



## PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

21ST/22ND MARCH 2020

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### Parish Mass Times

10am Mass & Rosary  
11am Sat. Mass & Rosary/Adoration  
5.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass  
11.30am Sunday Mass

### Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays  
11.00am—12.00pm Saturdays

**Confessions** After Every Mass

### SUNDAY COLLECTIONS BUCKETS !

**Thank you for placing financial support to the Parish & Archdiocese in the buckets!**

### HOLY CHRISM OIL

The Holy Chrism Oil is used in Baptisms, Confirmations, Ordinations and is sourced from pure olive oil. It is mixed with the fragrant Balsam which represents the Holy Spirit of God. And the *aroma of Christ* (2 Cor 2:15). Anointing with Chrism Oil signifies the Gift of the Holy Spirit. It is used to consecrate someone to God's service.

### PASTORAL ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING CORONAVIRUS

Pope Francis has asked the entire World to offer up to God Prayer/Rosary for Protection and Peace among the flock, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. He is praying

**"We seek Refuge under your Protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions, we who are put to the test and deliver us from every danger, O Glorious Blessed Mary.**

**The Archdiocese, in keeping with Health Authorities, implement vital measures to limit virus.**

\*Mass with less than 100 people present may be celebrated including Funerals.

\*Churches should be open for a reasonable time each day for people to pray.

\*In this emergency only, all parishioners are dispensed from the Obligation of physical presence at Sunday Masses, especially vulnerable & elderly people

\* Pro-Cathedral Live Web Camera Mass Broadcast on: [procathedral.ie](http://procathedral.ie) or [mcnmedia.tv](http://mcnmedia.tv) . Check their site for Live camera Mass Times. Radio Maria Ireland can be downloaded for their 10am Mass 7 days a week.

### THE EYES OF THE SOUL OPENED IN BAPTISM

The man born *blind from birth* in the Gospel today (Jn 9:1-40), represents all Christians born spiritually blind from our mother's womb, before encountering the Light of Jesus in Baptism. The *spittle* from Jesus' tongue, mixed with the dust of the earth to make a *paste*, was placed *over the eyes of the blind man*, who then washed in the Pool, which symbolises the Ocean of God's Mercy that removes our sin restoring our spiritual eye-sight. Faith enabled the blind man to see Jesus and renounce sin which keeps us all in the dark. The healing was not effected until the man obeyed Jesus' command to; *Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam*. Obedience to the Word of God is how we practice Faith.

### CALLED TO GOD'S SERVICE

In baptism, as Jesus did with the blind man, He consecrates us to God's service to worship and obey the Word, by revealing He is the Son of Man. The divine *spittle and paste*, is a form of Anointing. In baptism, through the anointing of Holy Oils and Water, which contain the Spirit of God, Jesus opens our blindness, giving us spiritual sight to see and hear the Word of God, which literally comes from the **mouth of Jesus**. In baptism, our whole body, including ears and lips are blessed with the Aramaic word; *Ephphatha*, meaning to *Open*. Saliva is a form of water and coming from the Person of Jesus washes away our blindness to walk the path of *goodness and right living and truth* (Eph 5:8-14)

### A SINFUL INHERITENCE

Before baptism, we unknown to ourselves inherited the sinful *DNA* of our first parents: Adam and Eve. This inheritance of their DNA born us into slavery of Sin, because they surrendered to the Devil's Will in the Garden of Eden. Adam was formed from the dust on the ground and only came to life after the breath of God entered his soul. Today, Jesus directs our attention to the origin of our beginnings, when He first *spat on the ground and made a paste with the spittle*. Jesus is reminding us all that Adam, the first human, was made from the earth, as we are. God is like the Potter who makes human beings from clay (Job 10:9), creating mankind from the ground (Gen 2:7). He is in full control of the Universe and not mankind who think they can control the earth's climate

### JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Jesus came into the world to lead the human race, who walk in darkness, into the radiance of the Faith. The Pharisees rejected this Light even going out of their way to extinguish it by trying to get the blind man's parents to lie about the Truth. Jesus opened the eyes of the blind to reveal Him as the Son of Man and to enable us to see through the eyes of our faith, that a Kingdom awaits all who Believe in God. Amen. Fr. Brendan