

HUMILITY IS THE KEY TO GET INTO HEAVEN

Oxen and horses have a yoke or a harness placed on their shoulders (Matt11:25-30) to make it easier for them to pull a heavy load. It protects their skin from getting blisters and sores making it easier for them to persevere and endure in their mission. The harness also supports the reins attached to the head bridle, allowing the horse's master to guide it. Jesus is our true Master, wishing to reign our lives, in order to guide us in the right direction of Heaven. We all have a mission to serve God and to love our neighbour in the spirit of mercy, gentleness and humility. Life comes with pain and suffering. Jesus is not proposing freedom from suffering, but freedom from ourselves and our pride. He wants to place His spiritual yoke upon our shoulders, for the purpose of helping us to carry our heavy Crosses in life. He will free us from the burden of sin by going to confession.

MASS IS THE GATEWAY ON EARTH TO HEAVEN

Catholics who don't go to Mass, often say that they feel spiritual and live by their own faith. Satan has his own faith, but it's not from God. His spirituality is evil. There is only one Faith and that is given to us by Christ in Baptism. Any other faith is counterfeit. True faith leads the spiritual soul to Mass every week. St. Paul (Rom 8:9,11-13) says that the unfaithful and *unspiritual do not possess the Spirit of Christ because they do not belong to Him*. The spiritual who are faithful to the teachings of Christ, belong to Him, and will be raised to eternal life after death. The unspiritual will miss out on claiming their inheritance in Heaven and *'doomed to die'* forever. The Good News though is that if the unspiritual or unfaithful *put an end to the misdeeds of the body, then they will live*. We have to be in Holy Communion with Jesus here on earth, through the Church, in order to live in Eternal Holy Communion with Him in Heaven. The Mass needs to be part of our lives on earth. Humility helps us surrender to God's Divine Will. Pride misdirects us *to obey our unspiritual selves and to live unspiritual lives*. As our new Parish Partnership between St. Laurence and St. Agatha's has begun, let us pray for each other to come together in Christ. God bless, Fr. Brendan.