

St. Agatha

St. Agatha is the Patron Saint of the parish in North William Street. She is also the patron of nurses and of diseases of the breast. Because she was born in Sicily, Italy she is also prayed to for protection against earthquakes. The name Agatha means 'goodness'.

Agatha was a woman of noble birth who lived in the 3rd century in Sicily. She was a Christian and at that time, the Roman Governor, Quintianius was persecuting Christians. He tried unsuccessfully to seduce her. He subjected her to cruel bodily torture. This included imprisonment, beating, burning, cutting off her breasts and starvation.

While she was praying in prison she had a vision of the apostle St. Peter who comforted her, healed all her wounds and filled her prison cell with a heavenly light.

Quintianius was enraged with her refusals and had her repeatedly tortured. Her courage and commitment to her faith kept her strong. She was martyred on 5th February 251.



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA NEWSLETTER

30th January 2005

*Feast of St. Agatha
5th February 2005*

You are invited to

*a Mass to celebrate the
Feast of St. Agatha*

on
*Saturday 5th February 2005
at 7.00 p.m.*

in the
*Church of St. Agatha,
North William Street*

Light Refreshments afterwards in
St. Agatha's Hall

Shrine of St Agatha,
North William Street

If you know of any housebound parishioner or anybody else who might be interested in this NEWSLETTER please give them a copy. The next NEWSLETTER is 5th February. Items for inclusion to be left in the Sacristy before Tuesday 1st February. You can visit our parish website at www.dublindiocese.ie/parishes/northwilliamstreet

Today is a time to celebrate and encourage those who work so hard to help all people, both young and old, to grow in faith. It is a time also to focus on the centre of any Christian Education—the works, words, and Person of Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Jesus,
You are my forever friend.
Help me to remember
That you are always with me.
Teach me to show love
To the people I meet each day.
Fill me with your
Love and peace.
Amen.

**Sunday 30th January -
Accord Sunday**

Accord is the Catholic Marriage Care Service of the Dublin Diocese. Among the services they provide is a pre-marriage preparation course and also a relationship counseling service especially as a support for those having difficulties in their marriage.

Maybe they can help you:
for an appointment or
further information you
can call them on
01- 4780866.

Tuesday 1st February - Feast of St. Brigid

St. Brigid's Crosses will be blessed and distributed at 9 & 10 a.m. Masses.

St. Brigid is the Patron of Ireland. She founded a religious order in her native Kildare. When Brigid was nursing a dying chieftain, who was not a Christian, she gathered rushes from the floor and wove them into a cross to explain to him the story of the death of Jesus. The chieftain was touched deeply by the story and asked to be baptised before he died.

**Wednesday 2nd February -
The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple**

*Candles will be blessed at the 9.00 and 10.00 a.m. Masses.
Blessed candles will be available in the repository.*

40 days after his birth, Jesus was presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph to fulfil the Jewish law. This feast is also called '*Candlemas Day*' because candles are blessed and lighted this day on which Simeon recognised Jesus as '*a light to reveal God to all the nations*'.

Thursday 3rd February- Feast of St. Blaise

Throats will be blessed after the 9.00 and 10.00 a.m. Masses.

St. Blaise was martyred on 3rd February 316. According to tradition, on his way to prison Blaise healed a little boy who was choking to death on a fishbone. Ever since, people pray to St. Blaise to heal diseases of the throat.

Blessing of St. Blaise

*Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr,
may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and
from every other evil, in the name of the Father, and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Friday 4th February- First Friday

Masses at 9.00 and 10.00 a.m. The names of those entered on the Altar List of the Dead will be prayed for at all Masses.

Saturday 5th February - Feast of St. Agatha