



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

18TH JANUARY 2019



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Sr. Nuala Dolan DC: Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council
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Parish Mass Times

10am Weekdays & Rosary

Confessions

After

Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays

12pm Saturdays & Rosary/Adoration Every Mass 12.30pm—1.30pm Saturdays

SUNDAY MASSES: 5.30pm Vigil Mass and 11.30am Sunday Mass

Counselling

Anam Cara South Dublin, an organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Monday 14 of January at 7:20pm in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 24. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. For more information see anamcara.ie or call our Information Line on 085 2888 888 or www.anamcara.ie

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Somebody recently spread the untruthful rumour that the Parish Pastoral Council was “defunct” which is far from the truth. Formed last Winter 2018 they are; Sr. Nuala Dolan, D.C., Chairperson. Mary Murphy, Secretary. Pat Walsh, Child Protection Officer. John Kelly. Jennie Guiden. Sr. Anne Neylon, D.C. Liam Murphy. Fr Brendan Kealy, President (Diocesan Contact Person). Chairperson role will alternate every year to ensure a balance of Equality

Age Action Care and Repair Programme

Are you 60+ years of age? Have you a small repair job which you would like to have done for you? The Care and Repair programme (run by Age Action Ireland) uses a pool of trustworthy volunteers and handypersons to carry out minor repairs for older people. All volunteers are vetted and carry official Care and Repair identification cards. The service is free; you only pay for the materials used where required. For your bigger jobs, we maintain a register of reliable and honest tradespersons. We are also accepting requests for small gardening jobs. You can arrange to have a job done for you by phoning the Age Action Care and Repair number which is 01-4756989.

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTISED? FOR OUR SAKE

At Christ's Baptism the Heavens were opened and at our own Baptism's, Heaven also opens to us too. Baptism prepares us all for Heaven. On the day Jesus was baptised, God's voice from Heaven reveals the identity of Jesus which is another Epiphany (to show or to reveal) moment. Jesus' Baptism reveals Him as the Messiah or the anointed Christ filled with the Holy Spirit and as the Son of the Father, to the entire world.

LIVE THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM AND IN HIM

The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son. The descent of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a Dove, shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ - **through Him, with Him and in Him** - just as He is identified and revealed in every Mass by God's Priest, before praying the Our Father. We also identify ourselves as God's children and brothers and sisters of each other in our baptism, by addressing God as Our Father and not My Father because we are one Family which is the Church.

LORD, I AM NOT WORTHY BUT ONLY SAY THE WORD TO HEAL ME

Every Mass is an Epiphany (Revelation). Every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is an offering to God of ourselves as His Sons and Daughters along with Jesus. God adopts us all in our own baptism and marks us for eternal Life and a promises to share His Kingdom, in the next world. That is some inheritance to look forward to. However, we must be found worthy to 'pick-up' this Divine Prize after we depart this earthly life. Baptism is not an isolated ritual but a Gateway to receive so many more Sacraments and Gifts from God not just in this life but beyond.

ORIGINAL SIN WIPED AWAY

Original Sin was inherited from our first human parents and this is what is wiped away in Baptism. It replaces the Old Covenant form of circumcision which symbolised the removal of sin. In every Baptism, the hand of God makes a spiritual surgical removal of the flesh, which is a detachment of our passions and selfishness, a spiritual detachment from the mark of Original Sin, which then leaves us open for the attachment of the Holy Spirit. This spiritual circumcision is not made by human hand but by the Word of God which is like a two-edged sword or knife that spiritually cuts away our old nature anchored in sin - as inherited from Adam and Eve - and leaves a new nature allowing a sharing in the Divinity of Christ and becoming temples for the Holy Trinity.

TRUE LIFE IS BORN OUT OF HIS BLOOD AND HIS DEATH

Jesus had no need of Baptism because He was never marked by Sin. However, to enter into the world in our human nature, He would take on sin for our sake so He could conquer it and Death too. God did not create the power of Death but He destroyed it by becoming Man. It was a means to an end that brought a New Beginning for humanity. **True Life is now born out of Blood, Water and Death which begin at Baptism.** In Jesus' Baptism, He is identifying with us, not as a Sinner, but as One to bring Victory over Sin. Death will now profit us by purchasing Eternal Life. Jesus was Baptised as an example for us all to follow. God bless, Fr. Brendan