



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

6TH MAY 2018



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Parish Mass Times

10am Weekdays & Rosary

12pm Saturdays & Rosary/ Adoration

Confessions

After

Every Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays

12.30pm—1pm Saturday

THANK YOU

For your generosity with the Easter offering envelopes !!!

THANK YOU

For your help towards the electricity bill !!!

THE FRUIT OF THE VINE

In Baptism, Jesus becomes present in all of us (“as often as you do it to one of these, the least of My brothers and sisters, you do it to Me”), and as we are now His present day disciples, He expects us to bear His resemblance in our daily lives on this earth. He is the Blessed Fruit of the blessed womb of the Virgin Mary, and we are called by God to bear this Fruit, which is Love, towards each other, because God is Love. In every Mass the Priest says, “Blessed are You Lord God of all creation for through Your Goodness we have received the wine we offer You, fruit of the vine and work of human hands; it will become for us our Spiritual drink.” We acknowledge the miracle about to take place, when the wine will be transformed into His Eternal Life-Giving Blood to quench the thirst of our souls, by praying; Blessed be God for ever.

SPECIAL BRANCH

This weekend’s Sunday Gospel says that our relationship to Him is similar to a tree and its branches. The branch cannot be separated from the parent tree and continue to live. At the same time, it is not enough to be a branch on the tree if no fruit is produced. It is not enough to be a Christian and fulfil one’s religious duties by just attending Mass and not participating in a Christian Way of life - by exercising love and mercy. Religious duties must also include actions from the heart. The Second Reading today emphasises that love cannot just be in words and mere talk, but must become visible in deeds.

LOVE IN DEEDS

Love, Jesus reminds us today, is shown in action and deeds. Only when we are loving in deed can we know that Jesus lives in us. St Paul gives us the ultimate example in today’s First Reading. He says, that he is now a disciple of Jesus and no longer a persecutor of Christians or of Christ. When we sin, we persecute Christ and the Church which is His Body. The disciples found it hard to believe Paul - thinking a leopard cannot change its spots, so he would need more than words to change their hearts.

A FRUITFUL LIFE

Only later, when St Paul really proved his love of Jesus by his total service to the community were they ready to accept him. When he spoke out so strongly for Jesus that his life was threatened and his fellow-Christians had to send him away to a safer place, they knew he was for real. When his new-found Christian faith bore fruit, when his love was shown in action, then they knew that Jesus was his Lord. And subsequently, St Paul was instrumental in so many people becoming disciples. Truly, his was a fruitful life.

AM I A DEAD BRANCH OR A FRUITFUL BRANCH?

Today, we should ask ourselves: Am I really a living branch on the vine that is Jesus? Am I really a Christian that bears fruit? Am I living my life from a spiritual perspective so that others recognise the resemblance of that fruit of Love in me? Can other people see the influence that Jesus has on my life – in my words, my actions, my almsgiving, my support for my parish, my general behaviour and lifestyle? Am I unmistakably a follower of Jesus? Then we continue to ask ourselves; How many people, including my family, have come to know and believe in Jesus because of me and my actions as a Christian? Don’t be afraid to let people see you have discovered the Joy of knowing God’s love that comes to us through Jesus and his Church.

Proposal for new Mass times starting from June

To synchronize with surrounding parishes’ Mass times

Following from last weeks part-homily and Newsletter regarding changing times. Our Saturday Evening Vigil Mass is proposed to begin at a new earlier time of [5.30pm](#) to coordinate with St Joseph’s (East Wall), Vigil Mass which is at [6.30pm](#), and St Laurence O’Toole’s (Seville Place), which is at [7.30pm](#). [This leaves an hour’s space between each Mass as one Priest can celebrate all 3 Masses in the one evening - if necessary].

In fact, I welcome Fr. Robert Coakley, from Seville Place, this evening who is celebrating our 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass as I am away until tomorrow.

Sunday Masses at St Agatha’s would be reduced from two Masses to one new Mass [at 11.30am](#). The new 11.30am Sunday Mass time closely meets half-way between our existing 10.30am and 12pm Masses. I apologise for the inconvenience that it will cause and pray you agree with the above. I am too aware that a change is not always easy.

It is important that the Priests help out and serve each other too. Thank you for your understanding and anticipated cooperation, and would hope **3rd June 2018** a suitable day for our New Schedule as it is Corpus Christi Day or the Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ which we will mark with a Eucharistic Procession around our Community praying the Holy Rosary. God bless you in Jesus and Mary, Fr Brendan.