



**PARISH OF ST. AGATHA**  
**21ST/22ND NOVEMBER 2020**



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**POPE FRANCIS SAYS: WORKS OF MERCY MAKE OUR LIFE ETERNAL**

Before pouring out his love for us on the Cross, Jesus shares His final wishes. He tells us that the good we do to one of our least brothers and sisters – whether hungry or thirsty, a stranger, in need, sick or in prison – we do to Him (Mt 25:37-40). In this way, the Lord gives us His “gift list” for the eternal wedding feast He will share with us in Heaven. Those gifts are the works of mercy that make our life eternal. Each of us can ask: Do I put these works into practice? Do I do anything for someone in need? Or do I do good only for my loved ones and my friends? Do I help someone who cannot give anything back to me? Am I the friend of a poor person? Because, “There I am”, Jesus says to you, “I am waiting for you there, where you least think and perhaps may not even want to look: there, I am - in the poor”.

**WORKS OF MERCY ARE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WORKS IN LIFE**

Pope Francis said, “let us not give up on great dreams. Let us not settle only for what is necessary. The Lord does not want us to narrow our horizons or to remain parked on the roadside of life. He wants us to race boldly and joyfully towards lofty goals. We were not created to dream about vacations or the weekend, but to make God’s dreams come true in this world. God made us capable of dreaming, so that we could embrace the beauty of life. The works of mercy are the most beautiful works in life. They go right to the heart of our great dreams. If you are dreaming about real Glory, not the glory of this passing world but the Glory of God, this is the path to follow. Read today’s Gospel passage again and reflect on it. For the works of mercy give Glory to God more than anything else. Listen carefully: the works of mercy give Glory to God more than anything else. **In the end we will be judged on the works of mercy.**

**WE BECOME WHAT WE CHOOSE FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE**

Indeed, at the last Judgement, the Lord will judge us on the choices we have made. He will separate the sheep from the goats, whereas being good or evil depends on us. He draws out the consequences of our choices, bringing them to light. Life, we come to see, is a time for making robust, decisive, **eternal choices**. Trivial choices lead to a trivial life; great choices to a life of greatness. Indeed, we become what we choose, for better or for worse. If we choose to steal, we become thieves. If we choose to think of ourselves, we become self-centred. If we choose to hate, we become angry. If we choose to spend hours on a cell phone, we become addicted. Yet if we choose God, daily we grow in His love, and if we choose to love others, we find true happiness. Because **the beauty of our choices depends on love**. Jesus knows that if we are self-absorbed and indifferent, we remain paralysed, but if we give ourselves to others, we become free. The Lord of life wants us to be full of life, and He tells us the **secret of life: we come to possess it only by giving it away. This is a rule of life: we come to possess life, now and in eternity, only by giving it away.**

**TO CHOOSE LIFE IS TO LIVE, NOT JUST GET BY**

An obsession with pleasure may seem the only way to escape problems, yet it simply postpones them. A fixation with our rights can lead us to neglect our responsibilities to others. Then, there is the great misunderstanding about love, which is more than powerful emotions, but primarily a gift, a choice and a sacrifice. The art of choosing well, especially today, means not seeking approval, not plunging into a consumerist mentality that discourages originality, and not giving into the cult of appearances. Choosing life means resisting the “throwaway culture” and the desire to have “everything now”, in order to direct our lives towards the goal of heaven, towards God’s dreams. To choose life is to live, and we were born to live, not just get by. Let us look to Jesus and ask Him for the courage to choose what is best for us, to enable us to follow Him in the way of Love. And in this way to discover joy. To live, and not just get by. ( Libreria Editrice Vaticana)

**ANNUAL NOVEMBER MASS FOR THE DEAD**

Because of Level 5 Lockdown, it was not possible to celebrate a Public November Annual Mass for our Dead, this year. We will choose a date in December, provided Lockdown allows public Masses to resume. Due Notice will be given to Families. In the meantime, all deceased parishioners over the past year and beyond, and those on the Altar List of the Dead, are remembered in Fr. Brendan’s Daily Private Masses during Lockdown. May they all rest in Peace.

**CHRIST THE KING —WHO IS LORD AND MASTER**

Today, marks the end of the Church calendar year, as we celebrate the Solemnity or Feast of Christ the King. In today’s Gospel (Matt 25:31-46), Jesus takes this opportunity to remind us that our time on earth is limited and will also come to an end. Next Sunday we begin the New Church year with Advent, which is a sacred time period given, to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Last Sunday, Jesus reminded us that our greatest Talent was the Giving, of ourselves to others, which includes, For-Giving. He constantly reminds us to be always prepared for our death. The concept of King and Kingdom is at the very heart of Jesus’ Message. He came from His Kingdom of Heaven, with the sole purpose, to establish the same Heavenly Kingdom of Love, in our human hearts, and adopting us to be His obedient Children. Today, Christ presents Himself as a Judge, warning us to prepare for a Day of Judgement. On that Day, the unjust, the unmerciful, the unkind, the uncharitable, the unloving and the unmerciful **will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life**. Virtuous depicts somebody who lives by the high moral Catholic Church teachings.

**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED ME?**

Jesus warns us today, that we will be separated from Him, if we fail to meet the serious needs of the poor, who reflect His Human nature. Sin separates us from God, and that is why Jesus, who took on all the sins of the world, cried out from the Cross, **My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?** He was teaching us from the Cross, not to sin, because it only creates a separation and abandonment from God. If we continue to live in sin, then we will mark ourselves out for continual separation from God in the next life. It is our choice, not God’s. Jesus emphasises that Hell exists and that on the Day of Judgement, uncharitable and disobedient children of God will find themselves put aside and isolated in their worthless ego. Jesus says: **Next He will say to those on His left hand, “Go away from Me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels”**. St. Paul tells us today, that Christ, **must be King until He has put all His enemies under His feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is Death** (1 Cor 15:20-26,28). Jesus told St. Faustina of Divine Mercy that, **if the soul, in its last moment on earth, is willing, it has the possibility of returning to God. But sometimes, the stubbornness in souls is so great that consciously they choose Hell (Diary 1698).**

**MY FAULT, MY FAULT, MY MOST GRIEVOUS FAULT**

No enemy of Christ gets into Heaven. Satan spreads the lie that the dark kingdom of Hell is completely empty and that we do not have to prepare for our death, because we have nothing to fear. The deceitful Devil infiltrates the mind and convinces the sinner that there is no consequence of suffering for sins in the next life. That is an outright lie. We should fear God, as it is the first fruit of Divine Wisdom. The fear of God means, to ask for mercy now after we sin and to show mercy to others. Jesus will grant us Mercy in the Sacrament of Confession. Divine Wisdom informs us that we must assume - with responsibility and sincerity - the consequences of our own actions, **without blaming God for them**. In the Confiteor prayer, we acknowledge three times, that my sin, is **my fault, my fault, my most previous fault**. We must not deceive ourselves, but come to the stark realisation that Divine Justice will be demanded and served, on the Day of Judgement. This entails receiving the due reward or punishment of our deeds. The Fear of God, here on earth, moves us to acknowledge and confess our guilt (sin). **This means, we advance through Contrition of Heart, from Fear to Love, and arriving at the point of respect for Christ Our King**. In the end, we will be judged on our deeds of mercy and love towards each other.

**THY COME AND THY REIGN MY HEART**

If you do not believe in a Day of Judgement, then listen carefully to yourself, praying the Creed, when next professing your faith. We all profess (declare) that Christ, **ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to Judge the Living and the Dead**. The Good News is that Heavenly Glorification awaits those who have believed in Him and remained faithful to His Divine Teachings, while living on earth. The word **King-dom**, has two meanings. First, the word **King**, refers to **Christ**. The second part of the word, is the Latin **dom**, which means **Lord or Master**, in english. So, in the Our Father, *Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done*, means, to invite, *Thy (Our), Christ the King, Lord and Master to come* and Reign in our hearts and in our minds. Christ the King of Love and Charity, will judge our conduct towards the poor and hungry, as if it had been done to Himself. Jesus died impoverished and hung naked on a Cross. The Kingdom of God cannot co-exist with the kingdom of sin, just as light has nothing in common with darkness. Let us be prepared for that Day. God bless, Fr. Brendan.