



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

2ND FEBRUARY 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. Blaise Monday 3rd February

10am Mass

Throats will be blessed after the 10.00 a.m. Mass.

Feast of St. Agatha Wednesday 5th February our Parish Patron Saint

JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

St. Agatha came from a very rich Sicilian Catholic family.
She is the Patron Saint of Nurses and of Diseases of the Breast.

The name Agatha means 'Goodness'. St. Agatha, like Our Lady, had consecrated her body and Virginity to God. The pagan Italian Roman Governor in Sicily, wanted to marry her for her beauty and her family wealth. He also wanted her to renounce her faith.

She never gave in to him. He was enraged with her refusals. Abusing his authority, he had her arrested and put into prison. She was repeatedly tortured and he unmercifully had her breasts cut-off. While she was praying in her cell one night, St. Peter appeared to her and healed all her wounds, encouraging her never to lose trust and faith in Jesus, as He had not abandoned her. It is the freewill of mankind, influenced by the devil, that do evil things. God does not do evil acts only acts of Love and Mercy.

The story of St. Agatha is one of courage, tremendous spiritual strength, immaculate integrity and utter dependence and trust in Jesus.

She was martyred on 5th February 251.

PRESENTATION OF THE LIGHT WHO IS THE LORD

The elderly woman Anna, in today's Gospel (Lk 2:22-40), is a symbol of the Old People of Israel, who were fasting and praying, watching and waiting for the First Coming of the Messiah. In today's world, she represents us, the New Church, the New People of Israel, because we too, in this generation, are called to watch and wait for the Second Coming of the Messiah, when He will come as our Judge. *Anna began to praise God; and she spoke of the child*, which is what we are also called to do as members of the Church by praying as one voice in Mass and in our families.

A CANDLE LIGHT TO GUIDE US IN DARKNESS

The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that *he would not die until he had laid eyes on Christ the Lord*. He recognised Jesus immediately referring to Him as, *a Light to enlighten the Pagans*, hence Candle-mas referring to the Light, and also seeing Him as *the Glory of Your People Israel*, (the Glory of Your Church today). He also prophesied that Jesus, would be destined for *rejection* by humanity, who He created. He told Mary she too would suffer from the rejection, saying that a *Sword would pierce her Soul too*. We have come to know this sword as the Seven Swords of Sorrow.

JESUS FREES US FROM SLAVERY TO THE DEVIL

Simeon reveals that this child Jesus would be *destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel*. If the country Israel, at that time, symbolises our future Church today, then the Prophet is saying that the destined Presence of Jesus on earth will cause people to either reject or accept Him. Jesus has come into the world to Save us from *all the power of the Devil* (Heb 2:14-18), setting us free *from slavery* to sin.

OUR FUTURE DESTINY CAN BE OUR CHOICE

Those people who choose to reject His saving help will **Fall**, sadly never Rising to Eternal Life. Those people who Accept His Help and His Word, will never *fear death*, but be found destined for their **Rising** on the Last Day and enter into Eternal Life (Heaven). The choice is ours. The second reading of Hebrews which was written by St. Paul, tells us today that Jesus came *to atone* (make amends) *for human sins*. He presented Himself as the ultimate Sacrifice to conquer Death by rising from the Dead. He went through all this Suffering for us. This ultimate act of Love and Mercy on Calvary is frowned upon by so **many**. But for the **many** true Believers, it is recognised and acknowledged, by doing our best, with the Grace of God, to avoid temptation and not to sin. Jesus *went through temptation* on this earth and *is able to help others who are tempted*. We cannot fight temptation or the devil alone, always turn to Jesus, through Mary, for help. That is why Jesus exists. God bless, Fr. Brendan