



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

DECEMBER 2018



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Christmas Services Timetable



**Christmas Eve
24th Dec**

10.00am Daily Mass
5.30pm Family Vigil Christmas Mass
8.00pm Vigil Christmas Mass

**Christmas Day
25th Dec**

9.00am Dawn Mass
11.30am Christmas Day Mass



Wed. 26th Dec, St. Stephen Day: 12.00pm
Thurs. 27th Dec, St. John Evangelist: 12.00pm
Fri. 28th Dec, Holy Innocents: 12.00pm
Sat. 29th Dec, 12.00pm
Sat. 29th Dec, Vigil Mass for Sunday 5.30pm
Sun. 30th Dec, The Holy Family of Jesus: 11.30am

**News Years Eve
31st Dec**

12.00pm Daily Mass
11.00pm –12.00am Eucharistic Adoration
12.00am Midnight New Year's Mass

**News Years Day
1st Jan**

12.00pm Mass, Mary the Holy Mother of God

REJOICE WITH SHOUTS OF JOY!

Today is called Joy Sunday or Rejoice Sunday. Advent Season is a penitential or a repentance (remorse for our sins) period.. It is a time when we are invited to renew our hearts for Christmas and the Second Coming of Jesus on the Day of Judgement. Confession is always preached in this season. Hence, there are Confessions after every Mass in St. Agatha's Church. I urge you to go there to simply seek God's Mercy and cleanse the soul of all darkness and heaviness. Just say in Confession: Lord I come to seek Your Mercy, I'm sorry for all my sins. That's it and all is forgiven and forgotten by God.

MY DIVINE GUEST

It is truly a Sunday of Joy to Rejoice in God's Divine Mercy and trust in His Promise of Eternal Life through repentance! This mention of Joy is repeated in the Second Reading where St. Paul encourages us to REJOICE and be HAPPY in the Lord, who is living in our heart and soul, as our Divine Guest every day. St. Laurence O'Toole Church has Confessions this Monday 17th at evening at 8pm.

JESUS RENEWS US BY HIS LOVE

Rejoice, exult with all our heart is the invitation of the First Reading. Jesus will renew us by His Love and Mercy. He will dance with shouts of Joy for us as on a day of a festival. Joy comes from Peace and Peace comes in the Sacramental form of the Holy Eucharist who is Jesus Himself. So, Peace is the Presence of Himself, the gift we receive in every Mass and sacramental rite. Thy Kingdom come, begins with the arrival of the King of Peace in the sacrament of Baptism into our hearts. Peace brings Healing and is the spiritual medicine prescribed and dispensed in every Confession by the Divine Doctor Jesus Himself: through His Priest.

RADIATE JOY!

That is why all the beautiful traditional Christmas Cards have the Greetings of a Peaceful and Joyful Christmas! As Christians, we should always radiate the Joy of the Peace of Christ and not radiate resentment, anger, stubbornness, no forgiveness, hatred, pride, impure talk and vision or dirty telephone texts but radiate JOY through PURITY of HEART! Every experience, if we can only realise it, is touched by God and has its meaning. Once that meaning is found and accepted, inner Joy and Peace can return to us by trusting in Him who knows best.

WHAT MUST WE DO THEN?

In today's Gospel, the people heard what John the Baptist had said about changing one's behaviour and lifestyle to prepare them for the Second Coming of Christ. They asked as we ought, What must we do, then? John informs them to be alert: using the image of a *winnowing-fan* (Jesus' Power), *to clear the threshing floor* (Day of Judgement). Those spiritually mature souls (*wheat*) are ready for Heaven (*Barn*). The consequence for those not prepared to change, by ignoring the Word of God, are like *chaff* that will *burn in a fire that never goes out* (Hell). If we have ears, let us hear! Blessings and Peace be with you in this Advent Season. God bless, Fr Brendan.