



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

16TH SEPTEMBER 2018

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WELCOME BACK!

I welcome the Adult Choir back from their summer break and take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment and participation in enriching our Sunday Liturgy. During the choir's summer break, we were very fortunate to have Sister Anne and Sister Bernadette lead the full congregation every Sunday and I thank them for their time and efforts. Anyone interested in joining the Choir are very welcome to apply after Sunday Mass to Peter, in the balcony.

ST. FRANCIS HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

This Thursday morning 20th September 2018, after 10 am Mass.

Coffee and Tea will be served in the Sacristy and a Raffle will take place in aid of this very worthy cause. We would appreciate your generosity and presence. Plenty of spot prizes available.

CROSSCARE WILL REPLACE THE SHARE COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND.

| Parish Mass Times | Confessions | Eucharistic Adoration |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| 10am Weekdays & Rosary | After | 10.30am—1pm Weekdays |
| 12pm Saturdays & Rosary/ Adoration | Every Mass | 12.30pm—1pm Sat. |
| 5.30pm Saturday Vigil, and 11.30am Sunday Mass | | |

FUND RAISING FOR SIDE CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OUR DEAD

As a cost cutting exercise on electricity bills, we will use the side Chapel of St Agatha's for future 10am Weekly Daily Masses. Funerals will be held in the main Church as will weekend Masses. **The proposed work will begin this November** placing an adjustable Partition & Door, in the Archway & to carpet & paint area. Access will still be from the main Church. To finance this transformation, everybody is invited to make a donation & in return, the Names of your Loved ones will be placed on the walls of this Remembrance Memorial Chapel which already has the names of deceased past parishioners on the walls. Your support on this will be gratefully appreciated & pleasing to God. Thank you.

STAND BEHIND ME SATAN

Today, Jesus refers to Himself as the *Son of Man*, meaning He is the awaited Messiah. He teaches them what is going to happen to Him in the days ahead. He will suffer grievously, be rejected by the elders and religious leaders, be put to death and after three days will rise again. Peter, immediately begins to protest and takes Jesus aside to object to this teaching. This decision to change Jesus' teachings would be something typical that Satan would do. It is always Satan and his agents on earth who oppose everything God plans. So it is no surprise Jesus scolds Peter with the words, *Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.*

JESUS IS ONLY HELPING US TO GET TO HEAVEN!

If we object and reject the teachings of Jesus, then we have allowed Satan influence our minds - as Peter did. Jesus is only trying to help our souls get to Heaven. Faith is our positive response to Jesus' call and teachings. If we surrender to His Will - He will spiritually open our eyes and ears to see and hear what He is saying. Last Sunday's Gospel showed us that. Pride, which originates from Satan, hardens our hearts and makes us become spiritually deaf and blind to the Gospel.

FAITH IS NOT AN A-LA-CARTE CHOICE

St James, in today's Second Reading, talks about people who say they have *faith*, that is, they claim to be believers in Jesus and His Gospel teachings but nothing of this faith appears in their lives - or in their conversations, or in their behaviour towards each other, or how they vote in Referendums. Our response (faith), to Jesus has to be 100% commitment and not with an *a-la-carte* attitude where we choose what suits us only!

SATAN IS OUR ENEMY

The Apostles wrongly assumed Jesus, the Messiah, came to fight and save them from the enemy in their world of Israel, who were the Romans. It was only later that they understood the real Enemy in the World is Satan and that the Battle is of a Spiritual Dimension, but yet very real. We are all brought into the World to conquer it - not with a physical army, but with the heroic virtues of grace, humility, charity, love, forgiveness, holiness, and obedience to God's Will. Stuff that can be hard to do and sometimes against our own Selfish nature. Jesus calls us to be Self-less today when He says; *If anyone wants to be a follower of Mine, let them renounce themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For anyone who wants to save their life will lose it; but anyone who loses their life for My sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it.*

SPIRITUAL EXAM

Jesus is reminding us that we are all placed on this earth to sit and live a means test, like an exam to pass, so that we can qualify to enter into Heaven someday. The Gospel has all the answers to this spiritual exam! Jesus came into the World to destroy the Devil's works and influences. Let us not be fooled by the teachings of this passing world and begin taking the teachings of Jesus more seriously. It is not always easy. For example, the teaching of Jesus to love one's enemy (Lk 6:27-38), is a form of losing one's life, for Jesus' sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, which will lead us to saving our own life for the coming of the next life. Not to love and forgive is to deny ourselves eternal life. God bless, Fr. Brendan.