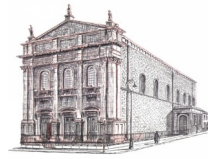




PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

16TH/17TH MAY 2020



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Jesus I Trust in You

POPE FRANCIS MASS: JESUS BIDS FAREWELL WITH A PROMISE

In Pope Francis' homily today (Jn 14:15-21), he pointed out that as Jesus bade farewell to His disciples, He left them Hope, which was the promise that He would not leave them orphans. *It is this sense of being orphaned, of not having a Father, that is, and has been, the root of many problems on earth, he said. We live in a society that lacks the Father. A sense of being orphaned touches one's sense of belonging and fraternity.*

FULFILMENT OF THE PROMISE

The fulfilment of this promise is the Holy Spirit. *The Holy Spirit does not come to make us His clients, the Pope said. Instead, the Holy Spirit comes to show us how to access the Father, to teach us the way to the Father, the way that Jesus opened, the way that Jesus showed us. A spirituality directed only to the Son of God does not exist, the Pope continued. The Father is at the centre, he reminded us. The Son was sent by the Father and returns to the Father. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father to remind us and teach us how to access the Father through a Trinitarian Spirituality.*

SENSE OF BELONGING TO A FAMILY

This awareness that we are children and not orphans is the key to living in Peace. Wars, both big and small, always contain a dimension of being orphans because the Father who makes Peace is missing. Our mission as Christians is to accomplish what St Peter exhorts in the Second Reading (1Peter 3:15-18). We are to bear witness to the Hope that we have when others ask us for an explanation. Do it with gentleness and respect. Peter directed, keeping your conscience clear. Gentleness and respect are ways of behaving characteristic of those who share a relationship with a common Father, he said. They are attitudes of belonging, belonging to one family who is certain of having a Father, who is at the centre, who is everyone's origin, the source of all Unity and Salvation. And He sent the Holy Spirit to remind us of how to access the Father, to teach us these familial attitudes of gentleness, meekness and peace.

PRAY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to remind us always, always, how to access the Father, to remind us that we have a Father. And to this civilization that has a huge sense of being orphaned, may He grant the grace of finding the Father once again, the Father who provides everyone with a sense of meaning in life. May He make all men and women one family.

POPE'S MASS INTENTION

Today our prayer is for all those persons who clean hospitals, the streets, who empty dumpsters, who go to each house to remove trash. It's a work that no one sees, but it is a job that is necessary to survive. May the Lord bless them and help them.

JESUS TESTS OUR LOVE FOR HIM

In today's Gospel (Jn 14:15-21), Jesus tells us clearly that if our love for Him is true, then we will **keep** and obey His Commandments. This means to remove sin from our lives. It is important to understand that the Commandments are not optional guidelines on how to conduct ourselves, while journeying on this earthly pilgrimage of faith, but are Commands made by God Himself, for us to live by. He came down from Heaven, in the Person of Jesus, with a Mission. He laid down His life for us in the process. It is now our turn to lay our lives down for Him. He came for the sole purpose of releasing us from the prison of sin and teaching us the Way to Heaven.

NEVER LOSE HOPE

If we continue to be imprisoned in habitual sin, then it's hard for Jesus to believe we love Him. We can all change and repent so as not to offend Jesus. We do this in the Sacrament of Confession, where the **Advocate** who is the **Holy Spirit of Truth**, gives us the Spiritual Support, Commitment, Strength and Divine Grace to changed, by aligning ourselves to His Teachings. In the second reading (1Peter 3:15-18), St. Peter teaches us to be continually open to the coming of the Holy Spirit who brings **Hope**. Many people who reject the Holy Spirit's Gift of Faith, sadly lose Hope in their lives.

COURTESY AND RESPECT ALWAYS TO BE PRACTICED

As the Prayer says; **Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts and minds of Your faithful servants and enkindle in us the fire of Your Divine Love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created. And You shall renew the faith of the earth.** Peter instructs us to always be prepared to **Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts**. This includes not taking His Holy Name in vain. Peter warns that we will suffer for doing right when living by the Gospel of Truth. He says, *those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring.* This means that the Truth will have its Victory in the end. Peter says that those who may persecute and insult us should always be treated with **courtesy and respect**. We can only do this by surrendering our Pride to Humility (Christ) by imitating Him, in order for the Truth to be heard and seen in us. Jesus is the Truth, the Way and Life.

LET'S NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES

If we promote and support abortion, then we do not truly love Jesus, because it contradicts His Fifth Commandment: *Thou shall not kill.* If we do not agree with His teachings on the Sacrament of Marriage, between a man and a woman, then we do not truly love Jesus. To love Him is to live according to His standards and not our own. When we truly love Him, we will experience the Love of the Father, which results in the Father and Jesus happily making their Home, their Kingdom of Peace in us, hence we should yearn for *Thy Kingdom come*, so to be part of the heavenly Family. It is not always easy to align our freewill with God's Will, but the Commandments are the blueprint for the setting up of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth, shaping us for when we depart this world. Next week, we celebrate Jesus' Ascension, in human form, up to Heaven. He will return in a Spiritual **invisible** Form, as the Holy Spirit, in order for Him to become **visible** in us, so to fulfil when Jesus said; *I am in My Father and you in Me and I in you.* God bless, Fr. Brendan