



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

12TH JANUARY 2020

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Parish Mass Times

10am Mass & Rosary
11am Sat. Mass & Rosary/Adoration
5.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
11.30am Sunday Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays
11.00am—12.00pm Saturdays

Confessions After Every Mass

REMEMBRANCE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SOULS

Thank God the works have begun in transforming the side chapel into a space of Worship for our weekday Masses, Community Gatherings and Eucharistic Adoration. The works are in keeping with the original architectural surroundings and in keeping with Dublin City Council. The newly created enclosed area will benefit the health and safety of our local community as a warm environment to come and pray and rest. After the partition and doors are secure, a new heating system will be installed in this area and the chapel will be completely painted. A sound system will be installed complimented by a carpeted floor and comfortable padded seating and kneelers.

The Memorial Plaques for the Deceased Souls will be created and erected on an inside wall of the side Chapel. The List of all the Names of the Deceased, submitted over the past year will be engraved on individual Family Plaques. Members will be contacted in advance to make sure all the Names are correct. Thank you for your generous financial contributions that makes it possible for this work to be done.
God bless, Fr. Brendan.

40 Days of Christmas Season

A continued Happy and Peaceful Christmas to you. Like the 40 Days of Lent and the 40 Days of Advent, Christmas is also a 40 day celebration of the Incarnation of God , beginning on Christmas Day, the 25th December and ending on Candlemas Day, the 2nd February, when we celebrate the Presentation of the Child Jesus to God, or the Feast of Candlemas. We light Candles at Mass on that day, acknowledging and recognising Jesus as: *a Light to Reveal God to the Nations*. The Christmas Crib and Tree will remain in the Church until 2nd February for us all to enjoy and ponder the Love that God has for all of us and all humanity, in becoming Human so to lead us, like a spiritual Lamp from the Darkness into the Light and Rest of His Sacred Heart , which is the Gate or Doorway into Heaven.

BAPTISM RE-NOUNCES SATAN AND AN-NOUNCES GOD AS OUR FATHER

As Jesus was Baptised (Matt 3:13-17), He came up from the water in the river Jordan, and suddenly the **Heavens opened** and God's Voice spoke from Heaven: *This is My Son, the Beloved; My favour rests on Him*. There was another moment in the Gospel, (Matt 17:1-8), at the Transfiguration, when the **Heavens opened** again with God's Voice declaring: *This is My Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him*. These are important moments of Divine Revelation, like an Epiphany, where God wants us to recognise Himself in the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, as the Son. In our own baptism, the Heavens were also opened to us too

SACRAMENTS HEAL OUR SOULS

God wants the Unbeliever to echo His Words and see Him in His Beloved Son and to truly profess; ***I Believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father*** (Creed). This first happened on Calvary, not by the Disciples but by a Pagan. The Flesh of Jesus was **opened** by the Lance of the unbelieving soldier, revealing the identity of the New Body of Jesus Christ, when Blood and Water gushed forth from the open Sacred Heart of Jesus, revealing the present Sacraments of the Church. Water a sign of Baptism and Blood a sign of Life. Jesus is identified in today's world in Sacramental Life Form, in His New Eucharist Risen Body. He comes to us by Water and Blood. The converted soldier represents those touched by Jesus, when his voice declared; *Truly, this Man was the Son of God* (Matt 27:54).

OPERATION TRANSFORMATION

There are three very important Transformation moments in all our lives, which we should not ignore, because they are necessary ingredients for our entry into Heaven. Each Transformation is connected to a Sacrament of the Church. The First Transformation in our lives begins at the Sacrament of Baptism, transforming us into Children of God and marking us as Co-Heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven. The Second Transformation takes place through our Victory over trials, tribulations and sins of this life, when we enter into the Sacrament of Confession. Outside Confession, we must not forget that every challenge, every difficulty and all moments of suffering in our lives, are opportunities for a transformation and spiritual growth, uniting our sufferings with Jesus' suffering, to become Co-Redeemers, as a means to convert unbelievers.

BE PREPARED AND TRANSFORM NOW

In every Mass, our Holy Communion with the Living Jesus, should be another source of our transfiguration, transforming our minds and hearts to love and forgive one another, like Jesus. The Third Transformation takes place at our Death, especially if the soul has received the Sacrament of the Last Rites. Our soul may spend a period of further transformation and purification time in Purgatory, because of Divine Justice. Our last transformation or transfiguration of our immortal soul (spiritual body), will be fully completed at the Second Coming of Jesus, if we are not already Saints in Heaven. Mass and Prayers for the Dead continually help purify and transform their departed souls, which eventually qualifies them entry to Heaven.

WHY DID JESUS GET BAPTISED

Jesus, who was sinless, spiritually brought us all down with Him into the baptising waters to wipe clean our souls from the dirty mark of original Sin and Death. He does this by replacing the mark of the Devil with the spotless mark of Himself, who is Life. Water denotes the workings of the cleansing Holy Spirit. Our human nature, is given a share in His divine nature. God takes back His People, as the Second Reading states, who had *fallen into the power of the Devil* (Acts 10:34-38), because of our first parents fall from Grace. God bless, Fr. Brendan.