



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA
EASTER SUNDAY 2018



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Parish Mass Times	Confessions	Eucharistic Adoration
10am Weekdays & Rosary	After	10.30am—1pm Weekdays
12pm Saturdays & Rosary/ Adoration	Every Mass	12.30pm—1pm Saturday

EASTER MONDAY 2nd April MASS AT 12PM ONLY
[10am will be throughout the week]

9 DAY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

GOOD FRIDAY 30 MARCH - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 8 APRIL — Mass at 3.00pm

NEXT DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, A DAY NOT TO BE MISSED! 8th APRIL 2018

If we are serious about going to Heaven then we have to confess our sins by simply acknowledging our offences to God here on earth before we are Judged. He will heal us and purify our soul which then becomes a fitting place for Jesus to dwell in on earth. We are all temples of God and our addiction to sin defiles this holy place - our bodies. Our bodies are spiritual altars on which Jesus expects us to make sacrifices of self-restraint from sin and like Him, use our body to bring redemption to the world and not allow Satan to take ownership of it through sin.

HEAVEN BEGINS NOW IN LOVING RELATIONSHIP

Heaven is the fullness of communion with God. Pope St John Paul II said; *Heaven is neither an abstraction and is not a physical place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity. It is our meeting with the Father which takes place in the risen Christ through the communion of the Holy Spirit.* When the form of this world has passed away, those who have welcomed God into their lives and have sincerely opened themselves to His love, at least at the moment of death, will enjoy that fullness of communion with God which is the goal of human life. *Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness".*

OUTSTANDING DEBT TO GOD

Jesus told St Faustina of Divine Mercy in the 1930's (Poland), that He knows our weaknesses and His mission is to get us all to Heaven. He explained how all sins that are confessed in confession are forgiven. He explained how every sin we commit has a consequence for our soul particularly in the next life and where our destiny will be: Heaven, Hell or Purgatory. Because of our true and honest lack of remorse for sins, even those confessed, because we do not change our ways that much, a long sentence awaits us all in purgatory where our soul

is spiritually imprisoned to be purified in an uncomfortable spiritual cleansing fire. But there is Good News!

SENTENCE IN PURGATORY WIPED OUT

To enter Divine Life (Heaven) we must be totally purified of all our sins. That makes sense. Purgatory Is a necessary purification process before we enter into full communion with God, every trace of sin within us must be eliminated and every imperfection in our soul must be corrected. because of our human weakness, Jesus has given us ONE DAY IN THE YEAR to come to Him in Confessions and on this day if we confess our sins, venerate His Divine Mercy Image, go to Mass and receive Him in Holy Communion, He will as usual, grant us full mercy, but has an added Promise and that is **to wipe clean the slate of any past and present outstanding debt owed to Him in the next life.** In other words any sentence due to us that awaits us in Purgatory is wiped-out on Divine Mercy Sunday only, which is next Sunday. And then we start anew all over again. St Pope John Paul II described it as a form of a *Second Baptism.*

HARD TO BELIEVE?

People, including Priests and Nuns, find this hard to believe that such a day is available when surely everyday should be like this? Yet, people have no problem believing if the Mega Shopping Stores reserve ONE DAY, such as Black Friday, in the year for an enormous sale to purchase items once out of our reach at amazingly affordable prices. Divine Mercy Sunday, which is next Sunday, is like a Spiritual Sale where Jesus is allowing us to purchase a place in Heaven at an affordable cost by simply doing what He asks that day. He will pay our outstanding debt accumulated by our lack of repentance.

THERE IS A COST TO EVERYTHING

Here is an example of how sin and the cost to God works. If a teenager [us] is playing football in the street near a shop and the shopkeeper [God] asks them to stop playing in case they break his window [commit sin]. He closes shop and goes home [leaves us to our freewill]. They ignore him [God's Word] and continue playing and eventually smash the window with the ball. They run away not owning up. The shopkeeper returns to the shop and employs a company to fix the window at a cost of €1,000. Sometime later, the teenager returns and admits [Confession] they broke the window and asks forgiveness and pardon. The shopkeeper willing accepts their apology as they have apparently shown remorse and forgives. As the teenager is leaving the shop, the shopkeeper asks them what is their intention about the debt of €1,000 that it cost to restore the situation back to its original state? If the person refuses to pay but yet forgiven - there is always that outstanding debt to be paid. Why should the shopkeeper [God] be out money for someone else [my] actions?

NEXT SUNDAY

Why should God be out of debt for our sinful actions? He has already paid the price for our salvation and it is our turn to pay it now. Divine Mercy Sunday, every year, is an opportunity for us to come to Him where He genuinely wipes out any debt owed to Him from our sinful actions. It is a day I would not miss. We also begin a 9 Day Divine Mercy Novena beginning Good Friday to Divine Mercy Sunday bring different souls [ourselves] to Jesus for healing, as He requested us to do. Literature is on the tables at the back of the Church. The Image of Divine Mercy revealing the Blood and Water [Sacraments of the Church] gushing forth from the Sacred Heart of Jesus has an inscription requested by Jesus to be placed beneath His feet and it reads: **Jesus I Trust in You.** I for one trust in Him and His promise for next Sunday. Masses & Confessions begin from 6pm Sat Vigil, Sun. 10.30am, 12pm & 3pm Special Mass as it was 3pm when Jesus died on the Cross. God Bless, Fr Brendan