

**The Offertory collection at Masses
last weekend amounted to €920.00**

*This collection is for the ordinary
day-to-day running and
maintenance of the parish.*

Building Fund contribution - €710.00

*Donations for Church Renovations
gratefully accepted at Parish Office -
or they can be lodged directly into:*

**Ascension Church Building Fund A/c
at AIB Bank
IE65 AIBK 934194 32642064**

SUNDAY DUTY ROTA

July 26, 2020.

A priest can be contacted if required
this Sunday at:

Gurranabraher 085 804 1951

*“For those who sought renown
and honour... by always doing good
there will be eternal life;
for the unsubmitive who refused
to take the truth for their guide –
and took depravity instead -
there will be anger and fury.
Pain and suffering will come to
every human being
who employs himself in evil.”
(Luke 2: 7-10)*

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat. 25, July

6pm. Jim & Nan Bullman, RIP (Anniv)

Sun 26.

9am. Charlie Foley, RIP

11.30am. Gerard Coughlan, RIP (Anniv)

Mon 27.

10am. Jimmy Walsh, RIP 1st Anniv)

Tue 28.

10am. Paddy O’Leary, RIP (Died recently)

Wed 29.

10am. Fiona Lyons-McGrath, RIP

Thu 30.

10am. Gretta Dunphy, RIP

Fri 31

10am. Paddy O’Leary, RIP (Died recently)

Sat 1, August.

10am. Pro Prop

We pray for those recently deceased...

Laurence Yelverton, Maddens Buildings.

Requiescat in Pace.

**Gurranabraher Parish asks you to please
consider dropping a few Euro into our
Credit Union Account –
Church of the Ascension Renovation Fund -
A/c No. 02255200.**



**Ascension Parish
Gurranabraher, Cork.
Sunday, July 26, 2020.
17th Ordinary Time (A)**

Parish Office – 021 - 430 3655 (If Urgent: 085 - 804 1951)

email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com

Website: www.gurranabraherparish.ie

Priests of the Parish:

Fr. Tomás Walsh, SMA. [Tel: 021-4303 658](tel:021-4303658). (walshtomas@hotmail.com)

Fr. Aidan Vaughan, OFM, Cap. Tel: 021-439 7472. (aidan1302@gmail.com)

Weekend Masses – Saturday 6pm (Vigil) & Sundays – 9am & 11.30am.

For as Long as Man lives in Time he can choose for God

Up to the time of the Judeo/Christian revelation, first made manifest with the divine encounter between God and Abraham, some four thousand years ago, man lived in great fear of the gods - unable to make choices, his whole life was circumscribed by the repetitious cycle of seasons and events. First with Abraham and then with Moses, God entered into a Covenantal relationship whereby God and man will work together in the creation story – shaping and fashioning a world built on justice and love. For the first time man will be an agent of transformation and change writing history by the imprint he would leave on the world. History, then, is a place of human decision. At every moment of our lives, we’re asked to choose for good or for evil. Therefore, time has weight. It has meaning. Archbishop Chaput of Philadelphia writes: “The present is vitally important as the instant that will never come again; the moment where we are not determined by outside forces but self-determined by our free will. Our past actions make us who we are today. But each ‘today’ also offers us another chance to change our developing history. The future is the fruit of our past and present choices, but it’s always unknown, because each successive moment presents us with a new possibility. Time and freedom are the raw material of life because time is the realm of human choice. The Devil wants us to think that freedom really doesn’t exist because when we fail to choose, when we slide through life, we in effect choose for Satan. Time is the Devil’s enemy. He lives neither in the eternity of God nor the realm of man. Satan has made his choice against God and he is forever fixed in that choice. But as long as man lives in time, which is the realm of change, man may still choose in favour of God. And of course, God is always offering the help of his grace to do just that. If the Devil can sell us the idea that history is a single, determined mechanism, if humanity’s freedom of will can be forgotten or denied, then man will drift, and the antichrist will win.

End of Month Building Fund Collection this weekend

The end of the month Building Fund collection to reduce Church debt will take place at all Masses this weekend, 26th July. As well as clearing the roof debt this monthly collection also enables us to carry out other essential work such as Church painting, repairing pathways around church, etc. All of these projects need to be addressed urgently to prevent further deterioration with escalating costs. We have already accomplished much over the past year thanks to your generosity. We ask you to be as generous again this weekend as we attempt to resume projects that were put 'on-hold' during the recent lock-down.

Subscription to Totus Tuus

The magazine, 'Totus Tuus', which was, up to now, available free of charge in many churches, (and depended only on donations), is now experiencing difficulty as many priests are afraid to let any literature into their churches. The sole aim of the magazine is to reach today's Catholics, particularly the young, and present to them the treasures of the Catholic faith - that must be the task of every Christian.

For those who would like to receive a copy posted directly to their homes, six times per year, please print your full name, address and Post Code along with the sum of Twenty Euro and forward to Fr Marius O'Reilly, Church of the Assumption, Ballyphehane, Cork. Alternatively, leave your envelope c/o Fr Walsh in the Parish Sacristy.

Novena Mass Cards

We wish to encourage more of our parishioners to use the Novena Mass Cards for different occasions. These cards are deeply appreciated by people at times of death - or anniversaries of deaths. We also have Cards for to send at times of sickness, for birthdays, exams or just to say 'Thank You' to those who have been good to us. At difficult moments it is nice to know that you have the support of the Christian community.

Covid-19 - an ever Present Danger

Covid-19, this deadly invisible virus, still lurks in our midst and can, as we have seen in other places, resurge at any moment, halting human progress. It is a virus that is going to be with us for a long time to come – radically altering our 'way-of-life' and threatening social cohesion. One must hope that we will come to understand the nature of the virus – and discover ways that will allow life to return to some kind of 'as-before-normal'. Certainly, reason and science must be utilized fully for this project to succeed – but mankind also need the 'God input'. Without this 'God input', (recourse to prayer), we will be like people searching for pins in a black-hole. Human progress and Divine protection is not possible when God is left out of the equation. And the truth is God wants to be involved in the human story – God desires human flourishing! The Covenant established with Moses at Sinai involved God inextricably in the human story. The terms of that Covenant are: "*You will be my people I will be your God.*" It means that we walk in God ways, keeping his Commandments, and we will be a people like no other - enjoying God's blessings and protection - and living life as God meant us to live it from the beginning. "*Come, let us walk in the ways of the Lord!*"

Display a Religious Object from the windows of your homes

One of the ways that we can reassure our world in these troubled times is for parishioners to display a religious object from the windows of their houses. A picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or one of the Blessed Virgin Mary, (or any other saint), can give a powerful message that God and his Elect are with his people in these moments of danger. Such a display will let others know that you are praying for an end to this scourge that threatens to overwhelm us.

Baptisms Resume – But with Restricted Numbers

Infant Baptisms will resume from first Saturday of July. Each Baptism will be restricted to 6 persons attending the Baptism ceremony. If you wish to have your child baptised contact the Parish Office.

Booking Mass Intentions

Those who had booked Mass intentions that were not honoured due to the Covid-19 Lockdown should report to the Parish Office to have the said Masses rescheduled. We invite parishioners to resume the practice of remembering and praying for loved ones at anniversary time and at birthday time. The only real gift that we can give our dead is by praying and offering Mass for them.

Cultivation of Ethical and religious values necessary to preserve Freedom

"A culture and a nation that cuts itself off from the great ethical and religious forces of its own history, commits suicide. The cultivation of essential moral insights, preserving and protecting these as a common possession but without imposing them by force, seems to be the one condition necessary for the continued existence of freedom in the face of all [of today's] nihilisms and their totalitarian consequences." (*Cardinal Ratzinger 2008*), [*later Pope Benedict XVI*]

Visiting the Sick and Housebound

Each month the priests of the parish visit the elderly and housebound: many of whom were once active members of this parish community but can no longer now attend weekly Mass. Please bring to our attention family members now unable to attend Mass.

Only Sanctity (Holiness) Can Save Us

"We are waiting, not for another political saviour or television personality, but for a Dominic or a Francis, an Ignatius or a Wesley, a Wilberforce or a Newman, a Bonhoeffer or a Solzhenitsyn. Only sanctity can justify Christianity's existence; only sanctity can make the case for faith; only sanctity, or the hope thereof, can ultimately redeem the world." **Ross Douthat, "Bad Religion"**

Without Christ Man suffers only an aching hunger

The world's only hope is Christ, the Infant King, born in Bethlehem... When Bethlehem fades from the souls of men, then their starved souls escape to a dead-end transcendence. Look at our culture without Christ. Its men and women, especially its young, seek to step beyond their flattened world by absorption with ghosts, and zombies; with end of the world obsessions and cartoon superheroes. What a pity - for the true Hero is so close - awaiting them in the untimidating face of a Divine Child. Christmas imposes upon every Catholic a solemn obligation: to tell the world that our joy, our answer, our peace and our rescue lay in the humility of Bethlehem.