



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA
29TH SEPTEMBER 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

Letter from Archbishop Martin, Sept 2019

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the publication of the Murphy report and we are reminded of that dark and pain-filled chapter in our history. For many of those who were abused as children in the Church and for many of their loved ones that pain is a constant reality, one which will endure for the rest of their lives. We cannot undo the past. We can, however, honour the courage of those who have spoken of their experiences of abuse by doing all in our power to ensure a better and safer Church for the children of today and of tomorrow. As Pope Francis has instructed us in his recent Apostolic Letter, *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* we have an equal responsibility for the welfare and protection of vulnerable adults.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude all the work that has been done in our parishes to make the Church a safer place for children and vulnerable adults. Our parish clergy, already under pressure due to declining numbers, have had to accept additional responsibilities in this area, such as ensuring that those involved in public ministry are vetted. I wish to thank safeguarding representatives and all of our parishioners who have kept faith with us through this difficult time.

I do not underestimate the dilemma of parents who want their children to grow strong in the faith but hesitate about allowing their children to become involved in parish activities. I say to you: your children are dear to us, as they are to you, and we will do all in our power to ensure their safety and protection from abuse.

It is important that we remain committed to this vital work. I ask you also to remember those who were abused and to pray for them

+ Diarmuid Martin
Archbishop of Dublin

SUFFERING PURIFIES THE SOUL AND BRINGS CONVERSION

The *Prayer of Farewell*, at the end of a Funeral Mass says; *May Christ, who called you, take you to Himself; may Angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.* This the same Abraham in the Gospel today (Lk 16:19-31). Jesus is revealing and warning us, that while everyone is raised from the dead, specifically for Judgement, not everyone is raised to Eternal Life (Heaven). Some souls dwell in Eternal Death (Hell) forever. Some souls, like the rich man, are sent to a spiritual Prison, called Purgatory and rely on us to pray for their release and comfort. The rich man was in Purgatory and not Hell, because he could still communicate with Abraham, who is the Father of our Faith. Purgatory is always described as a place of temporary punishment, caused through our own fault, because of our sins. It is depicted by flames of fire. The Holy Souls now willingly accept God's Will and use their suffering to help redeem the world below, and themselves. Hades is a Greek word meaning; *a state of deadness.* Jesus came to change this state of deadness into a state of Life, beyond the grave, to those who have Faith in Him.

WILLINGLY ENTER INTO SUFFERING

The Holy Souls in Purgatory constantly pray for our conversion on earth. Their prayers are very powerful, because they unite their sufferings with the sufferings of Christ – something we neglect to do on earth. Prayers accompanied with fasting and sacrifice are heard. Jesus' sufferings brought Redemption (Victory over Sin and Death), to the world. Suffering (The Cross) purifies the soul and we should not waste it here on earth, by always complaining, but offering it up for the conversion of sinners.

EVERY SIN CARRIES A PENALTY

No soul in Purgatory can cross into heaven, which is divided by a gulf, until the sentence for their unrepentant sins, are paid for in full. Because every sin carries a penalty. The prison sentence for the Holy Souls in Purgatory can be reduced, by our prayers and sacrifices/sufferings, here on earth. The Holy Souls cannot pray for themselves. To avoid Purgatory and Hell, St Paul reminds us that while on earth; *You must be dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called.* We need to live a holy prayerful life, if we wish to stop sin (Satan) visiting us.

FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

The rich man acknowledges the suffering in Purgatory, saying; *Father Abraham, pity me (have mercy) and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.* On a personal note, every time I pass a Holy Water fount, I always dip my finger into it, saying; *For the Holy Souls in Purgatory.* Some of our families could still be in Purgatory crying out for our help.

SIN OF OMISSION

The rich man committed the sin of omission by not acting charitably. He lived a life focused entirely on himself, which is rooted in the capital sin of pride. This is a disordered self-love. Jesus is warning us not to allow our hearts to be indifferent (cold), to those in need. There is a poor man Lazarus at all our gates. God bless, Fr. Brendan . Last Sunday Hospice Coffee Morning raised 605 euro. Thank you.