

It will be necessary to BOOK/RESERVE seats for 11.30am Christmas Day Mass. Please ring Maureen on 018554078 or Mobile phone 0892718659 or Fr. Brendan 087 9117575. Not necessary to book other Masses

**Christmas Eve
Thurs 24th Dec**

**11.00am Daily Mass
5.30pm Vigil Christmas Mass
8.00pm Vigil Christmas Mass**

**Christmas Day
Fri 25th Dec**

**9.00am Christmas Day Mass
10.00am Christmas Day Mass
Adoration and Rosary
11.30am Christmas Day Mass**

Saturday 26th Dec. St. Stephen Day:	11.00am
Saturday 26th Dec. Vigil Mass	5.30pm
Sunday 27th Dec. St. John Evangelist:	11.30am
Monday 28th Dec. Holy Innocents:	11.00am
Tuesday 29th Dec.& Wednesday 30th	11.00am

**News Years Eve
Thurs 31st Dec**

**11.00am Daily Mass
11.00pm –12.00am Eucharistic Adoration
12.00am Midnight New Year's Mass**

**News Years Day
Fri 1st Jan**

**11.00am Mass, Feast of Mary the Holy
Mother of God & World Day of Peace**

CONFESSION TIMES IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

The Sacrament of Confession will be available before and after all Masses during the Christmas Season. Jesus awaits for us to go to Him (not the Priest), in the Confessional, simply to hear us say; "I'm Sorry" - with a contrite and humble heart & a promise to change, so we are ready for Heaven someday.

WHY THE STABLE?

In creating an immaculate Virgin, full of grace and holiness, without any stain of sin, Mary was the perfect *handmaid of the Lord* (Lk 1:26-38), to be the Mother of God. *When the Holy Spirit came upon her and the power of the Most High covered her with its shadow*, she miraculously conceived, giving birth to God in the Flesh, without losing the glory of her virginity. Hence, she is the Blessed Ever Virgin. A supernatural conception and birth is acknowledged. God now needed to create an immaculate location that never entertained sin. The Inn was never going to be found a worthy or pure place, because it was full of sinful mankind. The Innkeeper rejected the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, who represent the Church. The Inn and its Keeper represent all of humanity, who selfishly live in sin, rejecting the Church today. They have *no room* for Jesus in their closed hearts. In mankind's pride, God is sent-away, leaving Him with no other choice, but to turn to the humble animal, to provide Him with a sinless location, steeped in the Spirit of poverty.

CHRISTMAS CRIB IS A NEW EDEN

Animals are obedient subjects to their Creator, as a dog is to its master. Not only did the animals in Bethlehem welcome Jesus, but they gathered around Him, providing central heating with their breath! The whole Christmas Crib, began in the virginal womb of Mary, who is to become the New Mother of the Living. In the Garden of Eden, Eve was given the opportunity to be the Mother of the Living, but she rejected this vocation by disobeying God. Adam followed the same sinful path and lost the Gift of Eternal Life. The New Eve is now the obedient Mary, and Jesus becomes the New Adam to bring back Eternal Life. The Virginal womb of Mary became the New Garden of Eden. Unlike Eden, there was no Serpent present, because the Devil was not made aware of this location.

SATAN IS LEFT IN THE DARK

We know that Satan was unaware of the Stable's location, because king Herod, who the devil had possessed, tried and find out where the location was? When Herod spoke to the Wise men, he tried to get them to return to him, and reveal where Jesus was born. Satan, through king Herod, pretended (lied), he would go and pay his respect, but his intentions was to murder Jesus and deprive the world of Eternal Life. The Stable was located on holy consecrated ground, replaced with the Church today. However, there is always a darkness and stench in a stable, reminding us that the Prince of Darkness lives in the world. Jesus is the Light, the illuminated Word coming into the world of darkness, as a Lamp for our footsteps (Psalm 119) to Heaven.

FROM THE MANGER TO THE ALTAR

The feeding Manger, is replaced today, with the Altar, where Jesus, in His Divine Nature, feeds Christians of Himself. In Mass, *our daily bread*, is transfigured into the Real Presence of the Risen Body of Jesus, clothed in Eucharistic Flesh, as our Spiritual Food to eat. Jesus is the Living Bread (John 6:51), come down from Heaven. Sadly, many will starve themselves of this Bread of Eternal Life. Let us continue to pray for each other to increase our faith. Have a Happy and Holy Christmas from the team at St. Agatha's. God bless, Fr. Brendan.