



## PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

19TH JANUARY 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

## CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER WEEK 18 TO 25 JAN

This week, all Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for His disciples that, *they may be one so that the world may believe* (John 17.21). Christians are encouraged to come together to pray for their unity. This year's theme, *They showed us unusual kindness...* is inspired by Acts 28:2. It ends on the Feast Day of the Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle, who was shipwrecked off the coast of Malta leading to the Christian Faith beginning there. The people on the island were so welcoming that Paul repaid them with all he had: Faith

### THE NICEAN CREED



The Council of Nicaea was held in Turkey in 325AD. It was convened to resolve the problem of Arianism, which was a false belief that Jesus Christ was not Divine or the Son of God. To rectify the confusion, a Creed was formulated for the faithful to incorporate the word, *con-substantial* to signify the absolute equality (SUBSTANCE) of the Son with the Father. Jesus is not *made* from the seed of man but Begotten, meaning He always existed with the same substance as God, because Jesus is God.

### WHY THE IMAGE OF A LAMB?

A Lamb (John 1:29-34) was always associated with sacrificial offerings under the Old Covenant, which connected the Jewish People with God. It was sacrificed as an offering to God, at the Jewish Passover Meal, to make atonement (regrets) for their sins. It was then eaten on the eve of their escape from Egypt, from their oppressor Pharaoh. The Jewish people were asked by God, through Moses, to smear the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their houses, because basically when the Angel of Death (Satan) came upon the earth to claim his own, he *passed over* the houses which had been smeared with the lamb's blood, identifying the household as God's faithful people. All were saved from eternal death. The lamb was a symbol of freedom from the captor (the devil).

### THE DEVIL IS A THIEF

Satan oppresses his captives through the sin of addiction, lies, anger, pride, impurity, adultery, fornication, stealing, laziness, un-charitableness, un-forgiveness, un-lovingness, murder of human life and evil desires. To physically take away the sins of the world, Jesus puts Himself in the place of the old lamb, which was sacrificed for the sins of the people. Hence, He is referred to as the Lamb of God who will make one Sacrifice of Himself. A parent makes sacrifices for the benefit of their children. God Our Father, to save us from eternal death (Hell), made the Ultimate Sacrifice of dying in human form for His Children.

### REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING CONVERTS SOULS

God is Love, and from Himself, He Begot (not made) His Beloved Jesus. He became human to free us (save us) from the grip of the Devil, who is Eternal Death. Out of Love for us, He allowed Himself to be captured, tortured, beaten insufferably and killed by mankind, who were under the influence of the devil. People often say about loved one's who died; *Thank God they didn't suffer*, yet Jesus' Suffering, which He offered up to God, brought redemption (freedom from Satan's power over us), into the world. Our sufferings in life can also be a redemptive suffering. Jesus conquered Death through His Resurrection, making us His own. The Resurrection of Life purchased us from the ownership of the Devil of Eternal Death. The currency was not money, but the currency of Suffering by the shedding of His Precious Blood. The Jewish lamb symbolised freedom and prefigured Jesus, who is Freedom: the New Visible Eternal Covenant (Agreement) between God and us.

### LAMB AT KNOCK

Jesus appeared in Knock reminding us that He is the Sacrificial Lamb. If we are to follow in His footsteps to Heaven, we have to make Sacrifices. The first is to do His Will. He's standing on the Altar beneath an empty white Cross. He is Jesus the New Lamb of God risen from the Dead, who takes away the oppression of Satan (Sin) in this world. After we eat the New Risen Body of Christ, now newly clothed in a Eucharistic Flesh, in Holy Communion, we should be conscious that His Blood invisibly smears the doorpost (our lips) of our house (our bodies) identifying us as God's Children. The Host contains His Blood. In Death, the Angel of Satan sees the mark of the Blood and *passes over* leaving us to enter Eternal Life. This is why the Body and Blood of Christ is True Life. God bless, Fr. Brendan.