



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

15TH APRIL 2018



Fr. Brendan Kealy Adm. : 087 9117575 Office : Tel: 8554078
E mail : office@stagathaparish.ie Website: www.stagathaparish.ie

Parish Mass Times

10am Weekdays & Rosary

12pm Saturdays & Rosary/ Adoration

Confessions

After

Every Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays

12.30pm—1pm Saturday

Last Sunday's Collections

First Collection €204

Share Collection €162

Month of March

Family Envelopes € 1395

Thank you Very Much

THE EUCHARIST IS THE RISEN CHRIST BEFORE US

In today's Gospel, the Risen Jesus, who has come back from the Dead, appears among the disciples. The fact that He comes suddenly, although the doors were locked, indicates that His Presence is now of a different kind. He opened their minds to understand Scripture. He also comes before us today, in a new form; a Sacramental Form, in the guise and appearance of Holy Communion: Living Holy Bread. Will we allow Him to open our minds to understand and see Him better in this different way and form, as explained in the Scriptures?

WE HOLD THE RISEN BODY OF CHRIST

Will we be astounded when He comes before us in Holy Communion today, hearing the Priest or the [Extraordinary] Minister of the Eucharist saying and declaring before our eyes; **"The Body of Christ."**, knowing [or do we?], that the Holy Bread is Alive and is the New Body of Christ, clothed in His Eucharistic Flesh. When we say; **"Amen."** meaning; **"I Believe"**, - do we believe? Will we look at Him in a loving and caring and respectful manner when He lays on the palm of our hand? Or will we take Him and consume Him like a sweet? Will we have forgotten Him by the time we return back to our seat?

LIVING BREAD COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN

Are we astounded and amazed that Jesus hides and conceals His human and divine nature in a piece of Living Bread with His beating Sacred Heart concealed and hidden but present - a real Body, not a symbol of His Body or a Ghost, but His Real Presence.

THE WORD BECOMES FLESH

In every Mass we are spiritually brought back in real time while still remaining

in present time, to walk and be in the presence of Jesus. We are His new disciples. We too, should be listening to Jesus in the Readings and Gospel today, which is proclaimed from the Table of the Word [Podium/Ambo], which is beside the Altar and holds the Bible. From there we follow the Priest, who is in the Person of Christ, to the Table of the Word [the Altar] where upon the Word we just heard in the Readings, now becomes Flesh in the Eucharist, on the altar. We have being spiritually brought to the Upper Room at the last Supper, seeing Jesus through the Priest, blessing the bread and wine, and offering Himself before the consecration of the Mass to God. And asking us to do the same thing. To give ourselves up for Him by loving our neighbour.

CALVARY AT MASS

Then at the exact Consecration of the Mass, as Jesus is elevated and exalted into the air, we are all at the foot of the Cross in Calvary with Mary, witnessing the Crucifixion. Hence the bell rings for us to pay attention. The soldier pierces the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the Cross and out comes Blood and Water, which we recognise and see, in every Mass, as the Sacraments of the Church, the Eucharist which we will receive. In awe, we then acknowledge it as a Mystery of Faith. We may say; "My Lord and My God," acknowledging His Presence before us.

PROMISE TO BEHAVE LIKE GOD'S CHILDREN

We then promise to live our lives; "Through Him, with Him and in Him," before acknowledging we are spiritual brothers and sisters, and God's adopted children when we say in one voice; "Our Father", promising to respect His Holy Name, promising to do His Will on earth as it is in Heaven, promising to allow His Presence to grow, like a mustard seed, in our lives [thy Kingdom come], promising to forgive each other knowing that the way we show mercy will be the EXACT same Way God will show mercy to us, on our Day of Judgement. We also crave for the daily bread [give us this day], of increased faith and understanding of Scripture and His Presence in the Eucharist.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

As the Priest breaks the Living Bread before we declare Jesus is the Lamb of God, asking Him to have mercy on us, we should understand He is transformed into the Risen Christ at this moment of the Mass. He stands among us and offers us His Peace. Sometimes we shake hands at this stage or silently ask Jesus to bring His everlasting Peace into our hearts and those of our family. When receiving Jesus we should allow Him to become our Host as our body is His Holy temple, His home, where He wishes to live. How special are we in the eyes of God.

A continued Easter Blessing to everyone. Alleluia! Fr Brendan