



## PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

7/8TH MARCH 2020

Fr. Brendan Kealy Adm.: 087 9117575 Office : Tel: 8554078  
Mr John Kelly: Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council  
E-mail : office@stagathasparish.ie Website: ww.stagathasparish.ie

### 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

### The Annual Novena of Grace Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Novena prayer to St. Francis Xavier will be said at all Masses here in St. Agatha's.  
*Parishioners can tune into the Novena by means of the Parish Radio Link.*

### CORONAVIRUS CHECKLIST FOR THE PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

It is essential in the coming days & weeks that everyone follows both prescribed hand & respiratory hygiene at their discretion. Regarding Sunday and Weekday Mass Celebrations and Funerals, **the advice** given is that the following should be suspended temporarily for health reasons:

- The practice of shaking hands at the Sign of Peace and greeting and departure
- \* The practice of receiving Holy Communion on the tongue is at your discretion
- \* Holy Water is your choice to use or not. A new hand sanitiser is at the back of Church to use when departing

#### GENERAL CHECKLIST— THERE IS A NEW SANITISER AT THE REAR OF ST AGATHA'S

- Wash your hands properly and often especially after coughing and sneezing
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough and sneeze
- Put used tissues into a bin and wash your hands thoroughly
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are not well
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, mouth or face if your hands are not clean

The full advice given by the HSE is available here: <https://www.dublindiocese.ie/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-religious-services/>

**As a Community of Faith, our charism is to take proper care of each other's wellbeing, both spiritual and physical and to take measures not to spread viruses. Please feel free to use the NEW HAND SANITISER on your way out of Church.**

### TRANSFIGURATION MEANS CONVERSION TO SOMETHING NEW

The Lenten Season is an opportunity given to us every year to highlight the necessity to change from our sinful state of life back to our virtuous good way of life, as God intended. This is why the Gospel today (Matthew 17:1-9) brings us the transfiguration story in Lent. It is not just about Jesus' Transfiguration which reveals the duality of His Nature, being Human and Divine, but also reveals the duality of our own nature. It also gives us a glimpse of what happens to us at the moment of death, when our immortal (spiritual) body will be separated from our mortal (human) body.

### WE POSSESS TWO BODIES

We are all made-up of two natures (bodies). Our human nature, which is clothed in a worldly flesh and our divine nature, which is clothed in an invisible spiritual flesh. Both natures are subject to God's Divine Law. It is only the spiritual nature which is immortal and will live forever. When we take our last breath from this world, our human nature is the one to die, returning to dust. We were reminded of this when we wore the dust on Ash Wednesday.

### SIN IS A TERMINAL ILLNESS BUT CAN BE CURED

It is our spiritual nature that faithfully departs the body and ascends to meet our Creator to be judged. On that day, there will be a spiritual biopsy performed by Christ the Judge, revealing if we allowed the disease of sin to spread all over our hearts which paralysed it and prevented it from loving and forgiving each other, while living on earth. If we did not allow Jesus to transfigure our hearts and souls, then the Judgement will not be pleasant. To live in sin by disobeying God's Teachings and law, to not forgive or love each other, by being always angry and impatient, to gossip and kill people's character behind their backs, is a spiritual terminal illness. The Good News is that it can be cured by Jesus, if we go to Him to be healed - to be transfigured. All the people in the Gospels went to Jesus first to ask forgiveness (to be healed spiritually and physically sometimes). His Divine Mercy is the spiritual vaccine to counteract the poison of sins when confessed. Moses represents law, Elijah, the Teachings.

### JESUS THE DIVINE DOCTOR

Christ is Word, Teacher, Law, Way, Truth, Life and Saviour of us all. If we allow Jesus, the Divine Physician, to transfigure us in the Sacrament of Confession, then we have nothing to worry about on Judgement Day. We will be given a New Glorious body to replicate the purity and dazzling whiteness of Christ and be found worthy to enter Heaven. Abram today (Gen 2: 4) teaches us that to completely change our lives takes great faith in God, which in turn leads to the transfiguration of our hearts and souls. To allow God transfigure and transform our hearts, to answer His Call to live a pure and holy life with a contrite and humble heart, which enlightens our conscience, helps us through hardships and suffering, as St Paul reminds us (2 Timothy 1:8-10). To reach Heaven through Resurrection (Good News), we must carry and mount our crosses in this life and to help those around us. God bless, Fr. Brendan