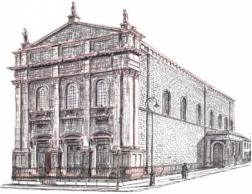


PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

4TH/5TH APRIL 2020



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THE FINAL CURTAIN - VEIL

The purple veils are now covering the Crucifixes in St. Agatha's Church, which is open five hours a day, 7 days every week. **Mon - Sun. 9am - 2pm.** The display of veils in this Lenten time, are a reminder that we live in a **veiled world in exile**, from our true Home in Heaven. It is only through our own death that the veil is completely lifted and we are finally able to see clearly what our true purpose in life was - to serve God first and foremost through love and mercy of our neighbour & fighting temptation to sin.

NEW VEIL IS THE (EUCHARISTIC) FLESH OF CHRIST

The man made curtain veil that covered the sanctuary of the Old Temple in Jerusalem, was ripped open by the force of the earthquake, at the time of Jesus' Death on the Cross. The **Passover** from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant was complete. Easter celebrates the New Temple which is now the Body of Christ, who is the New Covenant. The New Temple Veil is the Flesh of Christ, which was ripped open by the soldier's Spear, exposing the New Divine Sanctuary (a Place of Refuge) made visible in the Blessed Sacraments of the Church—for all to see and consume in Eucharistic Flesh.

COVENANT MEANS MARRIAGE

Christ is the New Covenant, meaning He is the bonding Spirit, who ties the spiritual Knot in the Eternal Marriage between the Father and us, beginning here on earth. This is the only Marriage of Love to continue beyond the grave after our **Passover**. Blood (Eucharistic Food) and Water (The Holy Spirit) still flow from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as **essential** ingredients to make Resurrection of Eternal Life. Jesus invites us to drink from this Fountain of Life, through the Sacraments of the Church. Fr. Brendan

WE ARE TO BE ATHLETES OF DISCIPLINE

The Palm branch in Christianity is a symbol of Victory and Triumph over Sin and Death. A **palm** branch was awarded to victorious athletes in ancient Greece and Rome. We are all called to be Athletes of Discipline, working-out and spiritually training to win the race against earthly time. To do this we must be spiritually fit, by exercising our faith, to **Passover** the finishing line by keeping to God's Rules. To win the race qualifies us to wear the Crown of Eternal Life. We have to **Passover** temptation and sin in life. Palm branches also represent Victory of the Spirit over the flesh (Rev 7:9).

WHAT IS THE PASCHAL MYSTERY TO DO WITH ME?

Jesus' *Passion (Suffering), Death, Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven* are referred to as the **Paschal Mystery**. They are a process of steps, directed by God, in order for Jesus to **Passover** from this earth to Heaven. The Greek word **Paschal** means **Passover**. For us to get to Heaven, we must follow the same steps. To learn how to unravel this **Paschal Mystery**, which leads to Eternal Life (Eternal Salvation), we must listen attentively to the Teachings and Knowledge given to us by Jesus in the Gospels. We have to follow them or the *Mystery* goes unsolved, leading to a possible eternal death for the soul. We must keep in mind, the reality, that we will be called someday to **Passover** ourselves, from this world to the next, and should know what it entails? We only fear death, if we don't obey the Gospel Way of life, which solves the **Passover Mystery**.

KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION [KNOW-HOW]

The Knowledge of Salvation (Eternal Life), is to have our sins forgiven before we depart this world. We must not be like Judas the betrayer, whose love of money deprived his soul of eternal Life. Why? Because he didn't seek forgiveness for his sins. Jesus would have forgiven him, if he asked for mercy. Jesus states clearly; **Better for that man if he had never been born** (Matt 26:14-27), meaning he didn't end up in Heaven but in Hell. We must repent (to regret) for our sins **before we Passover** to be Judged. Judas also didn't believe in the True Presence of God in Jesus. If we do not believe that the True Presence of God is in Holy Communion, then we are like the blasphemous Judas. We are not to settle disputes by violence, as Peter attempted to do with the sword, or sinfully deny our faith. Peter later asked for Divine Mercy, which was granted and gained him a successful Passover from death to eternal Life.

POINTING THE FINGER

We must not be like the judgemental Pilate, in exalting ourselves on a D.I.Y. throne of self-importance. When people come to us in need, we must not wash our hands of our responsibility to exercise charity. We must not be like the soldiers, by spitting on the Face of Jesus when we sin. We must not be found fast asleep in darkness when Jesus returns to take us to Heaven. We can learn from the disciples, who acted charitably, by not pointing a finger at someone else, when Jesus said that one of them would betray Him. Each one in humility acknowledged that he is a potential betrayer by saying; **Not I, Lord, surely?** Judas was acting thinking he'd never get out of Mass!

LIVING MARTYRS OF OUR TIME

We are called to be modern day Martyrs in the Name of Jesus Christ, by helping others. We are called to imitate Simon and Veronica, who courageously came forward to help the Stranger, in the midst of chaos and uncertainty. They bravely put aside concerns for their own welfare. Our Doctors, Nurses, Medical Staff and Healthcare Workers are putting aside concerns for themselves, by selflessly and generously coming forward to help strangers in desperate need of help. Doing so **in the Name of Jesus Christ**, bears the ultimate witness of Faith through Sacrifice. They are living Martyrs of our time and we are in their debt. God bless them and you, Fr. Brendan.