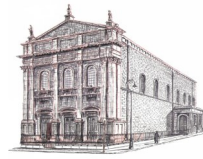




## PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

15TH/16TH MAY 2021



Fr. Brendan Kealy Adm.: 087 9117575 Office:

Tel:018554078, Mr John Kelly: Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council

Jesus I Trust in You E-mail : office@stagathasparish.ie Website: www.stagathasparish.ie

**We were delighted to welcome today the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Reverend Dermot Farrell, in joining our parish community and celebrating the Mass of the Ascension of the Lord, in St. Agatha's Church.**

### POPE FRANCIS SAYS: JESUS' ASCENSION BRINGS US JOY.

Pope Francis says Jesus' Ascension into Heaven as true God and true man and His promise of the Holy Spirit, are causes of joy. There are none of the usual feeling of loss or abandonment among the disciples when Jesus ascended in the Heaven, said Pope Francis. Instead, "despite their separation from the Lord, they do not appear grief-stricken, but rather, are joyful and ready to go into the world as missionaries."

### BE JOYFUL BECAUSE JESUS TAKES A PART OF US WITH HIM

"Why are the disciples not sad?" the Pope asked. "Why should we too rejoice at seeing Jesus ascend into Heaven?" His answer: "The Ascension completes Jesus' mission among us." In Italy, as in many countries throughout the world, the solemnity of the Ascension is observed liturgically on the sixth Sunday after Easter. "After descending into our humanity and redeeming it, now Jesus ascends to Heaven, taking our flesh with Him," the Pope said. Jesus is the first human being to enter Heaven, precisely because He is both true God and true man. "Our flesh is in Heaven," the Pope exclaimed, "and this gives us joy!"

### THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO EVANGELISE

His Ascension is not "an abandonment," because Jesus "remains forever with the disciples, with us" in prayer. Jesus shows the Father the wounds "with which He redeemed us," — and this, the Pope said, "should give us security, and even joy, great joy!"

The second reason for joy, the Pope continued, "is the promise of Jesus" to send the Holy Spirit. After His Ascension, Jesus "sent us the Holy Spirit, He promises us the Holy Spirit, in order to go out to evangelise. This is the reason for the joy of today, for the joy of this day of the Ascension." Pope Francis concluded his remarks with the prayer that "Mary, Queen of Heaven might help us to be in the world courageous witnesses to the Risen One in the concrete situations of life."(Christopher Wells/Vatican News).

### WHY DO WE STILL PERSECUTE JESUS BY SINNING?

Today, we celebrate Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. Let our hearts truly ascend and 'lift them up to the Lord' in our commitment to follow Him always. In every Mass, the Priest, in the Person of Jesus, invites the Congregation to begin this process of joining Him to become new creatures, when all are invited to; *Lift up your hearts*. With the reply; ***We lift them up to the Lord***. This is a very important moment in every Mass, which distinguishes every Mass from a Liturgy of the Word service, because we are now offering ourselves up to God as a sacrifice. God is present and listening. He accepts our sacrifice - giving-up our hearts to Him, just as He gives His to us. As we grow older in spiritual maturity and faith, we should come to understand that earthly life is not about us, because we do not belong to ourselves, but belong to God, who awaits our own ascension up to Heaven, if found worthy.

### BAPTISM THE FIRST GATEWAY OF THE SPIRIT

Jesus necessity to Ascend (return) to Heaven was to allow the promised Third person of the Blessed Trinity, who is God's Spirit, to descend down throughout all the earth and pierce our hearts with His Divine Presence. If Jesus, who is the visible image of the invisible God, remained in Human Form, His Presence could only be felt and seen in one place at one time. In His Spiritual Form, Jesus' influence and Power and Presence is felt in every earthly corner and every living heart in the world. The Holy Spirit is the Giver of Life, from the beginning of time and at the Annunciation. He continues to give birth to His Eucharist Presence in every Mass throughout the world and through all the Sacraments of the Church. Jesus 'walks' the earth and is now visible in Sacramental Form.

### THE MISSION

The Mission of the Holy Spirit could not begin until the Mission of the Son was completed on earth. Jesus could not fully come in the Nature of the Holy Spirit until He had ceased to live visibly in the Nature of human Flesh. After Jesus conquered Death, He then Spiritualises Humanity by giving us New Spiritual Life through the Resurrection from Death and then returns to Our Father in Heaven, at the Ascension. All these acts were the necessary conditions for the sending of the Holy Spirit to the Church, which is the beginning of our entry, through a heavenly Doorway on earth, to a New Life. Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, is realised in Church. The Mission hasn't ended yet, He still has to return a Second Time to those who walked through the Church Door in Faith.

### SADLY, JESUS STILL SUFFERS

The Book of Revelation (21:1), informs us of the coming of a New Heaven and a New Earth, which will be created after Jesus' Second Coming. Even though Jesus ascended to Heaven, He is still at One in us, and still suffers terribly on earth from all the pain that we, His Members of His Body (Church), have to bear. Jesus still weeps in Heaven over our continuous sinning, by disobeying His Teachings. He revealed this when He cried out from Heaven to St Paul (who represents us): ***Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?***

### THY KINGDOM COME

*Thy Kingdom come*, on earth is realised when we willingly enter the process, the doorway of radical conversion and change our hearts, by genuinely lifting them up to the Lord, which is a form of repentance. It is a form of suffering and brings about a deep reconciliation with God and one another. Our existence is thanks to God and we belong to Him. We are made for Him and not ourselves. Life is not about us but Him. We need to look into the Bible, which is like a Spiritual Mirror, which will reflect the present state of our soul. Just as we look into a mirror on the wall to see the state of our human nature. Jesus ascends to Heaven in human form, in order for the Spirit to proceed (come forth) from Him and the Father in Heaven, in order to enlighten the eyes of our minds, in order to awaken the Call in us to live by His Divine Will and Standards and not our own. We do this to live in the Hope of our own Resurrection and Ascension one day. God bless, Fr. Brendan.