



ST AGNES' PARISH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Priests of the Parish

Fr. J. Deasy P.P. Ph. 4550955
Fr. J. Foster Ph. 4650714
Fr. P. Coffey Ph. 4650707
Fr. M. Kelly Ph. 4542308
Fr. M. Scott Ph. 4650712

Family Offering: € 1,413
Share: € 1,544

Many thanks for your continued support and generosity

Thought for the Week

"There are two things to do about the Gospel—believe it and behave it." - Susanna

St. Agnes

Patron Saint of our Church and Parish-January 21st.

St. Agnes is honoured as one of the four great virgin martyrs of the Church and is one of the most famous Roman martyrs. She is also one of seven women excluding the Blessed Virgin commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass. She is Patron Saint of girls, engaged couples, virgins, rape victims, Children of Mary and gardeners. Agnes lived in Rome at a time when it was against the law to be Christian. She was young, wealthy and beautiful—the daughter of a distinguished patrician family of Rome. Agnes' parents were pagan. It was the custom for rich parents to entrust the education of their daughters to nurse—slaves until they were of age to get married. Some of these slaves were very well instructed, especially those who came from Greece. They were often Christian, this was obviously the case of the one to whom Agnes was entrusted. Agnes became a Christian.

There were many young men in Rome who wanted to marry her, but she refused them all saying that she had chosen Someone else. For refusing she was accused of being a Christian. She was brought before the Roman Prefect. At first he was mild, gentle and kind to Agnes, promising her money and position if she would deny her faith. Agnes refused. The judge tried to frighten her to abandon her faith by showing her instruments of torture and fire but she stood firm. She was sentenced by a judge to a house of ill repute where a young man tried to molest her—he was struck down—blind. His friend picked him up and brought him to Agnes who cured him. Agnes was ordered to be burned at the stake in the public square but the flames did not touch her. Finally she was executed by the sword—a double victim sacrificed for her loyalty to her Christian Faith and to her vow of virginity'. It is said that her execution in 304 at the age of thirteen shocked many Romans and help bring an end to persecutions. She was buried in her parents household cemetery which was located a short distance from the city limits of Rome on the Via Nomentana. A small chapel was built over the Saints grave. Fifty years later a Basilica was built and in the seventh century—this Basilica was renewed. Agnes has been represented as a young woman bearing a palm or sword and holding a lamb. The symbolism of the lamb is suggested by her innocence and purity. The Latin word for 'Lamb' is Agnus. The flower of St. Agnes is the Christmas Rose. Its delicate white blossoms represent the Special Patron of purity.

For centuries two lambs have been brought to the Basilica on her feast from the sheepfold of Trappist Fathers. They are blessed and brought to the Vatican to be shown to the Pope before being brought to the Benedictine Nuns of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere who rear them until Holy Thursday when they are sheared. From the wool twelve pallia [stoles] are woven. These are worn during ceremonies by the Pope, Archbishops, and Patriarchs: we look forward to a fuller account after the Parish Pilgrimage to Rome.

Sources: Cath. Fournier & Shannie Scarola.

Recently Baptised

Alex Owen Farrell
Abby Kate McGuinness
Allen Gabriele Castro



We welcome them into our Christian Community and wish them every blessing in their lives ahead

Yoga.

Yoga resumes on Thursday January 21st.

Times are 9.30am –10.30am



Parish Centre Hall.

Christmas Dues

Offerings of Christmas dues are gratefully acknowledged. Dues may be returned to the Sacristy, the Parish Office or the Family Offering box at the end of the Church

Let the Celebrations Begin.

On Thursday next the 21st of January at the 7pm Mass we begin our celebrations to mark the 75th Anniversary of the dedication of St. Agnes Church, which took place on the 10th of February 1935. This month on the Feast Day of St. Agnes we are having a Concelebrated Evening Mass with a guest preacher Fr. Frank Salmon S.J. On the same occasion we will be blessing a new painting of St. Agnes by a parishioner Kathleen Barron which will be erected in the Church. We hope by the 21st of the month, the weather will have improved and many parishioners will make the effort to be with us on that special occasion.

Fr. John on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2010

The Parish Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi and Shrines associated with St. Agnes will take place from Monday 17th May 2010 to Monday 24th May 2010.

- The Spiritual Director will be John Deasy PP
- Cost € 1,069 p.p.s. including taxes and charges
- Booking Deposit €200



The Pilgrimage includes:- Accommodation in a 3 Star Hotel with Breakfast each morning ~ 7 Evening meals in a local restaurant ~ Luxury air conditioned coach with guide throughout the Tour and coach to and from Dublin Airport.

To book a place or for further information, please contact Mary in the Parish Office

The Weather.

Talking about the latest forecasts is always a conversation point in Ireland Winter or Summer. This Winter we got buckets of rain, replaced by snow and ice and below zero temperatures. It is great to see so many willing to lend a hand and watching out for others in need particularly the elderly, the disabled and the housebound. This weekend shows an improvement However the winter is not over and may have a few surprises. If anybody needs help—because of problems caused by the weather—do not hesitate to ring the Parish Office and we will respond. The No. is 4555 368



1. Christ be near at Either Hand

1. Christ be near at either hand, Christ behind before me stand, Christ with me where e'er I go, Christ around, above, below.
2. Christ be in my heart and mind, Christ within my soul enshrined, Christ control my wayward heart, Christ abide and ne'er depart

2. Lord Accept the Gifts we offer

1. Lord, accept the gifts we offer, at this Eucharistic feast; Bread and wine to be transformed now, Through the action of thy priest. Take us too Lord and transform us, Be thy grace in us increased
2. May our souls be pure and spotless, As this host of wheat so fine, May all stain of sin be crushed out, Like the grape that forms the wine, As we, too, become partakers. In this sacrifice divine.

3. Sweet Sacrament Divine

1. Sweet Sacrament Divine, hid in thy earthly home, lo! Round thy lonely shrine, with suppliant hearts we come; Jesus, to thee our voice we raise, in songs of love and heartfelt praise, Sweet Sacrament Divine. [R.]
 2. Sweet Sacrament of Peace, dear home of every heart, where restless yearnings cease, and sorrows all depart, there in thine ear all trustfully we tell our tale of misery, Sweet Sacrament of Peace. [R.]
- ### 4. Be Thou My Vision
1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art: Be thou my best thought in the day and the night, Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
 2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word, Be thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord: Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son, Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Happy New Year

To The Family Mass Group Staff @ Parishioners St. Agnes's Parish Family Mass Group.

Practice after Christmas break will resume this Wednesday 20th Jan in Parish Centre at 6pm And group will be back at



10am Mass on Sunday 24th Jan.

Mass Times Resume

We hope we are over the worst of the weather. Our weekday Mass Schedule resumes from this Monday with Daily Masses at 8, 9 & 10 each morning and evening Mass at 7.00pm.

Church Unity Octave.

The week of prayer for Christian unity commences on this Monday Jan. 18th & concludes on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on Jan. 25th.

The opening Service this year will be held in the church of the Assumption, Booterstown on Monday Jan. 18th. @ 8.00pm. The guest preacher will be Gillian Kingston. The theme of this years Week of Prayer is based on Luke's Gospel Ch.24: Verse 48. 'You are witness to these things'.

Prayer for Christian unity will be offered during Masses in the Octave. As usual St. Agnes' & St. Mary's came together on New Year's Eve in a joint service to mark the closure of the old year and pray God's Blessing on all of us in 2010.

The Annual service in Irish will be held in Christ's Church Cathedral @ 8.00pm on Friday next.

The preacher will be Fr. Leon O' Giolláin

Congratulations.

Children from St. Agnes Primary School plus some boys from Scoil Cholm have featured on a Tuesday night programme which continues on RTE 1 TV this week.

The programme is called Music Changes Lives. It is a tribute to the hard work of teachers, parents and the children who have been mastering the skills of playing violins and other stringed instruments. They have already made an appearance in the National Concert Hall. Who knows some may graduate to the National Symphony Orchestra in the years ahead. Congratulations to all and best wishes for continued success in the future.

Recently Deceased

Esther Farnan, Dowland Rd
Brian Dowling, Clonard Rd
We express our deepest sympathies to their families at this time.
May They Rest in Peace. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 16th January 2010

7:00pm Shared Mass

Sunday 17th January 2010

9:00am John & Mary O'Connor {A}

10:00am Terence O'Connor {A}

11:00am Patricia & Thomas Tobin
Elizabeth & Charles Jones {A}

12:00pm Margaret Quinn {4th A} & The Kearney Family

1:00pm Aileen Gough

7:00pm Pauline Cully {A}

May Their Souls and the Souls of All The Faithful Departed Rest In Peace. Amen

St Agnes Parish - Readers Roster

Saturday 23rd January 2010

7.00pm Jeanne Cleary

Sunday 24th January 2010

9.00am Vera Brennan

10.00am Family Mass

11.00am M Finnegan & Kennedy

12.00pm Miriam Forde

1.00pm Liam Buckley

7.00pm Pat Corrigan

The Next Readers Meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th January 2010 at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre

St. Padre Pio

The next meeting will be on

Tuesday 19th Jan. 2010.

Rosary 6.45pm; Mass 7.00pm.

Followed by Benediction and Blessing.

All are Welcome.

