



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA
MARCH NEWSLETTER



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Parish Mass Times	Confessions	Eucharistic Adoration
10am Weekdays & Rosary	After	10.30am—1pm Weekdays
12pm Saturdays & Rosary/ Adoration	Every Mass	12.30pm—1pm Saturday

DURING LENT
MON - FRI MASS
10am & 6.30pm
&
12.00pm Saturday

INVITATION
 We are preparing for Pope. Francis to visit Ireland in August 2018 .
 Six week parish conversations
Week 5: God's Mercy- No One Excluded
ALL ARE WELCOME - PLEASE JOIN US

 Marillac Centre, Catherine's Court
 Thursday 15th - 7pm to 8pm

ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS TIMES (NO 10.30AM OR 12PM MASS)
VIGIL 6.30PM - FRIDAY 16TH MARCH - ST PATRICK'S VIGIL MASS
11.30AM - SATURDAY 17TH MARCH - ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS
Later same Evening: 6PM - SATURDAY 17TH MARCH - VIGIL MASS
SUNDAY MARCH 18TH
10.30AM and 12PM SUNDAY MASSES 18TH MARCH

'Our Common Humanity'
Recent Statement from the Irish Catholic Bishops'

Fundamental right

Every one of us has a right to our life. It is not given to us by the *Constitution of Ireland* or by any law. We have it 'as of right', whether we are wealthy or poor, healthy or sick. All human beings have it. For us as a society to now declare that any category of human being should have that right taken from them would be a shocking step. It effectively says that unborn children do not exist or, if they do, they do not count. That is a manifest injustice.

Life begins at conception

At every point, from conception on, the baby has the potential to realise the fullness of life that God intended. All that is needed is time and nurturing. Today we see more clearly that human life begins at conception. There is no later stage in a baby's development where we can say; 'up until now the foetus was not a person and now it has become a baby'.

Are we allowing ourselves to be desensitised?

Making abortion freely available desensitises [hardens hearts of] people to the value of every human life. The scientific evidence about the beginning of human life has never been clearer. It is, therefore, a great irony that we in Ireland are for the first time in our history losing our clarity about the right to life of the unborn. Knowledge about the mysterious workings of DNA and the stunningly vivid evidence of ultrasound images of little persons in the earliest weeks in the womb should be making us more committed than ever to the protection of unborn life.

Choose life

The child in the womb has life and potential. However, like all babies, before birth or in the early years, she or he has no choice. Powerless to defend themselves they rely on the rest of us to protect their lives and vindicate their rights. By using the word 'choice' we need to remember that, for the baby waiting to be born, the choice we make can be a matter of life or death.

Two lives, one love

An expectant mother needs and deserves the care and support of everyone around her, particularly if her pregnancy poses a serious crisis for her and her family. A mother may be informed that her baby faces serious challenges or is perhaps terminally ill. She might be pregnant as a result of rape. Especially in those tragic cases both the mother and her unborn child can - and must - be loved and cherished.

A declaration of equality

Article 40.3.3 is a declaration of equality and respect for human life. It represents, at the very foundations and substructure of our laws, a conviction that all human life is worth cherishing equally. To repeal this Article would leave unborn children at the mercy of whatever permissive abortion laws might be introduced in Ireland in the future.

We invite people of faith to pray earnestly that Ireland will "choose life" and that the lives of all women and their unborn children will always be loved, valued, welcomed and respected in this country.