



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA (& THE HOLY SOULS)

25TH AUGUST 2019

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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

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY NEWS 11.30AM THANK YOU SUNDAY MASS 1st SEPTEMBER TEA, COFFEE, CAKES AFTERWARDS

The Daughters of Charity are associated with the parish of St Agatha's since 1857. Over the years, many changes have taken place. The Sisters wish to thank you, the Parishioners, for the invaluable support and kindness, shown to them throughout the years. In keeping with their charism of Charity and their tradition of Mission, new changes by the Order will be implemented from the 1st September 2019, regarding placements of personnel. We will be very sad to see Srs, Bernadette, Anne and Bride departing North William Street to newer pastures and we wish them well in fulfilling their wonderful Vocations in their new appointments. We are delighted that Sr. Bridget and Sr. Nuala will continue to maintain the tradition of the Sisters presence in the Parish. We, the Community, wish to thank them for their unceasing commitment and contribution in serving the Parish by their works of charity. We will all miss them terribly. A Thank You Mass on Sunday 1st September 2019 to show our gratitude and appreciation.
All are welcome.

ENTER NOW THROUGH THE NARROW DOOR OF FAITH, LOVE & MERCY

In today's Gospel (Lk 13:22-30), Jesus is talking to us, who attend Mass every Sunday, and eat (receiving Holy Communion), around the table (the Altar), with Him. Jesus warns us not to come to Mass simply to fulfil our duty, or to meet people, but to meet Him. To come to Mass and be indifferent (having no interest in readings or responses), while in Jesus' company, is an insult to Him.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

To go in the, *narrow door*, which ultimately refers to the Gate of Heaven, we are expected to prepare ourselves in this life, by being actively committed to living the teachings of the Gospel of Faith, Love and Mercy daily. Jesus warns us that it is a narrow door, which many will not be able to enter, because they are overweight by sin, making it impossible for them to fit through it. Being humble makes us small, becoming the perfect size to fit through the narrow door.

NARROW DOOR OF JESUS' HEART

Jesus allowed a soldier's lance to open His Sacred Heart, leaving a narrow opening in which the Sacraments of the Church flowed forth, in the form of Love and Mercy (Blood & Water). Jesus gives us the privileged opportunity, in this life, to spiritually enter through the narrow opening (door) of His Sacred Heart, in order to find Peace, which also enables us to receive the grace to practice the same love and mercy towards each other. Mass is the time to enter into a silent **holy communion** with Jesus, thanking Him for dying on the Cross for us. It is a time to tell Jesus how much we love Him. He thirsts for our friendship at this moment, but many forget WHO they have received, by the time they return back to their seats. These are the souls who will find themselves knocking on the wrong side of the locked door and hearing Jesus say; *I do not know where you come from.*

GOD'S MERCY SHAPES THE SOUL

Confessions prepares our souls to enter through the narrow door. To live by the Gospel is not always easy and entails discipline and making sacrifices. It includes suffering, which is a divine currency, and if offered to God, can purchase our pass and that of our families and friends, through the narrow heavenly door. Suffering is the will of God and part of our spiritual training (Heb:12). Suffering caused by sin, is not God's will. We should never waste an opportunity to offer up our sufferings to God for the world.

DIE TO OUR SINS

Jesus through **His Suffering** purchased redemption for the world, meaning freeing the us from the grip of Satan and bringing us New Life, by conquering Death. He now asks us to conquer Sin, which brings Death to the Soul, and to Die to sinful Temptations, in order to let this New Life promised, begin growing in our hearts, here and now. Everyday, we are called to practice walking through the doors of faith, trust, love, humility, charity, patience, peace, forgiveness, self-control and purity. God bless, Fr. Brendan.