



# PARISH OF ST. AGATHA



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**THANK YOU PARISHIONERS! YOU ARE A WONDERFUL PARISH FAMILY, YOUR SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHURCH IS ASTONISHING! UP TO 400 PARISHIONERS ATTENDED THE CHRISTMAS MASSES OVER ONE WEEKEND. THANKS TO: SRS. BRIDGET, BERNADETTE, ANNE & NUALA, OUR CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & TO THE COUNCIL. PADDY & OLIVE TUCKER. OUR MOP LADIES & GENT. RITA & MAE IN THE SHOP. MAUREEN OUR PARISH SECRETARY. I WISH PEACE & HARMONY TO OUR OLD CHOIR MEMBERS WHO VERY SADLY MADE A SUDDEN DECISION TO RESIGN FOR THEIR OWN REASONS. I INVITED THEM BACK, IN WRITING, TO SING OVER CHRISTMAS & TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE MASSES BUT THEY REGRETFULLY DECLINED.**

## WELCOME IN THE NEW YEAR 2019

**12AM MIDNIGHT MASS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE  
MONDAY 31 ST DECEMBER 2018**

**1 HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION 11PM-12AM**

**MONDAY**  
News Years Eve  
31st Dec

**12.00pm Daily Mass**  
**11.00pm –12.00am Eucharistic Adoration**  
**12.00am Midnight New Year's Mass**

**TUESDAY**  
News Years Day  
1st Jan

**Day of Peace**  
**12.00pm Mass, Mary the Holy Mother of God**  
**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

### WE ARE PART OF GOD'S HEAVENLY HOLY FAMILY ON EARTH

As we celebrate the Holy Family today, it is a time when we can reflect on the quality of our own family life in the light of the Church's First Family. The Holy Family of Nazareth is a true model of a Christian home. We, as Christians, are very much part of this Holy Family - since we entered it through Baptism.

### DON'T LET THE FAMILY DOWN!

To follow Jesus is to belong to this New Family. It is a Family with stronger ties than flesh and blood and worldly values. It is a family which is bound in love and obedience to God, as our heavenly Father, to Jesus as our spiritual Brother. We are called to become a family committed to the Will of God. If we do not bear witness to Jesus in this life; we are letting the family down.

### ACT ACCORDINGLY

God continually lavishes His Love upon us, as we are His own adopted children. He asks that we behave in such a manner, that is befitting of our status, as members of this heavenly family. He is asking us to live the kind of life which considers His Commandments seriously, in that, we believe in the Teachings of his Son Jesus Christ and that above all, we love one another and forgive one another, in all circumstances.

### FAITH IN ACTION

In marriage and in all relationships, one is called to practice respect and compassion. In all our own busy-ness and affairs of life, Jesus reminds us today that we must never forget to *be busy with Our True Father's Affairs*. This again means, not to waste sacred opportunities given to us by God, to always love and forgive one another, to care for each other especially in difficult moments. These are the *affairs of God. Faith in action.*

### FAMILY AND CHURCH

A Catholic family should reflect a Christian community. It should be a house of love and a place to find forgiveness and comfort. It should be a Domestic Church where the family is rooted in God and then harmony and peace will follow. The Parish should also be a Family. Family life is not meant to be lived in isolation but supported by other families, in the parish community and with the wider Church. The mission of the family is identical to that of the whole Church: to give visible witness to the vision of Christ for each other and the world.

### GOD'S AUTHORITY IS EVERYTHING

While Mary and Joseph were sick with worry looking for their son, it was a planned opportunity by Jesus to remind them, as he also reminds us today, that Our True Father is Almighty God in Heaven, who is Our Creator - no one can replace Him, as He is the One who will raise us from the Dead and give us the Gift of Eternal New Life. It is important that we begin to be busy with His Affairs and Commandments now - if we are to rely on Him to bring us to Heaven after our Death. Makes sense! It is important we respect His Authority from Heaven here on earth. I wish you all a Peaceful, Holy and Joyful 2019. God bless, Fr. Brendan