



# St Agatha's Parish Cranbourne



Plenary Council 2020  
*'Listen to what the Spirit is saying...'* REV23

**7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Year C**  
**24<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

## ST. AGATHA'S PARISH INFORMATION

**Church:** 129 Sladen Street, Cranbourne

**Presbytery:** 131 Sladen Street, Cranbourne

**Parish Office:** 1 Scott Street, PO Box 95,  
Cranbourne 3977

**Office Hours:** Mon 1.00pm - 3.00pm  
Tue to Fri 8.30am - 3.00pm  
[Closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1.00pm]

☎ 5996 1985 Fax: 5996 1992

**Email:** [parishoffice@stagathas.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@stagathas.org.au)

**Website:** [www.stagathas.org.au](http://www.stagathas.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr Joseph Abutu

**Assistant Priest:** Rev. Fr Antony Rebelo IVD

**Sisters of the Nativity:**

Sr. Mary Olofu & Sr. Faustina Ede ☎ 5996 1985

**Parish Child Safety Officers:**

Leonard Foo & Loretta Chin ☎ 5996 1985

**Email:** [cranbourne.safety@cdsale.org.au](mailto:cranbourne.safety@cdsale.org.au)

**Parish Secretaries:** Sue Ryan & Tina Dam

☎ 5996 1985

**St Agatha's Primary School**

3 Scott Street, Cranbourne

☎ 5996 2724

**Principal:** Mr Terry Cahill

**St Therese's Primary School**

131 Endeavour Drive

Cranbourne North

☎ 5996 7525

**Principal:** Mrs Michelle Bruitzman

**St Peter's Secondary College**

West Campus - Navarre Drive Cranbourne West

East Campus - 55 MacKillop Way Clyde Nth

☎ 5990 7777

**Principal:** Mr Chris Black

## ST. AGATHA'S PARISH MASS TIMES

**Saturday:** 6.00pm

**Sunday:** 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.45am, & 6.00pm

### Weekday Mass Times

**Monday:** 9.30am

**Tuesday:** 9.30am

**Wednesday:** 9.30am

**Thursday:** 9.30am & 7.30pm

**Friday:** 9.30am & 7.30pm

**Saturday:** 9.30am

### Reconciliation/Confession

Friday: 10.00am

Saturday: 10.00am

### Mass for Vocations

Saturdays 9.30am

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday: 10.00am - 11.00am

Saturday: 10.00am - 11.00am

First Friday of the Month: 8.30pm - 9.00am

**Adoration Chapel:** 24/7 Entry to the chapel is via a PIN code, obtained through the Parish Office.

**Healing Mass** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month at 6.00pm

### First Saturday Mass at 9.30am

In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

**First Friday Mass** 7.30pm followed by a spiritual teaching and all-night Adoration

**Mass for the Unborn:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month 9.30am

**Holy Hour for the Unborn** - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month  
7.30pm-8.30pm in the Adoration Chapel.

### Baptisms

Sundays at 12.30pm by appointment. Baptism Information Session held on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, starting at 3.00pm in the Hall. [Bookings may be made through the parish website or by visiting the parish office]

### Marriages

6 months' notice requested

## PARISH NEWS

**Dear Parishioners,** we remember in our prayers Bishop Patrick this week as he celebrates his 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination as Bishop of Sale.

Please pray for the people who have died and suffered injuries in the fire disaster in Bangladesh.

In the next few weeks on the Church stain glass window near the sanctuary a new outside awning will be installed to stop the glare of the evening sun.

We welcome new parishioners to our parish and encourage you to register with our parish and join the stewardship program.

God bless you all, Fr Joseph

**WE WELCOME AS CHILDREN OF GOD:** Ivy & Mia Cresswell, children of Ben & Kylie, Zachary Borg, child of Steven & Danielle, Dinah Cramer, child of Jude & Shehane, Eva Therese, child of Stuart & Nicole and Mason Bennett, child of Rudi & Hayley.

**SACRAMENT RECONCILIATION:** Children, please collect your worksheet from foyer after Mass. If you have any queries please contact Sr Mary.

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am, 2.15pm St Agatha's whole school Mass, 5.30pm & 7.30pm in the Church and at 2.30pm at St Therese's School hall. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast & Abstinence. Catholics who have completed their 18<sup>th</sup> year and have not yet begun their 60<sup>th</sup> year are obliged to Fast. In addition, all Catholics who have completed their 14<sup>th</sup> year are obliged to Abstain from meat.

**SACRED CONCERT WITH DAVID PARKES:** Irish singer, David Parkes, will be giving a Sacred Concert on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at St Agatha's Church beginning at 7.30pm, after Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm. During the concert David will give his testimony about his miraculous healing from Crohns disease when prayed over by Fr. Peter Rookey in Medjugorje. Entry is free but a collection will be taken up to help with expenses. David's latest CD "Remember Me" will be available to purchase. For more information see flyer on the notice board in the Church foyer. Enq: Divine Mercy Publications 9830 4386.

**DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING BEHIND THE PARTS OF THE MASS?** In his video-based study *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. In this study, you will come to know and understand the Mass as never before, leading you to a richer, more fruitful worship experience. Join us for *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* at **St Agatha's Parish Hall** beginning **24<sup>th</sup> February 2019** from **7.15pm** and continuing every Sunday for **5 weeks**. \$15. For more information or to register for the study, please contact the Parish office on 59961985.

**LENTEN PROGRAM BEGINS 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Lent is a time of retreat, reflection, and repentance, a time to clear away the distractions of the world and to focus on our relationship with God and how we are living our lives. Through the companionship of a Lenten group we can journey towards Easter together. If you have never experienced a small group why not 'come and see'. It is open to all people, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. There will be two groups meeting: Monday's 7.30pm -9.00pm in Providence House, beginning 4<sup>th</sup> March and Thursdays 10.30am – 12 noon, beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March in a private home. Enquiries: Parish Office 5996 1985.

**MONTHLY ALL-NIGHT PRAYER VIGIL** will take place this Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. It will begin with Divine Office at 7.00pm, Mass at 7.30pm followed by a spiritual teaching and All-Night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Vigil will conclude on Saturday morning with Morning Prayer of the Church at 9.00am, followed by Mass at 9.30am. **The all-night Prayer Vigil is held on the first Friday of each month.** All Welcome!

**FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION** Mass of Reparation in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, **after the 9.30am Mass.** This devotion includes the reciting of 1 Rosary and meditating on the other 3 Mysteries of the Rosary and concluding with a consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All Welcome.

**HEALING MASS:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month, next Sunday at 6pm Mass led by Fr. Joseph.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN** starts on Ash Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> April. 40 days for Life Campaign is a community-based campaign that takes a peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion. For more information see the notice board in the foyer.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Parishioners are invited to join the World Day of Prayer next Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Deeper Life Church, 49-51 Cameron St, Cranbourne East 7.30pm to 9.00pm. for more information contact 0422 100 537.

# FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

A Netflix for Catholics, free for all parishioners! Collect a flyer, from the foyer, on how to join and logon with the parish code. **2QKKNB FOR THE CHILDREN PREPARING FOR RECONCILIATION: Brother Francis, The unforgiving servant.**  
<https://formed.org/watch/59bc4ad2456af1e015cbb3f7>

**PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY:** Parishioners please return your blessed palms/ greenery from last year's Palm Sunday by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, so they can be burnt and will be used for Ash Wednesday.

**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: Day for Parish Plenary Teams and School Delegates on Saturday 16th March** will be held at the Marian Theatre, Marist-Sion College, 165 Burke St Warragul. The day will commence at 9.30 and end at 3.00 pm. Each parish must be represented by as many of their Plenary Team members as possible. Schools may send delegates as well. Team members and schools wishing to book must contact the Parish Office for bookings. Bookings close 8th March 2019.

**PLENARY COUNCIL RESPONSES** from around 400 participants at the 5 regional Listening and Dialogue sessions with the Bishop, held around the Diocese late last year, are now available on our website <http://www.sale.catholic.org.au/downloads/parishes/579-diocese-of-sale-raw-responses-from-regional-listening-dialogue-sessions-with-the-bishop.html> or go to <http://www.sale.catholic.org.au/25-bishop/348-towards-2020.html> page down to Listening and Dialogue Sessions and click on the link.

**CAR RAFFLE:** Please return the book to the Parish office with your payment or after Mass on the weekend. Drawn on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**RCIA RITE OF ELECTION: For Catechumens and Formal Recognition of Baptised Candidates** An invitation is extended to all catechumens, candidates and their families, RCIA team members and parishioners to the Rite of Election celebrated by Bishop Pat O'Regan on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sale. At 2.00pm Bishop Pat warmly invites catechumens, candidates and their families, sponsors and RCIA teams to meet him at the Chapter House (at the rear of the Cathedral precinct). 3.00 pm The Rite of Election of Catechumens and Formal Recognition of Baptised Candidates in the Cathedral. 4.00pm Afternoon tea in the Cathedral gathering space. Please bring some food to share.

**RITE OF ELECTION: Parish Singers and Musicians Wanted!** at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. 1.30-2.30pm Choir rehearsal 3.00 -4.00 pm Rite of Election. Please contact Sophy Morley ASAP on [smorley@sale.catholic.org.au](mailto:smorley@sale.catholic.org.au) or phone 5622 6677.

**YEAR 7 2020 APPLICATIONS FOR ST. PETER'S COLLEGE:** A reminder to families that 2020 applications are due in at the College by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Information packs are available from the College Offices or you can download an application form from the College website. First round offers will be sent out at the end of March. For enquiries phone the College Registrar, Wendy Height on 5990 7777.

**KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS** will hold a fundraising dinner on 28<sup>th</sup> March to support the bursary fund for the education of Sale Diocese Seminarians. The dinner will be at the Black-Tie Function Centre, 90 Alfred St, Warragul, 6.30 for 7pm start. The two-course dinner will cost \$60 and wine, beer and soft drinks will be available at bar prices. The event is open to men and women who want to support this venture. There will be a silent auction as an additional fundraiser. Tickets are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=470438&>

**MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE:** Bring your family and friends to our next Scheduled Tours, Friday 8 March departing 9.30am and Sunday 24 March departing 10.00am. Mater Christi girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable your family to witness our vibrant, inclusive and warm community. Visit [materchristi.edu.au](http://materchristi.edu.au) to book your tour.



**THURSDAY EVENING MASS** focuses on a special intention of the week, praying for different needs within our families, parish and the wider community. **February: 28<sup>th</sup> For those who celebrated their birthday in February.**

**YOUTH CORNER:** Parish Youth activities start this weekend. The Theme for this year 2019 is 'Faith Formation'. I encourage all parents to support their children to participate actively in the Youth Group. God bless you all Sr. Mary. The next Youth meeting will be held on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.00pm** in the Parish Hall. We will be participating at the Plenary Council meeting. Enq: Tavonga on 0488 683 256.

**Recently Deceased**

Patricia O'Donovan  
Maureen Gray  
Martin D'souza  
Gerald Carbalho

**Anniversaries:**

Jean Karl Polydore 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv  
Nomeriano Mariquit  
Isidro Corpin  
Domenico Agresta  
Matthew Lourens  
Fr Joseph Hagan  
Fr Gerard Coffey  
Fr Daniel O'Shea  
Fr John Stanley  
Fr John Phelan

**Mass Times & Intentions, Recent Deaths, Anniversaries**

Saturday 6.00pm-- For the Souls in Purgatory & Nomeriano Mariquit [Anniv]  
Sunday 7.30am-- For the People of the Parish  
" 9.00am-- Francesco Bruno & Gaetana Papa [B'day Remb] & Parunanthu Emmanuel [Anniv]  
" 10.45am-- Thanksgiving [Caroline Clarke & Family] & Piuti Lesoa on her 101<sup>st</sup> B'day today  
" 6.00pm-- Martin D'Souza [Rec Dec] & Isidro Corpin [4<sup>th</sup> Anniv]

**Feasts****Weekday Masses**

Monday 9.30am-- For the Souls in Purgatory  
Tuesday 9.30am-- For the Souls in Purgatory  
Wednesday 9.30am-- For the Souls in Purgatory  
Thursday 9.30am-- For the Souls in Purgatory  
" 7.30pm-- Gerald Carbalho [Rec Dec]  
Friday 9.30am-- For the Protection of the Unborn  
" 7.30pm-- For the Intentions of Jesus Youth  
Saturday 9.30am-- In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary & For Vocations

[Please contact the parish office to arrange a Mass you would like offered for your intentions]

**Sick List:** Gerald Haynes, Giovanna Santomaggio, Leo Domantay, Roger Paul, Sr Diane Cleveland, Felix Weinman, Rosy Preca  
Pearl Roussiyan, Fallon Weinman, Josie Blows, Janet Elliott, Rosaria Preca, Arlette Lalouette, Giovanna Bellinvia, Stanley Jacobs  
With respect for the privacy of the person who is ill, we can only accept requests from the ill person or their immediate family.  
Loved ones prayed for on the sick list will remain on the list for one month, unless advised otherwise.

**Rosters for Ministries****23-24 February 2019: Lectors:**

**6.00pm:** Children's Choir R Weinman, K Jolley, P Hunt, M Cincotta, A Hughes, C D'Lima, N Carter  
**7.30am:** D Lutu R Crozier, D Krella, M Soni  
**9.00am:** Sr Faustina J Seeborun, S Joseph, L Ahsio, L Lim, G Raudino, M & A Dam  
**10.45am:** E Mandizvidza T Nyerenyere, M Robinson, T Felise, L Caballero, M Auvale, R Alejandro, P Schreurs, L Clark D Deri,  
**6.00pm:** C James A Antony, T Hummel, B Evans, C Joseph, S Ganesh, T Treacy, L Booth  
**Church Cleaners for the week 25<sup>th</sup> Feb to 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** S Jean Louis, D Krella, M Magkase  
**Counters:** K Jolley, C Di Pietro, V Bucello

**Extraordinary Ministers:****Welcomers:**

B Harris  
J Khan  
P & T Dam  
R Afaese  
L Booth

**Children's Liturgy:** Anna & Fiona**2-3 March 2019: Lectors:**

**6.00pm:** M Garcia R Trevisan, S Joseph, T Heldt, A Quintal, K Jolley, P Hunt, M Cincotta  
**7.30am:** M Lutu L & S Jean Louis, R Crozier  
**9.00am:** G Spierings R Spierings, M Parrocho, T Dam, Y Shedden, D Barker, R Daly, M Nieuwesteeg  
**10.45am:** R D'Mello G Clark, Sr Faustina, L & C Tyminski, C Frenkel, T Lupeamanu, L Fosio, M Gambin  
**6.00pm:** E Abraham C James, Y Prasetyo, R Lupeamanu, L Tuffnell, A Antony, J Seeborun, T Hummel  
**Church Cleaners for the week 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March:** Nicol Family  
**Counters:** M & M Gambin, L Lorenzin, T Abraham

**Extraordinary Ministers:****Welcomers:**

E Hill, J Bourke  
K Martini  
L Nasalio, L Samuelu  
M Iverach, N Moore  
L Tuffnell

**Children's Liturgy:** Bridget & Priya

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

**GROUPS & MEETINGS**

**RCIA:** [For Adults interested in becoming Catholic] Enquiries: Tina 5996 1985.  
**RCIC:** For children aged 4 years and above preparing for Baptism. Sr Mary 5996 1985.  
**CATECHETICS [R.E.] CLASSES:** Each Wed at 4pm in the Hall during School Terms. Enquiries: Sr. Faustina 5996 1985  
**ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP:** Every fortnightly on Thursdays at 10am in the Church Meeting Room.  
**AFRICAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month after 10.45am Mass in the Hall. Enq: Sisters  
**THE BRIGADIERS OF LOURDES:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month 2.30pm-4pm. Enq: Lorraine Dunkley 5996 8771  
**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:** Weekdays after morning Mass & Rosary in the Church.  
**SAMOAN DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP:** Tuesday 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Church. Enq: Leo 5995 6813  
**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** Mon 10.30am in the Hall Enq: Peter 5998 1554 and Wed 7.30pm in the Hall. Enq: John 0448 343 074  
**PARISH CELLS COMMUNITY:** For further information contact Parish Office.  
**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** Providence House, 135 Sladen Street. 1 hr by appointment only. Enq: Ruth 0477 800 161  
**INVIGORATE [Age 12-17] YOUTH GROUP:** Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 9.30am & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 7.30pm in the Hall. Enq: Sr Mary 5996 1985  
**AGAPE [Age 18-35] YOUNG ADULT GROUP:** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 7.15pm - 9.00pm. Enquiries Sr. Mary 5996 1985  
**VOICE FOR LIFE GROUP:** Enquiries: Maria Nieuwesteeg 0409 563 864 or email [voiceforlife@hotmail.com](mailto:voiceforlife@hotmail.com)  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** Vinnies Shop- 218 High Street Cranbourne. Phone: 5996 3926, **Vinnies Help Line: 1300 305 330**  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month in the Hall; Rosary 7.00pm; Meeting 7.15pm.  
**CATHOLIC CARE GIPPSLAND:** For Family & Relationship Counselling phone 5941 4100 for appointments.  
**GODSTART:** Post-Baptism follow-up Program. For further information contact 5996 1985  
**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING:** For appointments please contact the Sale Diocese Billings Teacher Patsy Heffernan on 5622 1188  
**PLAYGROUP:** Tuesdays 9am-11am during school terms in St. Agatha's Hall. Contact 5996 1985  
**FAMILY ROSARY GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month. Enquiries: Anita 5995 5545



<https://www.facebook.com/StAgathasCP>



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**PARISH APP:** The parish has an APP that is available from the 'APP STORE' and the 'GOOGLE PLAY STORE'. It contains Mass Times, Parish Calendar, Weekly Bulletin and much more! Simply search for **St Agathas** and download the APP to your mobile device.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** Parish Pastoral Council members are a means of communication for perceived needs in the Parish, ideas, suggestions & feedback.

*We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers to our Mass today. If you have recently moved into the parish or have not registered as a parishioner, we invite you to complete a new parishioner card and invite your join the stewardship program. The new parishioner cards are located on the stone pillar in the foyer next to the welcome table.*

## **7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

### **FIRST READING**

Sam 26:2.7-9.12-13.22-23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, by I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The word of the Lord.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

### **SECOND READING**

Cor 15:45-49

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we

in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!**

### **GOSPEL**

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

When we eat this Bread... ..



*"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back." (Luke 6:35)*

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Mercy and compassion will put us on the path to holiness.