



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

9TH SEPTEMBER 2018



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Thank You Letter to Lord Mayor

Lord Mayor of Dublin
Nial Ring
Mansion House
Dawson Street
Dublin 2

22nd August 2018

RE: THANK YOU

Dear Lord Mayor Nial,

I am writing on behalf of the parish of Saint Agatha's, in expressing our appreciation and thanks to you and your wife Joyce and family, for hosting a terrific evening for the Celebration of Holy Mass last Saturday the 18th inst. The refreshments provided afterwards, along with the entertainment, were truly fantastic and very much appreciated. The parish are still talking about it as I write! Thank you again.

The opportunity you provided to celebrate a Holy Mass, in the Mansion House, for the People of Dublin, and for the parishioners gathered, was truly a ground-breaking decision. We include Pauline, your wonderful Mum, as part of our gratitude for her part in the inspiration to invite Christ into the Mansion House, that night!

We take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as the Lord Mayor of Dublin and assure you of our support and prayers in exercising such an important Office.

Best wishes with God's blessing,
Fr Brendan Kealy Adm.

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.

SACRAMENTAL HEALING TOUCH

The healing process Jesus uses in today's Gospel (Mark 7:31-37), is a ritual which is imitated in the Rite of Baptism. Jesus puts his fingers in the man's ear and puts spittle (spit) on his tongue. At the same time Jesus looked heavenward – to His Father – and said in Aramaic; **Be opened**. Immediately the man was healed from deafness. The people cried out: *He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak*. They were echoing the lovely words from Isaiah in the First Reading today: *Look, your God is coming... the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy*. The future coming of God, promised by the prophet Isaiah, had arrived.

THE MODEL OF BAPTISM

The same divine healing and miracle takes place in every Baptism, when the Priest, in the Person of Jesus and on His behalf, anoints the child with the Holy Spittle of Christ or the Holy Oil of Chrism and the Holy Blessed Water, where the Spirit of God is present. Jesus uses the person of the Priest to anoint and bless the person's mouth, ears, heart and head with the words; *Be opened*. Jesus remains with us today in all forms of the Sacraments.

SPIRITUALLY RESTORED TO SERVE GOD

In another Gospel (Mark 8:23), Jesus encounters a blind man, and the spittle from Jesus' mouth and tongue was placed on the blind man's eyes and his sight was restored, which is seen as opening his eyes spiritually to the Word of God, which comes from the mouth of Jesus. Saliva or Spittle, is a form of water and coming from the Body of Jesus is holy and healing, washing away the Sin, placed there by Satan, from the time in the Garden of Eden. Only Baptism can remove Original Sin inherited from our first parents, Adam and Eve. Jesus is preparing and marking us for Eternal Life - that is why we get baptised. Baptism is a sign of our full incorporation into the Body of Christ, His very Being, Spittle and all: His Church, from Gift of Faith.

WASHED CLEAN FOR GOD

Baptism means we are spiritually washed and cleansed from the mark of that Original Sin. The Blessed Holy Water and Oils indicate and are visible signs of the presence Holy Spirit at work. I remember as a child, my Mum would sometimes spit on a hanky to wipe clean my face! God, as our Spiritual loving Father, and adapts the same care and attention to our invisible souls, but visible to Him, so we look good and be clean and pure in heart for His Second Coming.

THE FINGER OF GOD

The Finger of God also wrote the 10 Commandments in stone tablets to bring His Divine Law as a means to again heal our souls from sinning. Outwardly we may look different resulting in us unfairly treating each other with class distinction. However, God our Father, does not do this but treats us all equally and looks into our hearts and souls to see if we continue to keep ourselves spiritually clean as adults, by 'utilising' Him in the Sacrament of Confession where He continues to wash us clean with His Divine Mercy: Blood and Water. God bless, Fr. Brendan.

CROSS + CARE COLLECTION WILL REPLACE THE SHARE COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND