

PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

14TH/15TH DECEMBER 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

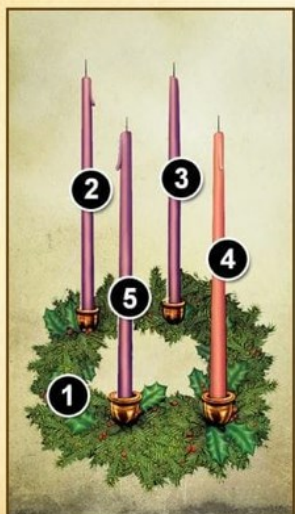
CONFESSION TIMES IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

The Sacrament of Confession is available before and after EVERY Mass in the Church of St. Agatha during the Christmas Season.

There will be additional Confessions on *Christmas Eve* before and after the 10am Mass, the 5:30pm Family Mass and the 8pm Mass. Also on *Christmas Day*, Confessions will be heard between the 9am and 11.30am Masses. So there is no excuse not to reconcile & be One with Jesus! Just come in & say with a contrite heart: *Bless me Father for I have sinned, I ask for Mercy.*

Christmas Eve Confessions: 9:30am, 10:30am, 5pm, 6.30pm, 9pm.

Christmas Day Confessions: 8:30am, 10am, 11am and 12.30pm.



(1) Evergreen Wreath — The circle of the Wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the Eternity of God (the Alpha and Omega). The Evergreen is chosen as the base because God is the Foundation of all Goodness. Green is the colour that represents Growth, the Spiritual Growth of our Souls, to make room for Jesus to live in us.

Four Candles — represent the Four (4) Weeks of Advent. Traditionally, each week represents one thousand years, summing up the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Jesus Our Saviour. The Advent Candles symbolise **Hope, Trust, Love, Joy, Path, Peace and Jesus who COMES in all these Forms.**

The burning flame of the candles symbolises our Faith and the Light of Christ Coming (Advent) into the World.

REJOICE WITH JOY IF YOU'VE BEEN TO CONFESSION !

Today, the third Sunday in Advent, is called Gaudete Sunday which means, Joy Sunday or Rejoice Sunday, because if we have truly repented for our sins then today we Rejoice! Advent Season is basically a penitential or a repentance (remorse for our sins) period to reconcile ourselves back with God. That is why the Advent colour of the Mass vestments, as in Lent, are purple, which symbolises repentance and humility. It is a time when we are not just preparing to celebrate the Remembrance of the First Coming of Christ at Christmas, but to remember there will be a Second Coming of Christ to Judge us someday

HUMILITY IS THE KEY INTO HEAVEN

All the Advent Gospels up to now have been warning us to prepare ourselves for the Second Coming of Christ, when we will find out if we are worthy to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven or not? Today's Gospel (Matt 11:2-11) reminds us again that the secret to enter Heaven is to practice Humility. Jesus tells us that, *of all the children born of woman, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen.* This is because of his humility, symbolised by his modest dress sense. Yet Jesus tells us, that those already found worthy to be living in Heaven are even more humbler than John. *The least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is.*

WHAT IS HUMILITY?

St. James in the Second Reading is teaching us to exercise patience in our lifetime on earth. Not just for the coming of Christ but with each other. To be loving, kind, understanding and merciful needs patience, through practicing humility. We are told, *not to make complaints about one another, so as not to be brought to judgements yourselves; the Judge (Christ) is already to be seen waiting at the Gates.* These are very strong words and we need to meditate on them deeply to see if humility or pride rules our lives?

HUMILITY BRINGS US PEACE

The holy monk Thomas A. Kempis wrote: *People who live in peace avoid conflict with others. But a man/woman who is tense and agitated by Evil is troubled with all kinds of suspicions; he/she is never at peace with themselves, nor does he/she permit others to be at peace. He/she often speaks when he/she should be silent, and he/she fails to say what would be truly useful.* He/she is well aware of the obligations of others but neglects his or her own obligations.

WHAT MUST WE DO THEN?

Thy Kingdom come, refers to the *Kingdom of Peace (Jesus)* coming into our hearts. Peace brings Healing and is the spiritual Medicine dispensed in every Confession by Jesus, the Divine Doctor. Come to God the Father of Mercy in Confession this Advent and say: ***Bless me Father for I have sinned, I come to seek Your Mercy, & I promise to change.*** That's it and all is forgiven and forgotten by God and one's soul is cleansed of all evil presence. It doesn't matter how bad our sin is, God will forgive, if we are truly repentant. Let us adopt the role of the humble John the Baptist and be One with Jesus. God bless, Fr Brendan.