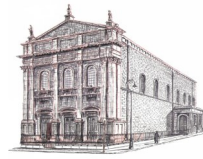




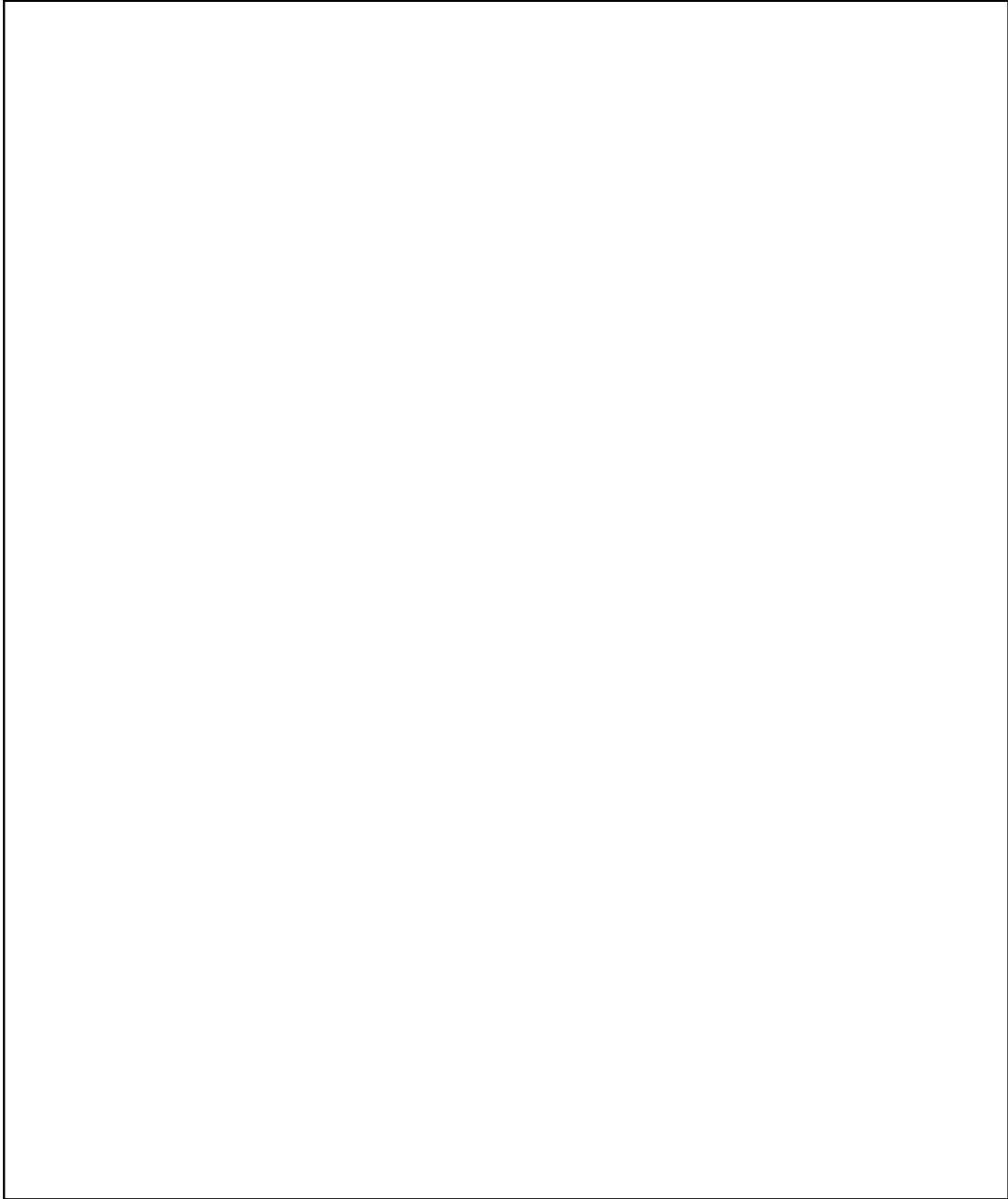
PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

20TH/21ST JUNE 2020



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Jesus I Trust in You



DO NOT BE AFRAID, TRUST IN JESUS

In today's Gospel (Mt 10:26-33), Jesus tells us not to be afraid. When we live in an unhealthy spirit of fear, we see ourselves as a centre of a hostile alien threat. Fear is a poison that the devil plants in our minds and hearts because it is a direct challenge to Jesus' teaching not to be anxious, distressed or afraid, but Trust in God.

TIE THE KNOT OF LOVE

When St. Peter denied Christ three times on the night he betrayed Him, it was because he was tied up in total fear of losing his life. The reason the Risen Jesus asked Peter three times (Jn 21:17), on the shore of the lake; **Do you love Me?** Was because He was untying the knots of fear in Peter's heart and mind with the Knots of Love. Jesus is Love and if we truly believe and love Him, then we should not become paralysed by fear but place our love and trust in Jesus.

LOVE CONQUERS FEAR

Fear is a result of forgetting our deepest identity as Children of God who asks us to put aside our own will in placement of His Divine Will. As children, while adhering to a responsible way of living, we must never lose sight that God is walking with us all the time. He knows the secrets of our hearts because nothing is hidden from Him. In today's Gospel, He informs us that He knows when a sparrow falls from the sky and every hair on our head. We must believe God is in control even if everything around us is in chaos. If we forget this then we begin to live for ourselves and not Him.

DECLARE OURSELVES FOR LOVE AND NOT FEAR

Jesus knows to place our trust in Him is not easy for us to do because the sin of ego, pride and vanity are obstacles to follow Him as a true disciple. Discipleship is costly because it requires humility and sacrifice by spending of ourselves for Him and others and not be afraid. Jesus encourages us to be confident that God is with us in every situation. He assures us when He said: ***If anyone declares himself for Me in the presence of humanity, I will declare Myself for them in the presence of My Father in Heaven*** (Mt 10:32).

JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

To be crippled with fear and afraid to enter the House of God, which are being prepared as very safe environments and believing that Jesus will look after us, is to publicly and privately declare our trust in Him. Before we ever entered our mother's womb, God knew us and formed us in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5). He knew the day we would enter this world and He knows the day we will depart it and it may have nothing to do with Covid 19. Believe this and return our trust and lives back to Him.

FAITH DISPELS FEAR

As committed disciples, we are duty bound to proclaim and live by the Gospel of Truth and Love fearlessly and confidently. When the Government restrictions are lifted, do not be afraid to come out and publicly bear witness to Christ, subject to the Church building being a safe space to come and worship. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is ensuring that every Church building will be meticulously adherent to all HSE guidelines and even beyond, when opened. He is leading a fearless challenge to the Government, requesting the opening of the Houses of God for His People. We are required to fearlessly speak and live the Truth at all times. We may be tempted to abandon our commitment, but that decision will not equate with good standing in the next Life. ***Be not Afraid, trust in Me and My Plan of Salvation for you,*** says the Lord. God bless, Fr. Brendan.