

Memorial of St Agatha

5th February 2026

First reading

1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12

‘I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, Solomon, and show yourself a man.’

When David’s time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, ‘I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, that the Lord may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, “If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.” ’

Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned for seven years in Hebron and for thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

Responsorial Psalm

1 Ch 29:10. 11a-c. 11d-12a. 12b-d. R12b

You, Lord, have dominion over all.

Blessed are you, O Lord,

God of Israel, our father, from eternity unto eternity.

Yours, O Lord, is greatness and power,

splendour, victory and majesty;

for all is yours in heaven and on earth.

Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, you are exalted as head over all.

Riches and honour are from you.

You have dominion over all.

In your hand is power and might; your hand gives greatness and strength to all.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand;

repent and believe in the gospel.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 6:7-13

‘He began to send them out.’

At that time: Jesus called the Twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff — no bread, no bag, no money in their belts — but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, ‘Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.’ So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Short reflection on the reading for today

Jesus sends them out to do what he was doing, to preach the gospel and to heal the sick. Jesus wanted and needed the help of others to do the work he was sent to do. He continues to need us today for this work. We are to be his eyes, his ears, his hands, his feet and his voice. St Paul understood very clearly that the church to be the body of Christ in the world. He was very clear that every member of Christ's body had a vital role to play.

The church cannot be fully alive unless everyone plays the role they are called and equipped to play through their baptism. There are to be no second class citizens in the church. Each of us is a vital member, with some task and mission in the world.