

Reflection Saturday Week 4 St Agatha 2022

St Agatha (c231-251) was martyred at Catania in Sicily, probably during the persecution of Decius (250-253). Devotion to her was widespread in the early Church. She is mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

One of the hardest challenges anyone has to face is to accept that life is a gift. We don't own our lives. Life is a gift from God and, as the bible states, we are stewards of creation and we are an integral part of that wonderful creation of God. The martyrs and witnesses to the faith have recognised this. As St Paul writes, *"God has made us members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing Jesus has become our wisdom, our virtue, our holiness and our freedom."* In this understanding we do not give away our lives, we live our lives in thanksgiving as a way of showing our desire to make God and Jesus happy in blessing us with life because of the way we have honoured the gift he so lovingly bestowed upon us. We joyfully live our lives in service of others with love, always treating others with dignity and respect and carefully making every effort to love our enemies. Living life this way is both an honour and a privilege. Franciscan Media writes: *The scientific modern mind winces at the thought of a volcano's might being contained by God because of the prayers of a Sicilian girl (Agatha). Still less welcome, probably, is the notion of that saint being the patroness of such varied professions as those of foundry workers, nurses, miners and Alpine guides. Yet, in our historical precision, have we lost an essential human quality of wonder and poetry, and even our belief that we come to God by helping each other, both in action and prayer?*

A lawyer asked a witness the date of his birthday.

Witness: "20th August."

Lawyer: "What year?"

Witness: "Every year."

How do you say "Jehova's Witness" in Chinese?

Ding dong.