



# PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

## 3RD FEBRUARY 2019

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### Parish Mass Times

10am Weekdays & Rosary  
12pm Saturday & Rosary/Adoration  
5.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass  
11.30am Sunday Mass

### Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays  
12.30pm—1.30pm Saturdays

**Confessions** After Every Mass

*Sunday 3rd February. St Blaise is not celebrated on Sunday  
But Throats will be blessed after 11.30am Mass*



## Feast of St. Agatha Tues 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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. 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. Immediately in front of our Altar in St Agatha's Church, North William Street, Dublin 1, you can see an image, on the floor tiles, of the type of shears and a pair of pincers used to remove her breasts. Agatha, patron Saint of our Parish, please pray and intercede for our intentions.

### World Day of the Sick 2019

Mass for World Day of the Sick will be held on 10 February 2019 in Corpus Christi Church Drumcondra at 3.00pm.

### ANGER REMOVES PEACE AND MAKES US SIN

Today's Gospel is the second part of last Sunday's scene in the synagogue in Nazareth, where Jesus officially announced His mission as Messiah, Saviour and Liberator. While the people were astonished by *the gracious words from His lips* - sadly, they had no real Faith in Him, even though they were aware of all the miracles He performed in Capernaum. We, too, can very easily fail to recognise the voice of God in certain people, who in fact, whether they are aware of it or not – are bringing a message from God.

### ANGER IS A SIN

Jesus challenges us all by revealing the hypocrisy in our hearts. While the people of Nazareth outwardly praised and believed in God, inwardly in their hearts, they were not with God, because their hearts and souls were full of sin. Satan is the Father of Sin and the Source of unwarranted Anger and Pride. When the presence of Satan is challenged in us, hearts erupt through anger and disgust which leads to impatience and a lack of discipline, which in today's Gospel, led the people to try and throw Jesus over a cliff. Anger can send some people *over the top* which is a form of abuse and a sin. Only the Devil or those under his influence react like this, if one gives him a home in one's heart.

### LOST PEACE CAN BE RESTORED

Jesus revealed their shallowness and resistance to change in their hearts. He brought this out when their evil anger erupted like a volcano. Anger and hatred are evil emotions that we should not become slaves of. They remove the Peace Jesus planted in our hearts since baptism. Once our Peace is gone we end up sinning. The Sacrament of Confession replaces lost Peace when God the Father of Mercy grants Pardon and Peace to the repentant soul, through the Priest. In confession, God dispels all that anger that causes us to sin and replaces it with His calming Peace. Try it, it works!

### ASTONISHMENT TURNS TO HATRED

It was after hearing the Truth in Jesus' Words, about the poor reception His prophets received from them over the years, that stirred up their anger and guilt, because God re-directed the prophets to go and preach to the neighbouring pagans. Instead They felt wrongly insulted and got worked up into a blind rage and hatred. Truth can sometimes hurt. They assaulted Him and wanted to throw Jesus *down the cliff, but He slipped through them and walked away.*

### LOVE SHOULD BENEFIT THE OTHER PERSON

True love should benefit the other person even if it is not returned or is rejected. This is the love that God has for every single person and the kind of love which should be the characteristic of the true follower of Christ. It is that spirit of love which makes it possible to pray for those who curse and betray us. It is paired with Mercy - the ability to forgive those *who trespass against us*. Without this true love, as St. Paul tells us today, none of the other Gifts of the Spirit have any value. Love is always patient and kind and is never rude or selfish. Jesus continuously teaches us to; *Love one another as I have loved you.* God bless, Fr. Brendan