



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

24TH JUNE 2018

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THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING
5.30pm Vigil OUR NEW MASS TIMES **11.30am**

EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION LAW

A new European Data Protection law, the General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”), is being introduced on 25 May 2018. This new law applies to any organisation, including our parish that manages and processes people’s personal information. We are now working on ways of ensuring that what we do with your information is compliant with this new law. It is a work in progress and over the next few months we will keep you informed through the parish website and in the newsletter as policies are put in place. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact the parish office.

CEMETERY MASSES & BLESSING OF GRAVES		
Glasnevin	24th June	3.00pm
Balgriffin	1st July	12.00pm
Dardistown	1st July	3.00pm

Last Sunday’s Collections	
First Collection	€226
WMF Collection	€347

School Holidays

Wish all the children and teachers of St. Vincent's' and O'Connell's Schools a very happy , joyful and peaceful summer holidays.
We look forward to seeing you all on your return

CHOIR NOTICE

Musical Director, Peter, is looking for new choir members!
If interested, please contact him up in balcony after Mass.
We encourage all parishioners to sing along with the choir during Mass, Please!!



JOHN THE BAPTIST PROVES LIFE BEGINS IN THE WOMB



There are 3 Birthdays the Church observes every year. Our Lady’s Birthday on the 8th September and Jesus’ Birthday on the 25th December. The third and only other Birthday celebrated in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church is John the Baptist, who we celebrate today! Jesus said of him: *I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John* (Luke 7:28). Why is this?

JESUS WORKS FROM THE WOMB

Mary was pregnant only 1 week and carrying Jesus in her womb when she visited Elizabeth, who was pregnant 6 months and carrying John the Baptist in her womb. At that meeting, Jesus from within the womb of Mary, brought down the Holy Spirit to enter the womb of Elizabeth to baptise John. As in every Baptism, the Holy Spirit enters the heart and soul of the baby. When John experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit, he jumped for joy in the womb because he was just baptised.

JOHN’S SOUL WAS IMMACULATE

This means the mark of Original Sin was removed from his soul in the womb, and he came forth into the world in an immaculate state of sinlessness (no sin). He was conceived inheriting original sin but born into the world with no sin. He is the last prophet of the Old Testament and has been chosen for a very special mission to herald (announce) the coming of Jesus. He will be the voice in the wilderness. He was also chosen to Baptise Jesus in the river Jordan because of his state of Grace. So he is called the Baptist for two reasons: first, because he was baptised in the womb of his mother and secondly, he himself baptised Jesus.

THE CHILDREN ARE ACTIVE IN THE WOMB

Elizabeth is the first to hear Mary’s voice, but John is the first to be aware of the presence of Grace. Elizabeth hears with the ears of the body, but John leaps for joy at the meaning of the Mystery. Elizabeth is aware of Mary’s presence, but John is aware of the Holy Trinity’s presence in Mary’s womb. A woman aware of a woman’s presence, and the baby John aware of Jesus, our Salvation’s presence, in the womb of Mary. The two women speak of the Grace they have received while the two children in the womb, are active in secret, unfolding the mystery of Love with the help of their mothers, who prophesy by the spirit of their sons.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

When Zachariah, who was the father of John, was told six months previously that he and his wife would conceive a baby in their old age, he laughed and doubted the Angel, resulting in him being struck deaf for his unbelief. The releasing of Zachariah’s voice at the birth of John has the same significance as the tearing of the veil of the Temple at the Crucifixion of Jesus. If John were meant to proclaim himself, he would not be opening Zachariah’s mouth. The tongue is released because a voice is being born – for when John was already heralding (announcing) the Lord, he was asked, *Who are you* and he replied *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness*. John is the voice, but the Lord *in the beginning was the Word*. John is a voice for a time, but Christ is the eternal Word from the beginning. We are called to be like John the Baptist, to be pure in heart and voice (language), to be uncompromising in our attitude towards sin, and to fulfil our duty to baptise children with the Word by passing on the Faith. Baptism does not qualify us to get into schools but to get us into Heaven. The name of John means; *God is Gracious*. God bless, Fr Brendan.