



# PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

## 8TH DECEMBER 2018



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### 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



### CROSSCARE ANNUAL PARISH FOOD APPEAL

Archbishop Martin is once again seeking support for a Parish Food Appeal to support the work of Crosscare Foodbanks. Items that are most needed at this time are **Toiletries, cleaning products & Non-perishable Food**. They may be left inside the altar rail up until **next Wednesday**. We thank you behalf of Crosscare for your generosity.

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING/DUES AVAILABLE IN CHURCH

Christmas Offering/Dues Envelopes are available at the back of the Church. St. Agatha's very much appreciate your generosity. Envelopes maybe returned in the collection basket at weekends or in the box provided within the Church.

## *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

### VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

The First reading today from the Old Testament Prophet Baruch who lived approximately 500 years before the Coming of Christ (BC) and the New Testament Gospel of Luke (3:1-6) have very similar language. Both speak of making paths straight, filling in valleys and lowering mountains for the expectation of the Coming (which means Advent) of the Messiah, who is Jesus Christ our Salvation. In other words, Jesus will show us all how to prepare ourselves in order to get to Heaven, where we will enjoy Salvation. Salvation means Deliverance from all Evil which removes the mountainous obstacles we create in our lives blocking the Coming of Jesus and distorting the **Path** to Eternal Life.

### I AM SORRY JESUS

The Way to Salvation is through Repentance which means through our acknowledging Regret for our Sins. We sin when we disobey and reject the Words and Teachings of Jesus. We sin when we reject each other, refusing to love and forgive. The high mountains symbolise our Pride which can reach such heights within our hearts that we become blind and stubborn to the Voice in Holy Scripture, which results in a spiritual suicide. The deep valleys symbolise the emptiness of God and daily Prayer in our lives. Our falling into the darkness of sin becoming spiritually numb to the Evil that has embraced us. Filling in the Valleys symbolises our Repentance, regretting our sins and seeking God's Divine Mercy through the Sacrament of Confession. Jesus left Himself in this Healing Sacrament (Confession) to cure our hearts and souls so we can come to Him and say: **Sorry**, in this *Valley of Tears*.

### OUR SAVIOUR

In coming into Jesus' Presence in the Sacrament of Confession is to exercise the Virtue of Humility which is lowering the mountains (pride) and by confessing a simple **Sorry** with our lips for our selfishness which straightens our twisted (sinful) Path. The only reason Jesus came to walk the earth is to Heal our spiritual health. He wants to warn us of the pitfalls, the existence of Satan in our lives and to deliver us from Hell. Hence He is called Our Saviour.

### THE VOICE

The Voice in the midst of our sinful darkness is Jesus Calling us through the Prophet John the Baptist before Coming Himself in the Flesh, when He uses His own Voice to call us as He does in every Gospel we read and hear. The first step in our spiritual life is not to see our life as our own project but as a vehicle for God's purpose. We can all be absorbed in our own ways, forgetting that the Road to Heaven is one of self-giving of our Talents to others and God. In order for us to do this we must be cleansed of all sinful attachments and addictions and be baptised in the Love of Christ.

### FREEWILL IS A GIFT

Sin pollutes our freewill and prevents us from hearing the Voice. Advent is an opportunity to strip ourselves of the cloak of Pride. We can all fall into patterns of self absorbance but NEVER think we are too far gone, because none of us are ever out of the reach of God's Mercy and Healing Hands. He is ALWAYS here for you and me. God bless, Fr Brendan.

