



## PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

### JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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## THE MOVING BED & CANDLES!

You will have noticed that Venerable Matt Talbot's bed has moved! Originally it was placed in the middle of the Mortuary Chapel or St Agatha's Chapel separating it from his main Shrine and Picture, at the rear of the Church. It was decided to move the bed and place it beside his Shrine, because many visitors had missed seeing it 'hidden' away.

I hope you agree that Matt's bed is now appropriately placed beneath the Crucified Christ because his own suffering Cross was fighting his temptation to return to drinking alcohol which paralysed his vocation/call to serve God. Reliance on booze became an obstacle to his freedom and true enjoyment of life. Through entrusting himself to the Crucified Jesus, who understood his struggle and helped him, Matt never returned to his old ways. He is an example to us all. If you are struggling with addiction, genuinely ask Jesus to heal you - as Matt did - and Jesus will.

Matt willingly transformed his abstinence from substance abuse as a Sacrifice to God for the Salvation of the World. He realised he had a part to play in God's Plan to rid the world of Satan and Evil - as we all do. He slept with planks of wood on this bed using a piece of timber for a pillow. He slept in chains which he wore for 14 years before his death, around his leg and on his body symbolising his new willing slavery to Jesus' influence and not alcohol's. St Padre Pio used a stone for his own pillow.

Matt prayed many times, during the night and first thing in the morning, kneeling at the side of this bed. He would arrive outside St Francis Xavier's Church at 5am and marking the Sign of the Cross on his body, waiting for it to open. On entering he would kneel and kiss the ground, then make the Stations of the Cross. Under the Cross is the perfect place.

### Parish Mass Times

10am Weekdays & Rosary  
12pm Saturdays & Rosary/ Adoration  
6pm Vigil, 10.30am & 12pm Sundays

### Confessions

after Every Mass

### Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays  
12.30pm—1pm Saturday

## Back into Ordinary Time

With Christmastide coming to an end, we return into the "Ordinary" days of the Church's year. *Ordinary Time*, meaning ordered or numbered time, is celebrated in two segments: from the Monday 8th Jan. following the Baptism of Our Lord up to Ash Wednesday 14th Feb and from Pentecost Monday to the First Sunday of Advent. This makes it the largest season of the Liturgical Year.'

Usually accompanied by the colour green, symbolising hope and growth, in her Liturgy the Church counts the Sundays of Ordinary Time, inviting us to meditate upon the whole mystery of Christ - His life, miracles and teachings - in the light of His Incarnation, Passion and Resurrection.

## From a Homily on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

"The Christmas Season, which ended last Sunday, has made us contemplate the Child Jesus in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, lovingly tended by Mary and Joseph. God entrusts every child who is born to his parents: so how important is the family founded on marriage, the cradle of life and love! The House of Nazareth where the Holy Family lived is the model and school of simplicity, patience and harmony for all Christian families. I pray to the Lord that your families too may be welcoming places where these little ones can not only grow in good health but also in faith and love because God today, with Baptism, makes them his children."

*Pope Benedict XVI*

The three important words in a family are "Please", "Thank you" and "I am sorry"

*Pope Francis I*

## GOOD NEWS

The penny candle stands have returned to the rear of the Church as requested by some people. Apologies for any inconvenience but the 24 hour candles are still available for €2 as they are a new invaluable source of extra income desperately needed to run our parish. Thank you all very much for your generosity over Christmas and buying loads of candles! Every time you light a candle you are contributing to the running of your parish. Thank you again and enjoy a Blessed New Year.

Fr Brendan