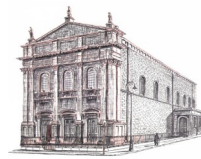




PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

31ST OCT/1ST NOVEMBER 2020



Fr. Brendan Kealy Adm.: 087 9117575 Office:
Tel:018554078, Mr John Kelly: Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council
Jesus I Trust in You E-mail : office@stagathasparish.ie **Website:** www.stagathasparish.ie

POPE SAYS: GO AGAINST THE CURRENT AND CHOOSE MEEKNESS AND MERCY

Pope Francis celebrates the Feast of All Saints reminding Christians of their personal and universal vocation to holiness. He observed the solemn Feast of All Saints inviting the faithful to reflect on the *great hope* that is based on Christ's resurrection. The Pope upheld the Saints and Blesseds as the most authoritative witnesses of Christian hope. He also invited us all to choose purity, meekness and mercy while entrusting ourselves to the Lord and dedicating ourselves to justice and peace. He reflected on two *Beatitudes* – the second and the third – that, he said, Jesus preached and which resound in the Liturgy (see *Mt* 5:1-12a), and described them as the path to holiness.

THE SECOND BEATITUDE

The Pope said the second one is “*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted*”. These words, he explained, seem contradictory because mourning is not a sign of joy and happiness. But Jesus, he continued, proclaims blessed those who mourn because of suffering, sins and the difficulties of everyday life, but “who trust in the Lord despite everything and put themselves under His shadow.” “They are not indifferent, nor do they harden their hearts when they are in pain, but they patiently hope for *God's comfort*. And they experience this comfort even in this life,” he said.

THE THIRD BEATITUDE

In the third Beatitude, Pope Francis said, Jesus states: “*Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth*”. Meekness, he noted, is characteristic of Jesus, who said of Himself: “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart” (*Mt* 11:29). The meek, the Pope continued, are those “who know how to control themselves, who leave space for the other, they listen to the other, respect the other's way of living, his or her needs and requests.” They do not intend to overwhelm or diminish the other, he said, they do not want to dominate or impose their ideas or interests to the detriment of others.

BE MEEK, WORK FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

People like this, he said, may not be appreciated by the world and its mentality, but they are precious in God's eyes: “God gives them the promised land as an inheritance, that is, life eternal. This beatitude also begins here below and is fulfilled in Heaven.” Especially at a time like this, with so much aggressiveness in the world, he continued, meekness is the way to go forward with humility and mercy. Thus the Pope invited the faithful to choose a life of purity, meekness and mercy; to entrust themselves to God in poverty of spirit and in affliction: “This means going against the current in respect to this world's mentality, in respect to the culture of possessing, of meaningless fun, of arrogance against the weakest.”

A PERSONAL AND UNIVERSAL VOCATION TO HOLINESS

Pope Francis concluded saying that this evangelical path was trodden by the Saints and Blesseds and that today's solemnity, that honours All Saints, reminds us of “the personal and universal vocation to holiness, and proposes sure models for this journey that each person walks in a unique and unrepeatable way, according to the “imagination” of the Holy Spirit.” (Vatican News).

NOVEMBER ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD

PRIVATE DAILY MASS IS CELEBRATED, BY FR BRENDAN, FOR THOSE ON THE NOVEMBER LIST OF THE DEAD, RIGHT UP TO CHRISTMAS. ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH TO WRITE THE NAMES OF LOVED ONES WHO WILL BE REMEMBERED. MAY THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

JESUS IS BEATITUDE AND ASKS US TO GROW IN HIS HOLINESS

Today is the Feast of All Saints. The Second Reading today (1 John 3:1-3), informs us that, *everyone who entertains the hope [of entering Heaven] must purify themselves, must try to be as Pure as Christ*. When we look at the Beatitudes in today's Gospel (*Mt* 5:1-12), we see clearly the Qualities and Nature of Jesus in them. He is describing Himself, who is God in the Flesh. He is calling (Vocation) us to grow in His likeness of Holiness, Purity and Blessedness. He is instructing us to become Blessed Saints, in the teaching of the Beatitudes, which are a reliable recipe for sainthood. They reflect the Ten Commandments.

SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE OF DETACHMENT

The word *Beatitude* means *Blessedness or to be blessed with God's Favour*. Jesus' teachings of Blessedness demand a transformation from within – a conversion of heart and mind, which can only come about by allowing the Holy Spirit to sculpture Christ within us. It all hinges on adapting the spiritual attitude of detaching our hearts and minds from sin, because it idolises self. If the heart is rich in the spirit of sin, then it relies on itself and not on God. To be *poor in spirit*, is to depend on Jesus for everything, just like His Mother Mary, who was *blessed among women*.

HUNGER AND THIRST TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The Beatitudes beautifully express God's vision of how we are to behave and live our lives on earth. To honour God with a holy life and develop a hunger and thirst to love and help each other, in a pure and gentle manner. To exercise mercy, humility, respect, compassion, patience, charity and self-control. The Gospel of Truth is like a spiritual mirror reflecting the image of our spiritual nature. It reveals if our souls are in a state of cleanliness or dirty from the life of sin. Today, Jesus is asking us to trust in the divine Spirit of God, and not the human spirit of self.

WE ARE TO MIRROR JESUS' HUMAN NATURE

Jesus is *POOR IN SPIRIT*, in that, He acknowledged His complete dependence on God His Father, placing His whole Trust in Him. Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God alone. He is the greatest treasure on earth and full of humility. The Beatitudes challenge us to ask: am I *GENTLE* like Jesus, who is Meek and Humble. Am I patient and calm when dealing with other people? Do I practice love, patience and respect? Do I use bad language? Do I gossip about people behind their back?

HUNGER FOR HOLINESS

Do I *HUNGER AND THIRST* to be a saint? Do I desire to know and love Jesus better? Jesus expects us to *MOURN* in the Martyrdom of Silence – to speak to Him alone. This is a big sacrifice to make, but Jesus did it, when carrying His Cross. His mourning was silent and without the sin of self-pity or vanity. Do I practice *MERCY* and forgiveness to those who annoy me? Is my *HEART PURE*, or have I allowed corruption or lustful impurity to take it over? Are my emails and phone texts pleasing to God?

FIRES OF HELL VS FIRE OF PEACE

The fire of anger is always fanned by the Devil. Am I a *PEACEMAKER* or peace-breaker? In difficult situations, do I make compromises, to be humble, and silent, in order to bring Peace in my family? Am I afraid to be *PERSECUTED* by others, for the sake of my Faith? The *ABUSE* in the Gospel, refers to Catholics being attacked by unbelievers, such as media and governments, because of our belief in Him. Jesus is asking us to practice the virtue of Courage and not be afraid to enter on the road of Sainthood now.

GOD SETS THE EXAM NOT MANKIND

Jesus wants to form and prepare us in the spirit of penance and prayer. He is in Heaven preparing a place for us, but in the meantime, while waiting to join Him, we must prepare ourselves, in the Way He shows us. He promises that the Eternal Joys and Happiness of Heaven, will more than compensate, for the spiritual hard Exam He sets before us on earth. Our existence in the world is as a pilgrim people, where our loyalty and love for God is forever on trial. Redemptive suffering is a remedy to achieve eternal healing from sin, but only with the existence of Grace. Otherwise, suffering becomes more of a burden than a blessing. These are God's Rules. Redemptive means an act done to save us from Evil. If we have no Cross or no Redemptive Suffering, then we have no gain in achieving a likeness in Christ. He purchased Eternal Life for us through His Redemptive Suffering, we have to follow. God bless, Fr. Brendan.