



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

16TH/17TH MARCH 2020

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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

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS BUCKETS !

Thank you for placing financial support to the Parish & Archdiocese in the buckets!

HOLY CHRISM OIL

The Holy Chrism Oil is used in Baptisms, Confirmations, Ordinations and is sourced from pure olive oil. It is mixed with the fragrant Balsam which represents the Holy Spirit of God. And the *aroma of Christ* (2 Cor 2:15). Anointing with Chrism Oil signifies the Gift of the Holy Spirit. It is used to consecrate someone to God's service.

PASTORAL ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING CORONAVIRUS

Pope Francis has asked the entire World to offer up to God Prayer/Rosary for Protection and Peace among the flock, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. He is praying

"We seek Refuge under your Protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions, we who are put to the test and deliver us from every danger, O Glorious Blessed Mary.

The Archdiocese, in keeping with Health Authorities, implement vital measures to limit virus.

*Mass with less than 100 people present may be celebrated including Funerals.

*Churches should be open for a reasonable time each day for people to pray.

*In this emergency only, all parishioners are dispensed from the Obligation of physical presence at Sunday Masses, especially vulnerable & elderly people

* Pro-Cathedral Live Web Camera Mass Broadcast on: procathedral.ie or mcnmedia.tv . Check their site for Live camera Mass Times. Radio Maria Ireland can be downloaded for their 10am Mass 7 days a week.

SAINT PATRICK: THE PASCHAL LIGHT OF FAITH HE FOUGHT TO KEEP LIT

St. Patrick is credited for converting our Irish pagan ancestors into practicing Christians, by enlightening their pagan minds with the Paschal Flame of Faith. He made the people aware of the Presence of Christ in their hearts. He is depicted by the image of driving snakes out of Ireland. This image symbolised the Evil presence of Satan in the hearts of our Irish ancestors. The Devil never went too far away. Most Irish Christians have sadly returned to pagan roots, not believing in God, by replacing Him with the Golden Calf of worldly possessions and myths. The devil is a snake-like virus attacking the world under a cloak of darkness. He *prowls around like a roaring lion* (1Peter 5:8), bringing panic to the flock. We must turn to the Shepherd, in full trust and confidence, to protect us from the venomous 'snake' bite of death. Jesus says; *Do not be afraid, trust in Me.*

DO NOT FALL FOR FALSE MYTHS

It is important that we take St. Paul's advise today (2Tim 4:1-8). He warns us not to be dependent on ourselves, but to learn how to protect ourselves by listening and obeying the teachings of the Gospel of Truth. To *fight the good fight* is nothing to do with beating life on our own terms, but in fighting sinful temptation and to fight the virus or the disease of sin itself, with the Help of Jesus. Always trust in Our Saviour and not in what St. Paul calls, *the latest novelty.... according to our own tastes.* Instead of listening to Truth (Jesus), people are listening to Myth (Satan). Paul asks us to *be brave in times of trials* and not to lose faith and hope in Jesus, who is God made visible in Jesus' Flesh.

THE HIDDEN TRUTH ABOUT SATAN

Like a Snake, Satan continues to hide today, like a weed infecting a healthy harvest in a field, which symbolises this world. In the Gospel (Mt 13:24-32), Jesus explains how Evilness is like a parasite, latching onto Goodness. We must never forget that on our Judgement Day, Jesus will separate the hidden and visible Evil from the Good. It is God who sows the Good Seed, which is His teaching Word. The good seed represent people subject to the Kingdom of God, who obey His Will on earth, as it is done in Heaven. The darnel is a weed (sin), harmful to the harvest, symbolising us, and sneakily planted in our hearts by Satan. If we oppose Church teachings and live according to our own Will, then we have willingly allowed Satan plant the seed of sin in our hearts, whether in bed or wide awake. Our lifestyle should conform to God's Will. Jesus in His infinite patience is giving us a time to change before the Day of Judgement comes to hold us accountable.

HARVEST OF LOVE AND MERCY AND CHARITY

Souls who reject the Good Seed, by never practicing love and mercy or repenting for their sins in Confession, risk the very real possibility of ending up in Hell. If Jesus finds our souls on Judgement Day, still tied to sin, then we will be *bundled* together and *burnt*. The hearts who imitated Christ in life will be led into the Glorious Barn of Heaven. It is our duty and care to nurture this tiny seed of Love and Mercy planted in our hearts in Baptism and allow it to grow in charity, where we can help those in need looking for shelter in our hearts. Let us all take care of our bodies and souls especially in this trying time & light a candle to St. Patrick to help. God bless. Fr. Brendan