

**Parish of St. Agatha Christmas Masses**  
**Wishing you a Happy & Peaceful Christmas**

**Christmas Eve**  
**Tues 24th Dec**

**10.00am Daily Mass**  
**5.30pm Family Vigil Christmas Mass**  
**8.00pm Vigil Christmas Mass**

**Christmas Day**  
**Wed 25th Dec**

**9.00am Dawn Mass**  
**10.15 - 11.15am Adoration : Holy Hour**  
**11.30am Christmas Day Mass**



<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>26th Dec, St. Stephen Day:</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>27th Dec, St. John Evangelist:</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>28th Dec, Holy Innocents:</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
<b>Vigil</b>		<b>5.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29th Dec, The Holy Family of Jesus:</b>	<b>11.30am</b>

**News Years Eve**  
**Tues 31st Dec**

**11.00am Daily Mass**  
**11.00pm –12.00am Eucharistic Adoration**  
**12.00am Midnight New Year's Mass**

**News Years Day**  
**Wed 1st Jan**

**11.00am Mass, Feast of Mary the Holy**  
**Mother of God & World Day of Peace**

**Thurs 2nd Jan**  
**Fri 3rd Jan**

**11.00am Mass**  
**11.00am Mass**



**REJOICE WITH JOY IF YOU'VE BEEN TO CONFESSION !**

Today, the third Sunday in Advent, is called Gaudete Sunday which means, Joy Sunday or Rejoice Sunday, because if we have truly repented for our sins then today we Rejoice! Advent Season is basically a penitential or a repentance (remorse for our sins) period to reconcile ourselves back with God. That is why the Advent colour of the Mass vestments, as in Lent, are purple, which symbolises repentance and humility. It is a time when we are not just preparing to celebrate the Remembrance of the First Coming of Christ at Christmas, but to remember there will be a Second Coming of Christ to Judge us someday

**HUMILITY IS THE KEY INTO HEAVEN**

All the Advent Gospels up to now have been warning us to prepare ourselves for the Second Coming of Christ, when we will find out if we are worthy to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven or not? Today's Gospel (Matt 11:2-11) reminds us again that the secret to enter Heaven is to practice Humility. Jesus tells us that, *of all the children born of woman, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen.* This is because of his humility, symbolised by his modest dress sense. Yet Jesus tells us, that those already found worthy to be living in Heaven are even more humbler than John. *The least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is.*

**WHAT IS HUMILITY?**

St. James in the Second Reading is teaching us to exercise patience in our lifetime on earth. Not just for the coming of Christ but with each other. To be loving, kind, understanding and merciful needs patience, through practicing humility. We are told, *not to make complaints about one another, so as not to be brought to judgements yourselves; the Judge (Christ) is already to be seen waiting at the Gates.* These are very strong words and we need to meditate on them deeply to see if humility or pride rules our lives?

**HUMILITY BRINGS US PEACE**

The holy monk Thomas A. Kempis wrote: *People who live in peace avoid conflict with others. But a man/woman who is tense and agitated by Evil is troubled with all kinds of suspicions; he/she is never at peace with themselves, nor does he/she permit others to be at peace. He/she often speaks when he/she should be silent, and he/she fails to say what would be truly useful.* He/she is well aware of the obligations of others but neglects his or her own obligations.

**WHAT MUST WE DO THEN?**

*Thy Kingdom come,* refers to the *Kingdom of Peace (Jesus)* coming into our hearts. Peace brings Healing and is the spiritual Medicine dispensed in every Confession by Jesus, the Divine Doctor. Come to God the Father of Mercy in Confession this Advent and say: ***Bless me Father for I have sinned, I come to seek Your Mercy, & I promise to change.*** That's it and all is forgiven and forgotten by God and one's soul is cleansed of all evil presence. It doesn't matter how bad our sin is, God will forgive, if we are truly repentant. Let us adopt the role of the humble John the Baptist and be One with Jesus. God bless, Fr Brendan.