sinful man*.

THE CHURCH IS LIKE A BOAT/SHIP

The rear of St. Agatha's Church looks like the hull or bow of a Ship/Ark. When we arrive to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, it is important, like Peter in the Boat [Church], to recognise the Presence of God, as soon as we board the Ship [the Church] and to acknowledge our Sinfulness in the presence of Purity [God]. That is why every Mass begins with us Confessing that; *I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous (serious) fault.....*and to ask Jesus; *Lord have Mercy, Christ have Mercy, Lord have Mercy*. We are imitating Peter's example in spoken words of sincere repentance. Let us again follow Peter and to leave everything [in the Hands of Jesus] and followed Him. God bless, Fr. Brendan