



**PARISH OF ST. AGATHA**  
**8TH/9TH FEBRUARY 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

INCOME MONIES	2018	2017
Family Offering Envelopes	23,800	25,362
Shrine	19,702	15,561
Donations/Bequests	5,580	3,830
Shop	2,321	2,026
Rental Income	23,639	12,101
Other	<u>3,371</u>	<u>5,428</u>

**TOTAL INCOME €78,413 €64,308**

**EXPENDITURE/OUTGOING MONIES**

Personnel	16,794	18,695
Shop	348	754
House, Rates, Insurance	11,942	12,668
Repairs & Maintenance	7,573	3,141
Heat & Light	14,959	19,156
Phone, Post, Printing, Stationary	2,128	1,732
Papers & Publications	1,056	1,293
Altar Supplies & Ceremonies	10,298	11,339
Accounting Services	1,207	100
Security	4,791	1,060
Bank interest & Charges	446	422
Other	<u>1,260</u>	<u>9,956</u>

**TOTAL SPEND OF €72,802(2018) compared to €80,316(2017)**  
**2018 Profit of €5,611 compared to €16,008 loss in 2017**

The healthy In-Profit Accounts for 2019 will be finalised later this year. Overall Donations for the New Side Chapel of the Holy Souls will be published then. Individual details of donors will not be published in accordance with Data Protection Law. When lighting a candle you are generously contributing to the Parish Fund which is very much appreciated and welcomed as an Act of Almsgiving & Devotion. Thank you for your wonderful financial & spiritual support.

**WE ARE THE FAITH [SALT] AND LIGHT OF THE EARTH**

Christians are defined by Faith and Light in this earth. We *must shine in the sight* of all humanity through doing *good works*. The Light that Jesus talks about in today's Gospel (Matt 5:13-16), is our Faith which is Himself in us, who is Love and Mercy. To live our Faith is to share His Divine Nature with our neighbour. Jesus also compares us, in the context of our Faith, to Salt, because salt is an ingredient that preserves and enhances the taste of food. Faith is the spiritual salt or spiritual ingredient that enhances and preserves our souls that retains that spiritual taste and hunger for Eternal Life (Heaven).

**WITHOUT FAITH WE BECOME SPIRITUALLY TASTELESS**

If salt becomes tasteless, it becomes *good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men*. If we allow our faith to die within us by not exercising love or not coming to Mass weekly, then we become spiritually dead. To be *trampled underfoot by men* refers to Satan's treatment of us. Faith is the Light that guides and rises us out of the darkness of sin. Not using this Lamp of Divine Law is like foolishly hiding it *under a tub*. The wise person *puts it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone*. We are the Faith of the Earth and through our prayer life, provide for the salvation of many.

**LIVE ACCORDING TO OUR FAITH**

Jesus uses images of salt and light to highlight the divine gifts given to us to be used wisely. We will become spiritually *good for nothing* if we do not use them, as instructed. Practiced Faith brings Salvation to the world and is not just for me but it is to be shared. That is why Jesus compares Faith to an elevated city, in that, it is meant to be seen and shared with others by example of our Christian lifestyle. The First Reading today (Is 58:7-10), informs us *to share our bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man we see naked and not turn from our own kin* (Church family and Home family).

**LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINES THROUGH US**

Performing acts of charity helps purify our souls and *quickly heals* our burdened hearts. Our mission is to season our hearts and those of our spiritual brothers and sisters, lost in darkness (sin) with heavenly wisdom and the light of divine knowledge. In calling us, *the light of the world*, we should realise we have been enlightened by Him, the True and Everlasting Light. All true divine knowledge is to be learned from the teachings of the Gospels. Granting Mercy is the Salt which gives flavour to our good works. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass nourishes and cultivates our Faith increasing our spiritual enlightenment. Anyone who says they are spiritual but never goes to Mass, are not Godly spiritual. Like salt to food, faith improves our soul & spiritualises us. God bless, Fr. Brendan