



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

7TH OCTOBER 2018

Fr. Brendan Kealy Adm.: 087 9117575 Office : Tel: 8554078

E mail : office@stagathaparish.ie Website: www.stagathaparish.ie



Parish Mass Times

10am Weekdays & Rosary

12pm Saturdays & Rosary/Adoration

Confessions

After

Every Mass

5.30pm Vigil, 11.30am Sundays

Eucharistic Adoration

10.30am—1pm Weekdays

12.30pm—1pm Saturday

ROSARY PARISH PROCESSION SUNDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2018

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY AFTER 11.30AM MASS



This Sunday you are invited to join in with people from over 44 countries around the world who will gather on their coasts, to pray the Rosary for Life and Faith on this the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. We will have a Rosary Procession around the Parish after 11.30am Mass today. There is also a 2.30pm Public Rosary gathering at the Statue of Our Lady Star of the Sea , Bull Island (Wooden Bridge), Dollymount Dublin.

Last Sunday's Collections

First Collection €215 Share €161 September Family Envelopes €1977

FUND RAISING FOR SIDE CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OUR DEAD

As a cost cutting exercise on electricity bills, we will use the side Chapel of St Agatha's for future 10am Weekly Daily Masses. Funerals will be held in the main Church as will weekend Masses. **The proposed work will begin this November** placing an adjustable Partition & Door, in the Archway & to carpet & paint area. Access will still be from the main Church. To finance this transformation, everybody is invited to make a donation & in return, the Names of your Loved ones will be placed on the walls of this Remembrance Memorial Chapel which already has the names of deceased past parishioners on the walls. Your support on this will be gratefully appreciated & pleasing to God. Thank you.

WE CANNOT DIVORCE OURSELVES FROM GOD EVEN IF WE GET BORED!

Jesus touches on a very sensitive and painful reality in our society today, but does not shy away from addressing the question of divorce. To listen and obey the Word and Law of God, one must be humble. To become like little children implies to be obedient to our parents. For Christians, it is to obey the rules of God Our Father. Today's Readings speak of a Relationship, a Marriage which is another word for a Covenant. Jesus introduces Marriage as a Sacrament (imparting Divine Grace and His Presence), between a man and a woman who are to become one in Love. God is Love. Marriage truly expresses one's love for another person. The people of the Old Testament entered into divorce freely, but Jesus is clearly saying that divorce is not always a good thing. However, the compassionate Church (Jesus), also understands that not all marriages work and provides a process to dissolve a marriage that was entered into through immaturity or where one partner deceived the other with hidden secrets. It is called an Annulment (Cancellation/Repeal).

TESTING OUR FAITH THROUGH SUFFERING

The second reading highlights suffering and that Jesus united Himself to us in an Eternal Marriage (or Eternal Covenant), through Suffering, which brought about redemption or freedom (deliverance) from evil to the world. Jesus is emphasising the presence of suffering in all relationships, whether united or broken, and asking us to imitate Him in becoming humble in these situations. All Marriages are meant to reflect His relationship with the Church. Full of Love, Forgiveness, Fidelity, Faithfulness, Selflessness, Joy, Peace, Patience, Understanding, Tolerance and Humility. Jesus comes to us in a Marriage modelled on Love and Mercy. While Moses allowed divorce, according to the Old Broken Covenant - it is important for us to realise that Jesus comes to us with a **New Eternal Everlasting Unbroken Covenant** between God and Humans - this differs from the Old Covenant. Human marriages should reflect this new Covenant. Jesus is also informing us that we can never divorce ourselves from God in this new marriage or covenant with Him, even in difficult times of suffering, which exists to test our faith.

GIFT OF ONESELF TO GOD THROUGH SACRIFICE

All Priests and Religious are married. We were called to willingly enter into an Eternal Spiritual Marriage (Covenant) with the Church (the Mystical Body of Christ and His People), on the day of our ordination and profession of faith. We were called to accept the sacrifices in our lives. Celibacy and abstaining from sexual pleasure is a significant sacrifice, and while it appears to be *a sign of contradiction to mankind* (Luke 2:34), it is a very welcomed and pleasing Gift of one's full-self to God, according to St Paul (1Cor 7:32-35). Our gift of chastity (purity of the body), is willingly offered through the strength of God's Grace, received through the hands of Mary, the Virginal and Pure Mother of God and the Church. It is a Vow. It is a sacrifice which Jesus, the King of Virgins and Purity, depends on to help bring holiness into the world. We all have a role to play as co-redeemers through our sacrifices and sufferings, helping to reduce the evil in the world.

LOVE EXISTS

Since my one year in St Agatha's Parish, my heart is always touched when burying a husband or a wife and seeing how the remaining spouse or children tell me of the happy marriage that existed in their home. One has only to see and talk to the bereaved spouse to realise the terrible void that is left when a partner of many years dies. They feel as if a part of themselves have been torn from them. It can take years for life to come back to some kind of normality, hence Jesus says in today's Gospel; *They are no longer two, therefore, but one body*. May these beloved souls all rest in peace. God bless you all in the love of Christ. Fr Brendan