



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

1ST JULY 2018

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OPENING HYMN

SWEET HEART OF JESUS



Sweet Heart of Jesus! Fount of love and mercy,
Today we come thy blessings to implore;
Oh touch our hearts so cold and so ungrateful,
And make them Lord, thine own for evermore.

*Sweet Heart of Jesus! We implore,
Oh, make us love thee, more and more.*

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

THE BELLS OF THE ANGELUS

The bells of the Angelus
Call - us to pray
With sweet tones announcing
the sacred Ave.

**Chorus: Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

HAIL QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Hail, Queen of heaven, the ocean star,
Guide of the wanderer here below,
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care,
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea
Pray for the wanderer, pray for me.

SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION OF THE SOUL



It is not only the physical death of the body that the Gospel refers to this Sunday, but also the spiritual death of our own inner soul through laziness, carelessness, pride, anger, gossip, impurity of the mind and body, disobedience and refusing to forgive others - which are all sins. So sin brings death to our soul and separates us from God. But all is not lost, because Jesus awaits to be asked (girl's father Jairus asked Jesus) to heal us and bring our souls back to life - in the Sacrament of Confession which is a form of spiritual resurrection of the soul.

SIN IS A SICKNESS

Today's Gospel is a symbol of New Life given to us by Christ through the Sacraments of the Church. In God's Teaching, sin is a spiritual sickness and a disease brought on by the power of Satan. Only Jesus has the power to forgive sin against God. We cannot forgive ourselves for the sins that offend God. Jesus exists and is now visible in Sacramental Form and we encounter Him in this Sacramental Form in Confession. It is like the very sick woman touching the hem of Christ finding herself healed. We will also find our souls healed from the disease of sin by reaching out and touching the hem of His Merciful Heart in Confession.

SIN COMES IN THOUGHTS AS WELL AS ACTIONS

We can sin by thoughts, words, things we have actually physically done and things we have been too lazy to do. We can sin by having bad intentions towards each other. In the Penitential Rite, at the beginning of Mass, we acknowledge all this by saying; *I confess to Almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.* While this admission of our fault, in the Confetior, should be genuine, it does not replace going to Confession. Only after regular Confessions are we truly worthy to eat the Body of Christ. Hence Jesus said to the girl's parents **after** she was healed - *give her something to eat.*

HEAL OUR MISERY

St Augustine tells us the raising of the young girl who died in her father, Jairus' house, represents the sins we commit inside the house of our body, in our thoughts, our heads, and our hearts resulting in the spiritual death of our soul. They are sins that have not yet borne fruit outwardly in action, but still qualify as a sin. Our body is a temple or a house where God our Father lives. The Soul is always in need of healing from sin just as a house needs regular hoovering and cleaning. We should never despair or lose hope that Jesus cannot spiritually raise our souls up from the darkest and dirtiest of sin; because He is Divine Mercy. Jesus is never too troubled or too busy to forgive our sins because that is the main reason He came and remains with us. He is asking us to come and encounter (touch) Him and to have faith that He will spiritually take us by the hand and heal us in our misery, in Confession.

POPE FRANCIS AND WORLD UNIVERSAL FAMILY (CHURCH)

Pope Francis is coming to Dublin and visiting our parish (Croke Park), for the Meeting of World Families. The Icon or Image marking this historical event has the image of today's Gospel painted on it. In it we see Jesus' response to a Family (the Church which is us), with a sick child (our soul which was once full of the innocence of a child), and how He respected that Family's privacy (intimacy in Confession), when it came to the moment of healing (absolution/releasing us from spiritual death that sin brings). Jesus takes the hand of the little girl in the same way He took the hand of Adam and Eve, after His Resurrection, to lift them from the Underworld and restore them to the fullness of Life. Jesus asks the girls parents to give her something to eat, which symbolises the moment our soul is healed from sin in the Confessional, qualifying our bodily house to be a fitting place to receive the True Presence of Almighty God in eating the Living Bread of Holy Communion. God bless, Fr Brendan