



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

13TH OCTOBER 2019

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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

CANONISATION OF BL. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

Bl. John Henry Newman, will be declared a Saint in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, this Sunday at a 10am Mass, celebrated by Pope Francis. He began his faith journey in the Church of England. When struggling and grasping with the Truth, he slowly realized Jesus was fully present, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the Blessed Eucharist. The Church of England teach differently, in that the Eucharist only represents Jesus' Presence. He rightly disagreed. He came to Ireland in 1851 after his conversion and was the First Rector of UCD. I will be con-celebrating in St Peter's Basilica, & placing all of you in the Chalice, during Mass. Fr. Brendan

NEW SHRINE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We are very grateful to the Daughters of Charity for entrusting the statue of St. Vincent to our parish Church. This act of charity allows us to create a new Shrine in honour of Vincent. The Statue of St. Vincent reminds us of the wonderful fruitful work carried out by the Vincentian religious family, through the mission of the sisters, benefiting many families. While the convent in North William St, is closed, the great work of the sisters continues in our parish, through Sr. Nuala & Sr. Bridget.

St. Vincent is the patron of all works of charity. He founded the Congregation of the Mission in 1625. He established many hospitals with St. Louise de Marillac, who he co-founded the Daughters of Charity in 1633. It was the first non-cloistered religious institute of women devoted to active charitable works, feeding and nursing the sick and needy. The society of St. Vincent DePaul was founded by blessed Antoine Frederic Ozanam in 1833.

St. Vincent pray for us .

ONLY A HEALED SOUL CAN ENTER SINLESS HEAVEN

In today's Gospel (Lk 17:11-19), Jesus reminds us that before we were baptised, our souls carried the disease of Original Sin, symbolised by the disease of Leprosy. The disease of sin causes spiritual unhealth and brings us all down into a fallen state. Jesus healed our souls in Baptism. How many Christians come back to say: THANK YOU? Jesus is referring to people who are thank-less and don't bother to return to Him, as He awaits our presence in every Sunday Mass The Greek Word Eucharist (Mass), means THANKSGIVING (Mass), in English.

BE HEALED

In telling the lepers (sinners), to go and show themselves to the Priest, Jesus is telling us today, to go to His appointed representative on earth, the Priest, who is in the, *Person of Christ*, and confess our sinfulness, to heal our souls. This is also a message for people who do come to Mass, but ignore and neglect the Healing Sacrament of Confession. When we sin, we affect the whole Body of the Church including its Members (us) Confession not only heals our souls, but heals the division and wounds, that the nails of our sins cause to the Mystical Body of Christ, which is Church. All we have to do, is simply go and say: *Jesus, have mercy (pity), I'm Sorry for my sins*, and be healed immediately. Pride prevents people going.

JESUS IS VISIBLE TODAY IN SACRAMENTAL FORM

Note how Jesus makes no fuss. He simply tells the lepers to, *Go and show yourselves to the priests*. On their way to carry out this instruction, like Naaman in the First Reading, they discovered that they were miraculously cleansed and healed. This was a reward for their **trust** in Jesus' instructions. Every Gospel reveals the process of how Jesus formed His Sacramental Church for us today. Now that the Church is formed, we must listen to Him telling us how to use the (Seven) Sacraments. A Sacrament is the Visible Image of Jesus in the world today.

I ABSOLVE (HEAL) YOU FROM YOUR SINS

We say in Mass: *Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed*. What Word are we waiting to hear? It is only in Confession we hear it: **Absolve**. Christ, using the voice of the Priest in Confession, grants us *pardon, mercy and peace, absolving us from our sins*, bringing spiritual healing to our diseased soul. This is why Jesus sent the lepers to be officially declared clean, by the Religious authorities. Only then could the lepers be fully integrated back into society. Only through Confession, can our souls be officially integrated & reconciled to the full Communal Body of the Church. Sin detaches us from God and His Mystical Body (Church). We cannot forgive ourselves for offences committed against God. In Confession, our soul experiences a spiritual Resurrection of spiritual life, symbolised by Jesus saying; **Stand up & go on your way, faith has saved you**.

THANKSGIVING

This is why children go to Confession first, before receiving their First Holy Communion in Mass. Their Confession prepares their souls for the coming of the sinless Jesus. St. Paul says: *If we have died with Him (died to our sins in Confession), then we will live with Him (Bodily Resurrection)*. But, we must go to Confession. God bless, Fr. Brendan.