



## PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

25TH JANUARY 2020

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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



### Feast of St. Brigid

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February Mass 11.00am

St. Brigid is the Co Patron of Ireland and is often known as 'Muire na nGael'.

### The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

This feast is also called 'Candlemas Day' because candles are blessed and lighted this day on which Simeon recognised Jesus as 'a light to reveal God to the nations'.



### Catholic Schools Week 2020

Catholic Schools Week 2020 will be celebrated from Sunday 26 January to Sunday 2 February, Feast of Candlemas Day.

**Theme: 'Living in Harmony with God's Creation'**

Parishes and Catholic Schools across Ireland look at our own responsibility to care for the earth, not just for our own future, but for the future of every one of God's creatures.

The Forty Days of Christmas Season ends on Candlemas Sunday, the 2nd February. The presence of the Crib reminds us of the Incarnation, God becoming Flesh, assuming a Human Nature, in the form of Jesus. Many children in our parish were sadly never brought to Church over Christmas and never saw the Crib. All Vincent's & O'Connell children will attend 10am Masses on Wed 29th & Fri 31st Jan to see Crib!

### THE WORD OF GOD TO BE LIVED

This Sunday, Pope Francis is inviting Catholics across the world to deepen our appreciation, love and faithful witness to God and his Word. He wants us to make Holy Scripture part of our everyday lives. This year, the Pope has established the third Sunday on January 26. He asks us to observe this special day and be devoted *to the celebration, study and dissemination (spreading) of the Word of God.*

### NOT TO BE LEFT ON THE SHELF!

The intention is *to stimulate all Christians not just to place the Bible on the shelf as one of many books, perhaps filled with dust, but as an instrument that awakens our faith.* At every Funeral Mass in St. Agatha's the Word of God (Bible) is placed on the coffin of the deceased, by family member. Let us become more familiar with the Bible before it is too late. Holy Scripture is the Life Story of God, spoken to us through the Prophets and then from His own Lips, when the Word was made Flesh. He will ask us someday; *Did you read My Book?!*

### STIMULTE OUR INTEREST

Pope Francis is reminding us of the great value that the Word of God possesses and by reading and listening attentively to it, *renews our commitment and understanding of the inexhaustible richness that comes from God's constant dialogue with His people. The Word which stimulates believers to be living instruments of transmission of the Word.*

### SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF THE CHURCH

In today's Gospel, (Mt 4:12-23), Christ uses the fishermen called when mending and casting out their nets as symbols of our own mission. The nets symbolises the Church and our Faith. They left their nets to take up the nets of Christ. To mend our nets is to take St. Paul's advise and mend any outstanding differences we have with each other, by allowing the Word of God use us as instruments of Love and Mercy. In other words to do what Jesus asks of us today. *Repent, (change our stubborn ways), for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.*

### SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF CHRIST

To cast out our nets is to spread-out, to transmit the faith of the Church in the family and in our lives because we too are called to be fisher of people. The word REPENT implies a radical change in one's thinking. It means looking at life in a completely new way. This new way of seeing life is spelt out through the whole of the Christian Testament – the Word of God. It is only when we begin to make this radical change that we begin to become part of the Kingdom. Wherever Jesus is present, there is the Kingdom. By obeying the Word, do we begin effectively to come under the influence of God's power in our lives. We begin to see things the way God sees them and our behaviour changes accordingly, allowing the Light of Christ radiate through onto others. God bless, Fr. Brendan