



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA
28TH/29TH MARCH 2020

Fr. Brendan Kealy Adm.: 087 9117575 Office : Tel: 8554078
 Mr John Kelly: Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council
 E-mail : office@stagathasparish.ie Website: ww.stagathasparish.ie

Parish Mass Times	Eucharistic Adoration
10am Mass & Rosary	10.30am—1pm Weekdays
11am Sat. Mass & Rosary/Adoration	11.00am—12.00pm Saturdays
5.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass	
11.30am Sunday Mass	Confessions After Every Mass

CHURCH OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

MONDAY –SUNDAY

10AM – 1PM.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO VISIT.

THE UNBELIEVER IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD IN THEIR GRAVE OF SIN

Jesus purposely delayed getting to Lazarus (Jn11:1-45), so He could publicly display God’s Power and Glorification to the world, in rising him from the dead. Lazarus was physically dead in the tomb but Jesus takes the opportunity to teach the unbeliever that not only can His Spirit rise the physical human body of flesh out from the tomb of death, but He can also rise the spiritual body of our souls out of the grave of sin in the Sacrament of Confession, out of love for us. Only Jesus can **unbind us** from sin, represented by *the bands of stuff and cloth*, overpowering the body of Lazarus and set us free from the devil’s grip, by His Word of Absolution. **But only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.**

THE MASTER WANTS TO SEE YOU
 Martha and Mary represent the faithful who display different attitudes towards Jesus. We know that Martha was a physical doer because she was the one who served and washed-up when Jesus visited their house, while Mary sat and listened to Him. That visit was later after this miracle. Today, in the longer version of this Gospel, Mary did not run out to meet Jesus and chose to sit alone in the house not feeling the desire to *come out*, lost in sorrow and possibly some anger. She only came-out to Jesus when He instructed Martha to call her, which she did in a *low voice* saying; *The Master is here and wants to see you.* The *low voice* reflects the Peace we experience when in Jesus’ Presence, even in times of distress..

OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD WINS US ETERNAL LIFE
 Mary did not hesitate and immediately got up *quickly* and obeyed the call of God. Faith is responding to God’s call and Mary responded even while stricken with unimaginable grief and overcome with confusion and maybe anger, as to why Jesus did not come sooner. Jesus tested this faith of Mary by not going into the house to get her, as He was still outside the village, but waited for her to come to Him. Her obedience to His Will, in time of suffering, would be rewarded. Their trust and belief in Him was not diminished. Martha publicly professed her belief and faith in Christ and Mary did the same by *throwing herself at the feet of Jesus.* This would be the position she imitated at the foot of the Cross. He calls us every day to come to Him. When we find Him, He does not disappoint. We find Peace and Healing and a Joy to help lighten our burden and wipe away the tears. Those who obey the Word and Teaching of God will never die.

SIN CAUSES SEPARATION FROM JESUS THAT MAKES HIM CRY
 Lazarus represents the human race of the unbelievers and all who are dead in sin. In weeping, Jesus was entering into the darkness and agony of the death of all unrepentant sinners, because sin creates separation from Him in this world. To die in sin can continue the separation in the next world. Jesus’ weeping expresses His sincere heartbreak over the pain of separation that sin causes. Sin is an abyss of wickedness and ingratitude. The price Jesus paid to take us out of the darkness of the tomb can never be equalled, but we can begin to repay Him by repenting for our sins now. Jesus will never deny His Divine Mercy to anyone who has trust and hope coming to Him in Confession. Faith enables us to believe this. That is why Jesus asked Martha, **Do you believe?** Keep safe wrapped in faith. God bless, Fr. Brendan.