



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

1ST/2ND AUGUST 2020



Fr. Brendan Kealy Adm.: 087 9117575 Office:
Tel:018554078, Mr John Kelly: Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council
E-mail : office@stagathasparish.ie Website: www.stagathasparish.ie

Jesus I Trust in You

POPE SAYS: EUCHARIST PROVIDES STRENGTH TO CARE FOR OTHERS

Pope Francis reflected on Jesus' miracle of the multiplication of the loaves (Mt 14:13-21), and said the people had gone to listen to Jesus in a deserted place, because "His words and His gestures restore and bring hope." As the sun goes down and those present begin to seek food, Jesus tells His disciples to give them something to eat. "Jesus wants to use this situation to educate His friends, both then and now, about God's logic: the logic of taking responsibility for others," said Pope Francis.

POWER AS SIGN OF CHARITY

The Pope added that Jesus didn't leave His disciples alone when they say there are only five loaves and two fishes. He takes the bread, breaks it, and gives it to the disciples for them to distribute. "With this gesture, Jesus expresses His power; not in a spectacular way but as a sign of charity, of God the Father's generosity toward His weary and needy children." Pope Francis said Jesus is immersed in people's lives, and that He understands our weaknesses and limits. "He nourishes them with His Word and provides plentiful sustenance."

EUCHARIST AND DAILY BREAD

Pope Francis went on to say that the multiplication of the loaves has clear Eucharistic overtones. An important element is the connection between the Eucharistic bread – nourishment for eternal life – and our daily bread – which we require to survive. "Before offering Himself to the Father as the Bread of salvation, Jesus ensures there is food for those who follow Him and who, in order to be with Him, neglected to make provisions." The Pope said this shows that there is no opposition between the spiritual and the material.

COMPASSION, TRUST, SOLIDARITY

Pope Francis noted that Jesus' compassion and tenderness for the crowd is "the concrete manifestation of the love that cares about people's needs." He urged everyone to draw near to the table of the Eucharist by imitating Jesus' attitude of compassion. "Compassion is not a purely material sentiment," he said. "True compassion is *suffering with*, taking upon ourselves the pain of others." The Pope encouraged everyone to ask ourselves if we have compassion when we read the news about wars, hunger, or the pandemic. "Do I experience compassion for those people?" Compassion, he added, is "trust in the provident love of the Father and means courageous sharing."

JOURNEY OF FRATERNITY

Pope Francis prayed that Mary might help us along our Christian journey. "It is the journey of fraternity which is essential to face the poverty and suffering of this world – especially in this difficult moment – and which projects us beyond the world itself, because it is a journey that begins with God and returns to God."

CONGRATULATIONS !

A joyous congratulations to all the girls from St. Vincent's School who made their First Holy Communion last Friday 31st July 2020. As Pope Francis says, that in receiving Holy Communion may they grow in spirit of charity to strengthen their will to imitate Jesus in life and to show compassion towards others. A big thank you to Ms. O'Connor and her Team of wonderful Teachers who prepared the girls so well

PREPARING US FOR THE MULTIPLICATION OF HIMSELF: JESUS

In today's Gospel Jesus miraculously feeds five thousand men *to say nothing of women and children* (Matt 14:13-21), *because* of His Concern, Love, Compassion and Pity for the people, who followed Him. He knew they were hungry and was anxious to help. This Real Miracle has Eucharistic undertones preparing us for the coming of the Living Bread from Heaven. It reveals to us how Jesus can miraculously and mysteriously feed huge large crowds from what appears to be from very little, which symbolises the Universal Church on earth, using His Priests or Disciples to distribute Himself as Food. The First Reading reminds us that to receive the Food of God has no material cost and that this daily bread will give our soul life which the world cannot give; *though you have no money, come! Listen, and your soul will live* (Isaiah 55:1-3).

THE PUBLIC COMING OF THE CHURCH: JESUS

The five loaves and two fish, adding to seven, prefigures the Seven Sacraments of the Church, which God miraculously provides to spiritually feed His children. This miracle of multiplication takes place in every Mass, when the Priest, who takes the place of Jesus, says *the Blessing*, calling down the Holy Spirit from Heaven to bring **Newness of Life** to the bread and wine (a form of Resurrection) and raising and transfiguring it into the Risen Eucharistic Body of Jesus. This New Risen Body does not appear in Human Form clothed in human flesh anymore, but appears in Sacramental Form clothed in a Eucharistic Flesh, concealing the human form of Christ. He now becomes visible in this Spiritual Food to feed everybody (multiplication) in the world present at Mass. If you find yourself in a lonely place, then open your heart to receive Jesus as company. St. Paul tells us today that; *No created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ* (Rom 8:37-39).

THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENT OF OUR DAY

The moment after receiving Holy Communion, is the most important moment of our day, thanking Jesus for His Presence. It is a time to consciously open our hearts to receive Him in the form of Peace and Joy. The Greek word, *Eucharist* means in english **Thanksgiving**. In every Mass, the Priest, who is now *in the Person of Christ*, offers the Gifts on the Altar up to God, including the contrite and humble hearts of the people present, as part of the Sacrifice. When a Priest hears Confessions after Mass, he is imitating Christ as seen in today's Gospel and making way for Him to cure the **crowd** present, who wish to be healed from the sickness of sin. **He took pity on them and healed their sick** (Matt 14:14). When Jesus sees crowds, He wastes no time and goes to work. After Mass while still in the Presence of God is a sacred moment and not a socialising moment.

JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARED THE WAY FOR JESUS

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death He withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves (Matt 14:13). Jesus knew that His time was approaching to begin His Mission publicly, because John prepared the Way for Him. John has now gone to his eternal reward and it was time for prayer and reflection, like a retreat in an uncrowded isolated place to contemplate God's Will. However, Jesus was disturbed by the crowd who were hungry for the Word of God and His Healing Power. He set aside His own time realising that God's Will was calling Him into public ministry immediately. Again, no time to waste. Jesus obliged. Many are called by God to change their plans immediately, but don't always oblige like Jesus. God is calling us all into active ministry, not just by praying our faith, but by exercising our faith with a contrite, meek, humble, loving, compassionate and forgiving heart. Jesus has prepared the Way for us to follow Him, as true disciples of the Cross and Resurrection. Let us all walk this pilgrimage hand in hand in harmony and peace, as true brothers and sisters of Christ, praying and helping one another. Our human body needs physical nourishment in the same way as our spiritual body (soul) needs spiritual nourishment. We pray for the conversion of so many Catholics who ignore the Mass, the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Healing and even daily prayer. This spiritual malnourishment leads to a spiritual famine in their hearts and souls leading to a spiritual deadness. They live like spiritual zombies. They must awaken and eat to sustain themselves spiritually, as we all journey on our pilgrimage to Heaven. God bless, Fr. Brendan.