



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

23RD SEPTEMBER 2018

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Parish Mass Times

10am Weekdays & Rosary

12pm Saturdays & Rosary/Adoration

Confessions

After

Every Mass

5.30pm Vigil, 11.30am Sundays

Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays

12.30pm—1pm Saturday

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL , Priest - Thursday 27th September

We take this opportunity to wish the Daughters of Charity and all the Vincentian family a very happy feast day.

Ireland's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of St Francis Hospice

On behalf of St. Francis Hospice please accept our thanks to all who joined us last Thursday morning. We had fun, laughter and a cuppa, and some went home with raffle prizes. To date the donations amounted to **€402**



Annual Crosscare Collection

(Community & Homeless Services)

On behalf of Crosscare we would like to thank you for your generosity to the Annual collection last weekend which amounted to **€181**.



Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund

We would like to thank all those who contributed to this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund. **€1245** was the amount collected. The intentions of all contributors have been prayed for during the Pilgrimage Masses and placed at the Grotto.

FUND RAISING FOR SIDE CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OUR DEAD

From next Winter, as a cost cutting exercise on electricity bills, we will use the side Chapel of St Agatha's for future **10am Weekly Daily Masses**. Funerals will be held in the main Church as will weekend Masses. The proposal is to professionally fit an adjustable Partition & Door, in the Archway & to carpet & paint area. Access will still be from the main Church. To finance this transformation, everybody is invited to make a donation & in return, the Names of your Loved ones will be placed on the walls of this Remembrance Memorial Chapel which already has the names of deceased past parishioners on the walls. Your support on this will be gratefully appreciated & pleasing to God. Thank you.

CHILDREN SYMBOLISE THE VULNERABLE

After Jesus teaches the Disciples about God's Plan of Salvation to deliver humanity from evil (Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen), through His Suffering, Death and Resurrection, they arrive in the *house*. The reference to the *house* has theological overtones of meaning the Church, the place where we gather as His People, to listen to Him talk to us in the Mass Readings. Jesus asks; *What were you arguing about on the road?* Again, the mentioning of the *road* refers to Jesus Himself - as He is the Way or the *Road* to Eternal Life. We Christians are those who walk on the *Road* in this earthly life. The Disciples arguing among themselves replicate us arguing among ourselves as we follow Christ - *on the road* - to Salvation. He condemns this practice of disharmony.

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

Jesus' question is met with an embarrassed silence because they had been arguing among themselves which of them was the greatest between each other. The minute the question was asked they knew they were in the wrong. Jesus knew exactly what was going on in their minds so He gave them, and for us today, some guidelines if they wanted to be truly His followers. *If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.* This teaching is totally in opposition to what goes on in today's world, where success means being the greatest in society, being in charge, being in control, calling the shots. It is important to note that leadership in the Church is done for the genuine service and interest of the whole community and not just a few. Pride must not take control.

VULNERABLE AND THE WEAK PROTECTED

To serve is not to be submissive or weak. It is not putting oneself on a lower level than those being served. It is being committed to the good of others and to find one's own spiritual well-being. Jesus then takes a little child, as a symbol of all those who are vulnerable, weak and exploitable. Children are symbols of the lowly and weak in our society. One is recognising the presence of Jesus and the presence of God in them. They are the ones who are most of all to be served and protected and nurtured. This is why all members serving the Church, in a ministry role, are obliged by law and by Universal Church policy, to enter the process of Garda Vetting, as it is the community's responsibility and duty to ensure that the vulnerable and weak are protected from predators, with a possible past? To reject this vetting process would be to place oneself greater than others and above the law. This is the Gospel Message today.

BEAR FRUITS IN HOLINESS AND PEACE

The Book of Wisdom today, warns us of the people who live for conflict and continuously argue on the *Road*; *Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way.* These people are never happy until they get their own way and not God's Way. St James puts it beautifully; *Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.* Let us pray for an increase in all our holiness and peace, as Jesus is the source of all Holiness and Peace. Let us do our best to imitate Him in our lives. God bless, Fr Brendan.