



# PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

## 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2018

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### OPENING HYMN

### SWEET HEART OF JESUS

Sweet Heart of Jesus! Fount of love and mercy,  
Today we come thy blessings to implore;  
Oh touch our hearts so cold and so ungrateful,  
And make them Lord, thine own for evermore.

*Sweet Heart of Jesus! We implore,  
Oh, make us love thee, more and more.*

### OFFERTORY PROCESSION

### THE BELLS OF THE ANGELUS

The bells of the Angelus  
Call - us to pray  
With sweet tones announcing  
the sacred Ave.

**Chorus: Ave, Ave, Ave Maria  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria**

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

### HAIL QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Hail, Queen of heaven, the ocean star,  
Guide of the wanderer here below,  
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care,  
Save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea  
Pray for the wanderer, pray for me.

### Mass Card Intentions

All Mass Cards for Deceased Souls, and Living Souls received from Mae and Rita, in the Parish Shop are Masses celebrated every Friday of every week, in St. Agatha's Church at 10 am Mass. The names on these Lists of the Living and the Dead will be called-out every Friday morning. That is 4 Masses shared every month for those on the Lists from the Parish Shop. May the deceased souls rest in Peace (in Christ) and may the Living souls increase in their Trust in God and Love of Neighbour..

### IN A LONELY PLACE: THERE YOU WILL FIND GOD

Jesus had sent the Twelve Disciples out to preach and teach. Jesus entrusts this same task to us today, not just for Priests or Religious Sisters and Brothers, but for everybody, to spread the Good News of Eternal Life - whether it is in a public place, in the confines of our home or in the ballot box. We are all called to bear spiritual fruit in this life.

### SPIRITUAL HUNGER

The Disciples returned from their mission full of excitement at all they had done and taught. Jesus told them to withdraw for a while for reflection and rest. Jesus brought His Disciples *to a lonely place* so they could rest but the people, who were 5,000 in numbers, guessed their destination and arrived at this place first. This gathering of the 5,000 will be next Sunday's Gospel revealing the miraculous feeding from the five loaves and two fishes. But first, Jesus recognises their spiritual hunger and begins to *teach them at length*, feeding them with His Words, as He does in every Mass, through the Gospels. There should be a spiritual hunger in all of us as our main bodily nature is spiritual.

### SPIRITUAL NATURE

The garment of flesh we wear in this world will not remain with us in the next life. What departs the human body is our soul - our spiritual nature - and our first priority is to tend to it NOW! This is what Jesus taught the crowds and continues to teach us through the Gospels. The Eucharistic Flesh, which contains the Eucharistic Blood of Christ, in every Holy Communion received in Mass, feeds our souls, and not our stomachs. It is Spiritual Food and Spiritual Drink, and is the Physical Presence of the Risen Jesus in this world today. Jesus comes to us in an edible new Sacramental Form. He gives of Himself as Living Bread from Heaven, to strengthen our spiritual bodies. Just as a baby is fed by its mother's milk when she also gives of herself. **Truly believe** Jesus is Alive in the Holy Bread and Heaven is guaranteed. Those who believe will have eternal Life (Jn 6:47).

### EAT MY BODY - THE NEW EUCHARISTIC FLESH

We should be aware of not **what** we eat at Mass, but **WHO** we are eating and receiving in every Mass and why is it necessary? Eating meat, fish and vegetables nourish and strengthen the body of flesh, so it is necessary to have Spiritual Food to feed and nourish our spiritual nature—the spiritual invisible flesh of our soul - it makes sense. The Priest in every Mass says on behalf of the people before he receives Jesus, in Eucharistic form; *May the Body of Christ keep me safe for Eternal Life.* But we must Believe.

### GOD IS EVERYWHERE

God comes and is present to us in many forms. He is present in Spiritual form, in the form of the Word, in the form of Jesus, in the form of Holy and Sacred Bread (Eucharist) and in the form of Holy Communion of People. St Paul tells us today that Jesus comes in the form of Peace. That is why we say; *May they rest in Christ or in Peace and Peace (Christ) be with you.* In today's Gospel, Jesus is telling us He is present in lonely places which refers to our hearts. To be lonely is not to understand Jesus in our presence. If we know He resides there, then go and encounter Him the next time you are feeling lonely and acknowledge His Presence. Never feel lonely again knowing Jesus is always with you. The people arrived first because they knew that lonely place well. Fr Brendan.