



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

6TH OCTOBER 2019

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Parish Mass Times

10am MASS & Rosary
11am Sat. Mass & Rosary/Adoration
5.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
11.30am Sunday Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays
11.00am—12.00pm Saturdays

Confessions After Every Mass

St Francis Hospice Coffee Morning

The Hospice thanks everybody for raising €615 last Sunday!



THANK YOU ALSO TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO CLEANED THE CHURCH

**MASS AT 10:00 AM THIS MONDAY 7th OCTOBER
FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**

This day of celebration urges all pray and meditate on the mysteries of Christ, following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lady of Fatima asked us to pray the Rosary everyday to bring peace to our families and the world. St. Padre Pio said that the Rosary is the weapon against Evil.

NEW SHRINE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We are very grateful to the Daughters of Charity for entrusting the statue of St. Vincent to our parish Church. This act of charity allows us to create a new Shrine in honour of Vincent. The Statue of St. Vincent reminds us of the wonderful fruitful work carried out by the Vincentian religious family, through the mission of the sisters, benefiting many families. While the convent in North William St, is closed, the great work of the sisters continues in our parish, through Sr. Nuala & Sr. Bridget.

St. Vincent is the patron of all works of charity. He founded the Congregation of the Mission in 1625. He established many hospitals with St. Louise de Marillac, who he co-founded the Daughters of Charity in 1633. It was the first non-cloistered religious institute of women devoted to active charitable works, feeding and nursing the sick and needy. The society of St. Vincent DePaul was founded by blessed Antoine Frederic Ozanam in 1833.

St. Vincent pray for us .

THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

In the Gospel today (Lk 17:5-10), Jesus is telling us how important faith is, and if we surrender to God's Will, its spiritual powers become unlimited – even to uproot a tree! Unfortunately, we do not realise the power we possess and take faith for granted. Do we ever ask Jesus to increase this supernatural virtue in us? It is a precious gift from God and like a seed, it is spiritually planted in our hearts, at Baptism, by the Holy Spirit. Faith is what makes us Christian. Faith gives us an understanding of God's Ways and builds our trust in Him. Through faith (trust) in God's Mercy, we obtain the forgiveness of our sins in Confession, and believe in the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Faith is our spiritual passport into Heaven.

MUSTARD SEED

Jesus uses the tiny mustard seed as an example, because in time, it grows into an enormous full tree, with outstretched branches, that facilitate nests (home) for birds and where animals and humans can find shelter (charity), from the sun and rain, benefiting all who encounter it. In the same way, the tiny seed of faith, when planted in our hearts, is expected to grow to full spiritual maturity, through prayer and acts of charity, to benefit others. Authentic Faith is letting go of our freewill and putting all our trust in God's Will for us on earth.

DUTY TO SERVICE

Jesus informs us that it is our DUTY to serve God through faith. God has gone to a lot of trouble for us, by becoming human and dying on the Cross, so as to take a stake in all our lives, that no human love can match. God should not be in debt to us, for our dutiful service to Him, because He created our existence and in His Goodness, provides Eternal Life, beyond the grave. As Christians, we have a duty to do, what we are told to do, by God and not to expect payment. The Eternal Covenant (Agreement) God entered into with us, is conditional, in that, we made a vow (baptism) to live by faith, which is the only Way to get into Heaven.

EUCHARIST MEANS THANKSGIVING

Like servants, we are in debt to Him. The word Eucharist, is from the Greek word meaning, *Thanksgiving*. If we have complete trust in His Word and exercise fasting and daily prayer (Rosary), with acts of love and mercy, then our faith will increase. The road to increase our faith is long and hard, but is available to those who are willing to pay the price of discipleship. We can never stop praying, thinking we have done enough. Our pilgrimage on earth is not over yet. Our payment and reward will be great in Heaven. For a non-Church goers to say that they have their own faith makes no sense, because there is only one faith and only one God and Father.

FAITH IS OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

The purpose of Faith is to answer God's Call, to serve Him out of our Christian duty. Faith enlightens our minds where we grow in divine wisdom. Faith gives us spiritual insight into the mysteries of God and helps us see Him in others and in the Eucharist. Faith is our source of patience and spiritual strength, informing us to fear God, especially if we are not prepared for the Day of Judgement. The supreme act of faith and trust in God, is when we don't abandon His Church, in times of suffering, caused by mankind. We have been *told* to do no more *than our duty*. Love God and one another. Fr B.