

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First reading

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his
power to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we
shall be saved.*

○ shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
○ Lord, rouse up your might,
○ Lord, come to our help.

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we
shall be saved.*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we
shall be saved.*

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we
shall be saved.*

Cf. Is 45: 8**Second reading****Hebrews 10:5-10**

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law
lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the
sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices
for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says:
Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing
the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will
was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body
made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation**Lk1:38**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel**Luke 1:39-45**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town
in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's
house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud
cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and
blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be
honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For
the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in
my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed
that the promise made her by the Lord would be
fulfilled.'

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power the womb of the
Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon**Is 7: 14**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's
Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.



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22nd December 2024 News/prayers

4th Sunday of Advent

Mass times on Sundays:

St Barnabas' at 9.00am

& St Agatha's at 11am

Christmas 2024

24th December 6.30pm Mass

at St Agatha's B11 1QT

25th December 10am Mass

at St Barnabas B12 8JU

Collect for the 3rd Sunday in Advent

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless
your Church preparing for Christmas; and
bless us your children, who long for your
coming. Amen.

Tickets for St Agatha's Christmas Tombola on sale at the back of church today !

Asperges me, Domine, hyssopo et mundabor,
Lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.
Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.
Thou wilt sprinkle me, O Lord, with hyssop and I shall be cleansed
Thou wilt wash me, and I shall be washed whiter than snow.
Pity me, O God, according to Thy great mercy
Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen

We pray for our parish, for all who live and work within our parish boundaries; holding them up for God's blessing. We pray for all pupils who attend the schools within our parish. We pray for St Agatha's Boxing Club, and St Barnabas' Nursery. We commend to you all who are sick or in any kind of need. We pray for the Fr Michael, Fr Sergei, Church Warden Martin and the congregation of the Russian Orthodox Parish of All Saints, who meet at St Agatha's on Saturdays.

We ask your help for all in positions of responsibility in our churches. We pray for our priest Fr Thomas Singh and his wife Sandhya as they minister in our parish. We pray for Bishop Paul.

We pray for each individual member of our congregations that we may be faithful to our vocations and worthy ambassadors of our Catholic faith.

St Agatha's Prayer

Let your forgiveness be won for us by the pleading of Saint Agatha, who found favour with you by her chastity and by her courage in suffering death for the gospel.

St Barnabas's Prayer

God our Father, You filled Saint Barnabas with faith and the Holy Spirit and sent him to convert the nations; help us to proclaim the gospel by word and deed.

We pray for those who are in need or ill:
HM The King, HRH The Princess of Wales, John Gregory, David Stokes, Peter Rouillard, Mike Lock, Jean Tomlinson, Elaine Stanley, Janet Gregory, Donnette Rigg, Ava Crossley, Phil Lee, Roger McDonald, Fr Balwant Singh, Esther Micklewright, Robert Smith, Fr. John Luff, Carole Luff
We pray for those who have died recently.



Cleaning and preparation for
Christmas.

If you can, please stay behind after
Mass on **today** to prepare St Agatha's
for Christmas.

If you would like to donate some money
towards St Agatha's Christmas flowers,
please see Priscilla.



St Agatha's Patronal Festival:

Saturday 8th February 2025 at 12 noon.