



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

11TH/12TH APRIL 2020

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HOLY THURSDAY: THE LORD'S LAST SUPPER MASS (Jn 13:1-15)

Priests renew our Vows on Holy Thursday. At the Last Supper Mass, we commemorate Priesthood and the Institution of the Eucharist, This is the Creation of something unique and new by Christ the Priest, with the specific purpose to nourish and strengthen the soul, for the uphill mission ahead. We acknowledge that Jesus' new appearance comes to us now, in the guise of Living Bread, because we need to physically eat of His Body, to benefit from the divine vitamins that will cause us to be spiritually healthy and fit, to enter Heaven. A baby feeds on the body of its Mum's breast milk, to grow up in human likeness. We too, must feed on the Body of Jesus, to help us grow up in His likeness.

It is a Church Gathering in the spirit of Holy Communion Love and Mercy. Parishioners gather, even on a webcam or TV, as the new Disciples, to witness the humility of Jesus. As Master and Lord, He bends low and kneels to wash the feet of the sinner. Dirty feet are the lowest part of the body, symbolising Jesus' willingness to reach down to forgive the most hideous sins. He wants to save the hardened soul by wiping away the stench of sin. Don't resist Him like Peter's initial reaction. Sadly, not everybody recognises Jesus in today's world, because of His New Bodily Form, called Sacrament, They lack faith.

The action of cleansing water imitate Sacramental Church Anointing. Jesus is the Sacrament, and if we let Him, like Peter, wash our souls (of our feet!), then He can prepare us for a New Way of Living and Dying. Death will profit our holy soul in the next Life. Just like Mary Magdalene prepared Jesus for His Death, as she anointed His feet, under the table, with her tears. Each of us are spiritually re-born in the Sacrament of Baptism, in order to die to sin. Our Mission is to begin spiritually living and acting as loving citizens of Heaven, while still living on earth. Jesus set the example. To be humble, to love and forgive, to prepare to suffer and make sacrifices to God, for the purpose to convert sinners, for the sake of the Kingdom. Happy Easter, Fr. Brendan

GOOD FRIDAY — HOLY SATURDAY — EASTER SUNDAY

The Water and Blood from the side of Jesus denotes the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist. When the soldier pierced Jesus' side, it revealed the Source of where we now find New Eternal Life: from His Sacred Heart, which flow the Sacraments of the Church. The soldier's spear created the Open Gate of Divine Mercy, now held opened by the sinless Hand of Jesus. He invites the whole world to come in and be washed clean of our sins. It was from His side that Jesus fashioned the Church. The New Everlasting Covenant came from His Sacred Heart. It began a New Marriage (New Covenant) between God and Humanity. Jesus comes in many guises, He is Marriage, He is Sacrament, just like a husband and wife who become the face and embodiment of Marriage. Our relationship with each other, as a sacramental people, should be mirrored and modelled on the New Covenant of Love and Mercy.

The moment Jesus died, He descended into Hell to free the souls of God's People from Satan's chains. This means that before Jesus conquered death, all souls that died before Good Friday, were dwelling in a state of deadness known as Limbo. Not to be in the Presence of God, is to be in a Hell-like condition. Before Jesus showed Himself to the Living souls above ground on Easter Sunday, He first showed Himself to the Dead souls below ground, as Saviour and Judge. He separated the Good Souls from the Evil souls, by first seeking out Adam, the very first fallen but repentant Lost Sheep of humanity. On seeing Adam, Jesus said; *The Lord be with you.* Adam replied; *And with Your Spirit.* Remember that Satan had taken the Gift of Life from Adam and turned it into Death, Jesus in rising from Death, destroys it and returns Life to humanity We on earth are called by Jesus to keep Vigil, as reminded in Easter Vigil Mass, to be ready for His Second Coming, as Judge and Saviour. We are called to be found worthy, with God's Grace to be brought, like Adam and Eve, up to a New Life, through the Opened Gates of Heaven. But first, we must enter the Open Gate of His Sacred Heart, while on earth, by using the Sacraments of the Church, as the Spiritual Stairway to climb up to Heaven.

Holy Saturday, celebrates the Mother of God, keeping watch on the New Church, until her Son returned back to earth. That is why the Church always commemorates Saturdays in Honour of the Immaculate Virgin Mary. St. Agatha's celebrates a Marian Mass at 11am every Saturday. In Fatima, Mary asked us to pray the Rosary for the Conversion of Sinners, by devoting Saturdays of the Month to her Immaculate Heart, in order to repair the destruction sin causes the world & our souls. **Easter Sunday** celebrates Jesus' Victory over Death, by conquering the Devil's power & giving us the remedy how to escape his clutches, by living a holy life on earth. Happy Easter, Fr Brendan.