

PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

1ST/2ND DECEMBER 2019

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Mr John Kelly: Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council

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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 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THIS YEAR MONDAY 9TH DEC

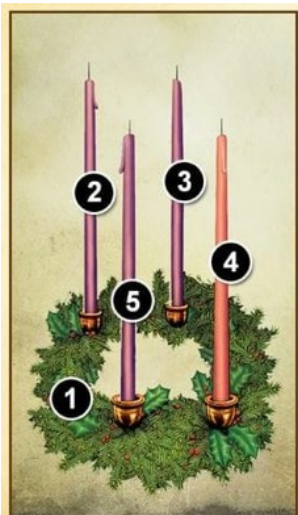
Because the 8th Dec falls on Sun, the Solemnity is transferred to **Monday 9 December 2019**. This year it will not be a Day of Obligation. Mass at 10am.

NEW CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The annual rotating Chair-ship of the Parish Pastoral Council has occurred and Mr. John Kelly was elected as our new Chairperson for 2020. Welcome!

CONFIRMATION ENROLLMENT

We welcome the children from St. Vincent's and O'Connell's School who are enrolling for their Confirmation. Thank you to all the Teachers for their work.



(1) Evergreen Wreath — The circle of the Wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the Eternity of God (the Alpha and Omega). The Evergreen is chosen as the base because God is the Foundation of all Goodness. Green is the colour that represents Growth, the Spiritual Growth of our Souls, to make room for Jesus to live in us.

Four Candles — represent the Four (4) Weeks of Advent. Traditionally, each week represents one thousand years, summing up the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Jesus Our Saviour. The Advent Candles symbolise **Hope, Trust, Love, Joy, Path, Peace and Jesus who COMES in all these Forms.**

The burning flame of the candles symbolises our Faith and the Light of Christ Coming (Advent) into the World.

STAY SPIRITUALLY AWAKE!

Today is the First Sunday in Advent and the beginning of a new Church year. The Mass readings (Mt 24:37-44) urge us to **stay awake** in spirit and come out of the darkness of sin. Let's not be distracted on our pilgrimage of Faith to Heaven by over indulging in the pleasures of earthly life. These 4 weeks before Christmas are called **Advent** (Adventus) meaning **Coming** of Jesus. St. John Paul II said our whole lives must be a sort of Advent; *a vigilant waiting of the Coming of Christ, at all times.*

ADVENT WREATH

There are five candles on the wreath, one to be lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas with the fifth (white) candle to be lit on Christmas Day. The Circular round Evergreen Wreath is shaped in a circle symbolising Eternity (of Life) offered to us now with the invitation to stop offending God, with sinful lifestyles. A **Wreath** is another word for **Chaplet, (Garland or Crown)** symbolising our **Crown of Victory over Death/Sin.**

PURPLE, PINK AND WHITE

The colour Purple represents **Humility** and **Repentance**, reminding us to go to Confession at this time. Purple is also associated with **Royalty** and the **Kingship** of Jesus, hence the purple vestments worn at Funerals. The colour Pink symbolises **Joy**. The Central White Candle symbolises **Resurrection** & is called the Christ Candle reminding us that Christ is the Eternal Light coming into the Dark World guiding us to Heaven.

1ST CANDLE IS HOPE

The first candle lit today is called the Candle of **HOPE (TRUST)** which we have in Christ and His Good News of Resurrection. In every Mass we pray for those; *who have fallen asleep in the Hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life and NOT Eternal Death.*

2ND CANDLE IS LOVE WHICH IS THE WAY AND KEY TO HEAVEN

The second candle we light on the 8th December symbolises Christ who is **LOVE** and His Divine Law is the **WAY** = the spiritual roadmap to Heaven. The World is spiritually lost, blind and wounded by sin. Christ is the Light sent into the World to show us the Way out of Darkness. To love and forgive one another brings Light into our hearts!

3RD CANDLE IS JOY

The third candle we light on the 15th December indicates that the only ever-lasting **JOY** to be found on earth is through Christ. All other joy is passing and does not last forever.

4TH CANDLE IS PEACE

The fourth candle lit on 22nd December reminds us that Jesus comes to bring **PEACE** to the World and into our hearts. Without Christ there is no Peace in this world.

5TH CANDLE IS CHRIST(MAS) CANDLE

The fifth candle represents **CHRIST** who was born to Save or Deliver us from the Devil and his evil influences (sin). We are rescued through the Sacraments of the Church. We cannot Save ourselves without Jesus, who is now visible and Present to us in Sacramental Form in the Eucharist (Mass) & Confession. Jesus wants us all to live with Him in Heaven! But first, we must begin this faith journey by accepting His Invitation to live with Him on earth. It is an Invitation to be taken very seriously and for us to reply with a Joyful **YES**. We do this by going to Mass every Sunday. God bless, Fr Brendan.