



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

2ND SEPTEMBER 2018

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OPENING HYMN

SWEET HEART OF JESUS

Sweet Heart of Jesus! Fount of love and mercy,
Today we come thy blessings to implore;
Oh touch our hearts so cold and so ungrateful,
And make them Lord, thine own for evermore.

*Sweet Heart of Jesus! We implore,
Oh, make us love thee, more and more.*

OFFERTORY PROCESSION THE BELL OF THE ANGELUS

The Bells of the Angelus, Are calling to pray
With sweet tones announcing the sacred Ave

Chorus: Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

RECESSIONAL HYMN HAIL QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Hail, Queen of heaven, the ocean star,
Guide of the wanderer here below,
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care,
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea
Pray for the wanderer, pray for me.

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Date: 8th September, 2018

Bus leaving St. Agatha's Church: 8.00 am — Bus Leaving Knock: 5.15pm

Cost: €20 (includes tea and scones en route)

Please pay€10 deposit to one of the Sisters

FUND RAISING FOR SIDE CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OUR DEAD

From next Winter, as a cost cutting exercise on electricity bills, we will use the side Chapel of St Agatha's for future **10am Weekly Daily Masses**. Funerals will be held in the main Church as will weekend Masses. The proposal is to professionally fit an adjustable Partition & Door, in the Archway & to carpet & paint area. Access will still be from the main Church. To finance this transformation, everybody is invited to make a donation & in return, the Names of your Loved ones will be placed on the walls of this Remembrance Memorial Chapel which already has the names of deceased past parishioners on the walls. Your support on this will be gratefully appreciated & pleasing to God. Thank you.

PURE IN HEART

In the First Reading today God asks us to continue to observe His Divine Law. It is to benefit and strengthen our souls for a purpose. We have no authority to remove or add anything to it, in order to suit our own lifestyles and emotions. God gives us a Plan or a Road Map to Heaven and we should not change the route as we go along: stick to the Plan! Our lifestyle should reflect that of Jesus - a life pure in heart.

A LAW OF SACRIFICE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE

St James, in the Second Reading instructs us to; *Accept and submit to the Word*. God understands that this is not always easy for us to do, knowing it requires sacrifice and self-discipline to surrender to His Divine Will and Plan for Salvation. But Jesus made the Ultimate Sacrifice for our Salvation or Deliverance from the Devil. The World and all it has to offer is very tempting to live by. However, the ways and philosophy of the World, with all its human-made laws and referendums, will NOT get us into Heaven. Only by detaching ourselves from our own will and ways and attaching ourselves to God's Wills and Ways, are we guaranteed Eternal Life.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

The Garden of Eden teaches us a very important lesson. God does not tempt us to sin. In the Garden, it was Satan, in the form of a sneaky snake, who tempted and destroyed Eve's innocence. She allowed the Unclean Evil Spirit to take possession of her heart, corrupting the seeds of Purity, Innocence, Holiness and Perfection that God had earlier planted in her heart. Satan used her to bring down Adam through temptation. Once we allow Satan to seduce us, we then seduce our own desires to sin, giving birth to sin and evil intentions in our hearts, resulting in our spiritual death. But all is not lost if we truly want to be cleansed of such sins.

REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING PURIFIES THE SOUL

Remember that the willing sacrifices we make in this life, help to purify our hearts - producing and renewing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit within us. Like a house, it is important to clean-out our hearts and souls and minds of dirt. Confession does this 100%. The word Redemption means to be FREE or SAVED. Jesus came into the world, into our hearts, to save and free us from the Devil. Satan's mission is to make prisoners of us all by capturing us in his web of untruths and perverted ways, preventing us to be free to enter Heaven someday. If we fight temptation then we are making a huge sacrifice to reject Satan. We are all co-redeemers called to pray sincerely for each others salvation (deliverance from evil).

UNCLEAN SPIRITS

In today's Gospel, Jesus is warning us NOT to *put aside the Commandment of God so we can cling to human traditions*. Avoid the unclean evil spirits that nurture evil intentions in our hearts. Jesus warns us of the following Sins to avoid at all costs; *fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice (extreme greed), malice (hostility - the desire to harm someone), deceit (lies), indecency (pornography), envy (bitterness/jealousy), slander (gossip that ruins a reputation), pride, folly (lack of good sense - not listening to Jesus)*. Jesus says that we give birth in our hearts to these evil intention when we allow Satan to seduce us. These sins make our hearts unclean and unfit for Heaven. Let us be on our guard and never take our eyes of Jesus! God bless, Fr Brendan.