



**PARISH OF ST. AGATHA**  
**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**



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**Parish Mass Times**

10am Weekdays & Rosary  
 12pm Saturdays & Rosary/ Adoration  
 6pm Vigil, 10.30am & 12pm Sundays

**Confessions**

After Every Mass

**Eucharistic Adoration**

10.30am—1pm Weekdays  
 12.30pm—1pm Saturday

Happy St. Valentine's Day !



**14th February**  
**Mass times 10.00am and 7.00pm**  
**Ashes will be available all day**



**Sacrament of Baptism**

Princess, Ruth & Samuel Aigbedion will be baptised this Sunday we are delighted to welcome Them into the Christian Family of God, Our Father and to our Community. Congratulations

**Last Sunday's Collections**

First Collection €214  
 Share Collection €155

**Month of January**

Family Envelopes €1842  
**Thank you Very Much**

**LENT- WITH THE 'HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION'**

The blessed Ash publicly worn on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday (14th February) is a public and humble admission of guilt, an expression of sorrow for sins that have been committed, a promise to God to reform and a pledge to resist temptation in the future. 40 days (Lent) before Easter Sunday is an annual Season of fasting, practicing self-discipline, being repentant for our sins, and practicing charity (living a true Christian life) in preparation for the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

**TWO SEASONS OF LIFE**

Then, 40 days after Easter Sunday, when we have freely done God's will and completed our sacrifices and penances to Him, comes another annual Season where we look forward to the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. These two Seasons symbolise our own two

lives. Our human penitentiary life on earth, and our divine free Life in Heaven, where we hope to ascend after our own resurrection. Penitentiary life on earth means that our immortal soul is imprisoned in our flesh (the world). Using our faith and our freewill, God expects us to exercise our spiritual nature to conquer the temptations of the flesh by practicing to do His Will - hence we are called practicing Catholics!

**SPIRITUAL GYM**

Lent is a specific sacred opportunity of 40 days and nights specifically given to spiritually train and strengthen our soul in anticipation for our own resurrection, when we will be Judged, and hopefully found sin-free to enter Heaven. The Liturgy of the Mass reminds us that we live in 'the hope of the resurrection,' meaning we hope for the resurrection of eternal Life and not eternal Death. We are given a full life season on earth to put things right with God if we have strayed away from His Teachings. No sin is too great for God to forgive and forget, if we are truly sorry, in the Sacrament of Confession. Jesus meets us where we are in our lives - go to Him in the confidence (Trust) and He will forgive and forget the past.

**40 DAYS**

After Jesus' Resurrection, it took Him the duration of 40 days before He ascended to Heaven. This period of time before the Ascension could symbolise a period of time we may have to spend in Purgatory, if we are found to be in a sinful state, where God purifies and prepares our souls for entry into Heaven. It is a another Penitentiary prison beyond this world, but this time our freewill is removed, where all outstanding debt to God, caused by un-confessed sins or lack of contrition, will be paid through the currency of suffering. Hence the Suffering Souls in Purgatory. If we refuse to bend our will to God now - then this place will give us all the time chosen by God to do His will. 40 hard years may be the magic number?! However, the Good News is we can avoid this punishment or curtail it (get it reduced) by living the Eternal Covenant (Agreement/Marriage) with God now, through Jesus.

**ASH SYMBOLISES DEATH AND REPENTANCE**

Ashes are an awakening sign we use on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own impending deaths. If death is coming, we honestly need to be prepared, and the time to prepare for death is now, and the way to prepare is to live according to God's Ways. The sign of the Cross on our foreheads is the mark of Eternal Life and was first placed invisibly there in Baptism - by the Priest. Jesus wants us all to make Heaven.

**USE OUR FREEWILL WISELY**

Let us all use the Season of Lent to fast not just from food or drink but fasting from sin which Jesus today refers to as a form of leprosy which rots the flesh - like sin rots the soul. Let us fast from gossiping and judging others. Let us correct our faults, purify our hearts and tongues, control our desires and grow in holiness and faith so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy and look forward to the resurrection of the dead and be found worthy to enter Eternal Life of the New World to come: after our own ascension!