



## PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

### JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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#### **Parish Mass Times**

10am Weekdays & Rosary  
12pm Saturdays & Rosary/ Adoration  
6pm Vigil, 10.30am & 12pm Sundays

#### **Confessions**

after Every Mass

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

10.30am—1pm Weekdays  
12.30pm—1pm Saturday

### **Church will now remain open until**

4pm Monday to Friday  
Saturday 11.30am to 7.00pm  
Sunday 10.00am to 1.00pm

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Baby Rue will be baptised this Sunday 21st January 2018 and we are delighted to welcome her into the Christian Family of God, Our Father and to our Community. Congratulations

### **We pray for the Repose of the Souls of**

**Judith Cullen**, late of St. Brigid's Avenue whose Requiem Funeral Mass we celebrated for the repose of her soul last Thursday.

**Edward Foy**, late of Clonliffe Avenue, whose Requiem Funeral Mass we celebrated for the repose of his soul last Friday.

**Sheila Curry**, Late of St. Monica's, whose Requiem Funeral Mass we celebrated for the repose of her soul yesterday.

**Patrick Mooney**, late of Tolka Road, **Monsignor Richard Sherry**, former P.P. Donnybrook, **Dolores O'Riordan**, the Musician & Ned Hickey

We offer our sympathy to their families and friends.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.

## THE CHALLENGE OF GOD CALLING EACH OF US TODAY

The setting of today's Gospel is immediately after Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan, when He received the favourable endorsement and acknowledgement of His Father and was filled with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist has been recently arrested, literally "given-up". As Jesus Himself will be and His followers after Him. We are reminded of this in the consecration of every Mass: "This is my Body which will be "given-up" for you." Are we prepared to "give-up" our body and soul for Him?

### ***The Kingdom is near***

In Galilee, Jesus begins his public life and mission. He brings us the Gift of Faith by beginning to Proclaim the Good News, in the Gospel. Jesus is proclaiming that the Messiah, the Saviour King, has come to the People of the World, who have been waiting for Him. And so the Kingdom of God is close at hand, the Kingship, the Reign of God comes through the Holy Spirit to enter and rule our souls. This 'Kingdom' has no borders or boundaries like a geographical country, but comes in the form of a Loving Presence (Kingdom of Love as God is Love), where we enter into a Relationship or an Eternal Covenant (or Eternal Marriage), with God through Jesus. We are reminded of this in every Mass; "This is the Chalice of My Blood (Life), the New and Everlasting Covenant (Marriage)."

### ***The key to the Kingdom***

How are we to enter that Kingdom? "Repent and believe in the Good News." In the First Reading we see Jonah, the reluctant prophet, preaching repentance to the great city of Niniveh. Contrary to his expectations, the pagan peoples of the city "believed in God" and "renounced their evil behaviour". This is an example to us. 'Repent' here is more than just being sorry for the past; it involves a radical conversion and a call to change our direction and priorities in our lives, if we are not living according to God's Will.

### ***Responding to the call***

In answering Jesus' call, the Disciples display a complete act of trust ("Jesus I Trust in You"), and a total surrender of themselves. They would become fishers of humankind. St. Paul reminds us that nothing lasts except the Promise of Eternal Life. Are we prepared to follow the call and to be ready to go wherever Jesus is asking us to go?