

**The Offertory collection at Masses
last weekend amounted to €1,270.00**

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

*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

August, 23, 2020.

A priest can be contacted if required
this Sunday at:
Cathedral 087 238 1187

*“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. 22, August

6pm. Billy & Sarah Kelly, RIP.

Sun 23.

9am. Peggy O'Donoghue, RIP

11.30am. Graham O'Connell, RIP (3rd Anniv)

Mon 24.

10am. Deceased member of Hegarty family

Tue 25.

10am. James Hession's Intention

Wed 26.

10am. Thaddeus O'Donoghue, RIP

Thu 27.

10am. William & Joanie O'Riordan, RIP

Fri 28.

10am. Dermot Hourihane, RIP

Sat 29.

10am. *Pro Populo.*

We pray for those recently deceased...

*Ross O'Connor, My Eden Road,
Georgina Condon, Knockfree Avenue,*

Requiescat in Pace.

*“Prayer is not a passive response to life's
challenges, or something we do in the absence
of something more productive or beneficial; no,
prayer in all its many forms is an active
engagement, calling upon the powers of heaven
to come to our assistance.”*

**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, August 23, 2020.
21th 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.

At death there is a Judgement – and there is a Heaven and a Hell

The clear and constant teaching of the Church is that at death a judgement awaits every human being - where our actions are judged by a just and merciful God who will reward the righteous and condemn the wicked. No one will be able to escape God's justice. God's mercy (and the opportunity to repent) is available to us right up to the moment we draw our last breath - but once death comes our fate is sealed - then there is only Heaven or Hell.

Is it possible that those who live outside the Church or those who separate themselves from God's friendship will be saved? Yes, provided they ask for God's mercy. God cannot not forgive us when we turn with a repentant heart. We see an example of this on the Cross when one of the thieves condemned with Jesus pleads with him: "Lord, remember me when you go into your Kingdom" - And we see the amazing response of Jesus: "Today you will be with me in Paradise".

When we see so many of our family members and friends living and dying outside of the embrace of the Church, and even see loved ones within the Church living contrary to the demands of the Gospel, we are faced with two temptations. One temptation is simply to close our eyes and hope for the best. The other temptation is to despair. Both of these are *temptations* to avoid.

Between these two temptations, there is a course of action. We must do everything we can to encourage our loved ones to follow Christ, sometimes by our words, sometimes by our actions, always with our prayers. Those prayers help us to avoid the temptation to despair.

Perhaps this is why at this point in history the Church has placed before us a devotion to the Divine Mercy. We can place our loved one's in the hands of the Merciful Saviour. We can beg and plead that, even though we do not see how it can be accomplished, those dear souls may somehow be welcomed into the heavenly homeland that He has prepared for those who loved and served Him here on earth.

Building Fund Collection next weekend

The normal monthly building fund collection will take place at all Masses in the parish next weekend. This collection helps us to meet our monthly repayment of €4,000.00, to bank - but it allows us also to do other essential repairs. The next major work to be tackled is on underground drain-pipes. Many are broken causing the obvious subsidence around the compound. We are very grateful for your generosity since returning after 'lock-down'.

8am Weekday Masses will resume on 1st September

The usual 8am weekday Mass (Monday to Friday) will resume on Tuesday 1st September, 2020. We encourage parishioners to avail of these weekday Masses seeking God's protection for ourselves and for our families in these dangerous times. The 8am Mass has not been celebrated since the Lock-down in March – so it will be great to welcome back again all who attended this early Mass.

Bishop Fintan administered Sacrament of Confirmation at Gurrabraher

In very changed circumstances from the ordinary Confirmation ceremony, our bishop, Dr Fintan Gavin, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation this Saturday last to pupils from 6th Class from Scoil Padre Pio. A second Confirmation Ceremony took place at 12.30pm for pupils from 5th Class – the Sacrament this time was administered by Msgr Aidan O'Driscoll, Vicar General, of the diocese of Cork and Ross. (The need for two ceremonies arose from the fact that Covid-19 now curtails numbers in our Church buildings).

We are deeply grateful to Bishop Gavin and to Msgr Aidan O'Driscoll for administering the Sacrament. We are grateful to the parents for their patience and co-operation as plans changed often as we prepared for this Sacrament. We thank the many teachers from Scoil Padre Pio who accompanied their pupils at the ceremony; and especially we thank our parishioners who acted as Church Wardens ensuring a smooth, incident-free ceremony.

Subscribe to Totus Tuus Magazine

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 due to Covid-19. 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, full address, Post Code; and telephone number along with the sum of Twenty Euro and forward to Fr Marius O'Reilly, Church of the Assumption, Ballyphehane, Cork. Alternatively, pass your envelope to Fr Tomás Walsh.

Booking Mass Intentions

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. Each month Nine Masses (Novena) are celebrated in the Church for all those to whom the Cards are sent. These Novena Mass Cards are available for all occasions.

Thursday Holy Hour

The Hour of Adoration each Thursday from 7 – 8pm will resume on Thursday, September, 3rd. This is a beautiful quiet hour in the presence of the Lord. Jesus invites us to come to Him and place our worries and cares at His feet. It is an hour when we pray especially for the sick of the parish.

Church need to Recover the Practice of Eucharistic Devotion

"Whenever worship is no longer done, wherever it is not a priority to pay honour to God, human realities can make no headway... Adoration is not a luxury but a necessity, because when people cease to adore God, they begin to worship themselves through exalting pleasure, power, and material goods. Failing to adore God, they begin to serve mammon (Mt 6:24) — and once they begin to serve mammon, they forget who they are. Without the Creator, the creature disappears..." (*Pope Benedict XVI - 2008*).

Sending 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.

Visit Ascension Parish Website – gurrabraherparish.ie

We invite parishioners to visit our website – gurrabraherparish.ie - regularly. As well as finding the latest news from the parish there are useful links to other sites. The weekly Newsletter is also available as is the Sunday readings.

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.

Men have forgotten God – that's why all this Happened

"More than half a century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia; '*Men have forgotten God; that's why all this happened*'. Since then I have spent well-nigh fifty years working on the history of our Revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own towards the effort of clearing away the rubble left by the upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous Revolution that swallowed up some sixty millions of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: '*Men have forgotten God; that's why all this happened*'. " **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, 1983.**