



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

8TH DECEMBER 2018

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THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception, is not to be confused with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary at the Annunciation, or the Virgin Birth of Jesus, that we celebrate at Christmas. The Immaculate Conception refers to Mary's own moment when she was conceived inside the womb of her own mother, St. Anne.

MARY IS FREE FROM ORIGINAL SIN

Mary was conceived through a loving physical union between her Mum and Dad, St. Joachim and St. Anne and it is this conception in her Mum's womb we celebrate today. Immaculate Conception means that from the womb of her mother, Mary was preserved from the stain of Original Sin. When we were all conceived in our Mum's wombs, we inherited the mark of Original Sin from Adam and Eve. Only Baptism removes this mark of original deadly sin from our little souls replacing it with the mark of Eternal Life. But God made one exception with Mary, giving her a Singular Grace, because she was chosen to be the Mother of Almighty God, so her body had to be completely free from any mark of sin for Him to dwell in. She was Immaculate in the womb and remains forever Immaculate, which means unstained or perfectly clean and pure from sin.

NEVER LOST TRUST IN GOD

So today we celebrate this Immaculate Conception on the 8th December and if we count 9 months on from today, it leads us to the 8th September which is the annual feast day of the Birth of Mary. St. Anne and St. Joachim prayed for a child all their lives. As time passed, Anne became barren, but continued to pray to God for the high honour and privilege of becoming a mother. Anne promised God if blessed with a child, she would pledge the baby to Him through the School of the Holy Temple. Many years passed, Anne never lost her trust in God and one day an Angel appeared to her revealing that God would grant her request. The Angel instructed Anne to go home and enter into a physical union with her husband and she conceived. Anne became the mother of a little girl, who she named Mary.

THANKSGIVING TO GOD

Anne fulfilled her promise to God and in an act of Thanksgiving, Mary was presented to the Temple School of God as soon as she reached the age of three. She was received by the High Priest Zechariah, who later became the father of John the Baptist. Mary remained for twelve years growing in holiness, wisdom and grace until the age of fifteen. The Church celebrates this Presentation of Mary to the Temple on the 21st November each year. Sts. Joachim and Anne are considered the Patron Saints of Religious Education and their Feast Day is 26th July.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Mary was always destined to be the Mother of God and Christians, as the New Eve (Genesis), the *offspring* to crush the head of the Serpent (Satan). At the age of 15 years old, Mary, the handmaid of the Lord, received a Visitation from the Archangel Gabriel announcing that she would give birth to the Son of God, through her consent. Our Lady reminds us of her own Immaculate Conception through the Miraculous Medal with the words: ***O Mary conceived Without Sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*** Medals and Rosary beads are freely available to take home at our new Shrine to Mary, to the left of the Altar. God bless, Fr Brendan.

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

Anniversaries

Welcome to Jer and the O'Leary Family as we remember the 1st Anniversary of Eithne in or Mass today.

We also welcome the families of Joe Rock Snr - 2nd Anniversary and Audrey Cluskey - 10th Anniversary.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

A Magical Night of Christmas Music and Song

11th December, 2018
7pm, Liberty Hall Theatre

Featuring
The Artane Boys Band
Plus special guests from our area.

All proceeds go to the Capuchin Day Centre, Bow Street



Tickets are €3, they are available from St. Agatha's Parish Office, & the Shop at back of Church

Or by calling 01-2223893 or 2226604

