

Parish of St. Agatha Christmas Masses
Wishing you a Happy & Peaceful Christmas

Christmas Eve
Tues 24th Dec

10.00am Daily Mass
5.30pm Family Vigil Christmas Mass
8.00pm Vigil Christmas Mass

Christmas Day
Wed 25th Dec

9.00am Dawn Mass
10.15 - 11.15am Adoration : Holy Hour
11.30am Christmas Day Mass



Thurs.	26th Dec, St. Stephen Day:	11.00am
Friday	27th Dec, St. John Evangelist:	11.00am
Saturday	28th Dec, Holy Innocents:	11.00am
Vigil		5.30pm
Sunday	29th Dec, The Holy Family of Jesus:	11.30am

News Years Eve
Tues 31st Dec

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

News Years Day
Wed 1st Jan

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

Thurs 2nd Jan
Fri 3rd Jan

11.00am Mass
11.00am Mass



A Very Happy & Peaceful New Year

THE PROTECTED VIRGINITY OF MARY IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND

Mary, the Mother of God, was visibly pregnant when she appeared in 1531, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Mexico and announced herself as the, *Ever Blessed Virgin*. When she again appeared as Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, she sadly acknowledged how *outrages* and blasphemous it was when people refuse to believe that she conceived Jesus in her womb, *by the overshadowing power of the Holy Spirit* and still remained a Virgin. This was performed by an act of God, not an act of man. She gave birth to Jesus without losing the integrity of her Virginity. Her title today is still, *Blessed Ever Virgin*. We celebrate this supernatural and virginal birth of Jesus at Christmas. Mary never had children again. When the Bible refers to people as brothers and sisters of Jesus, it is referring to the spiritual relationship with Jesus as a spiritual Brother.

THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE

In today's Gospel (Matt 1:18-24), it is explained how the Heavenly Divine Nature of God was born and became visible, in the Earthly Human Nature of Jesus The prophet Isaiah prophesied it 800 years before it happened when he announced: *The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son and they will call Him Emmanuel, a Name which means 'God-is-with-us.'* He comes to *save us* from our sins. God takes to Himself all that is Human, except for sin. The Blessed Ever Virgin Mary had been prepared in soul and body by the Holy Spirit, when she herself was conceived in the womb of her own mother, St. Anne (we call that moment the Immaculate Conception). God's coming to birth had to be treated with Honour. Virginity had to receive new Honour. The body of Mary was immaculate (sinless) because she had to be the purest Vessel for the Word to become Flesh : untouched by human hands.. Nothing is impossible to God.

THE GIFT OF LOVE

God who is all rich, is made all poor. This is the Greatest Exchange or Gift, we receive at Christmas. He who is Love. This is the origin of the Christmas Gift, God giving of Himself to us, in the visible guise of Jesus, in Human Flesh Then *in all His power through the resurrection from the dead*, returns to us in the guise of Eucharistic Flesh, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. He is a Self-giving God, taking on the poverty of our flesh, that we may gain the riches of His Divinity. He who is full, is made empty. He is emptied for a brief space of His Glory, that we may share in His Fullness, after *we received Grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith* , as informed by St. Paul in the second reading today (Rom1:1-7).

RETURN HIS LOVE WITH OUR LOVE

When we receive a gift, it is proper to reciprocate, which means to give-back in kindness, in another mutual exchange which acknowledges the other person's hospitality. In this case, the other Person is the Three Persons of the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Gift God expects from us is to exchange our freewill with His divine Will. A giving of ourselves to Him. On behalf of the parish team, thank you for being a beautiful and faithful Congregation & for your generosity & financial support for the Parish. Wishing you all and your Families a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. God bless. Fr. Brendan