

Mass Intentions this Week

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**

Gurrabraher 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.

SUNDAY DUTY ROTA

January 24, 2021.

**A priest can be contacted urgently this Sunday at:
Cathedral 087 23 811 87**

We pray for those recently deceased...

Francis McCarthy, Templeacre Avenue

Tom Dunphy, Mount Nebo Avenue

Requiescat in Pace.

Sat. 23, January 2021.

- i) Catherine (Kitty) O'Callaghan, RIP (5th Anniv)
- ii)

Sun 24.

- i) Gerry & Agnes Daly, RIP
- ii)

- i) Gavin Lawless, RIP (10th Anniv)
- ii) Maurice Twomey, RIP (15th Anniv)

Mon 25.

- i) Novena Mass 7
- ii) Deceased members of the O'Brien family.

- i) Mattie Daly, RIP
- ii) Deceased members of the Manning family

Tue 26.

- i)
- ii)

- i) Michael, Dennis and Eddie O'Brien, RIP
- ii) Terry Hurley, RIP (1st Anniv)

Wed 27.

- i)
- ii)

- i)
- ii)

Thu 28.

- i) Novena Mass 8.
- ii)

- i)
- ii)

Fri 29.

- i) Novena Mass 9
- ii)

- i) Paddy Cunningham, RIP
- ii)

Sat 30.

- i) Pro Pop



Ascension Parish

Gurrabraher, Cork.

Sunday, January 24, 2021.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

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

email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com

Website: www.gurrabraherparish.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.

Without Faith we have no Coping Mechanism

Faith once sustained our communities, and helped individuals make sense of the inevitable things beyond our control. COVID-19 has revealed a crisis of faith, and the evidence is all around us. The coronavirus has taken a deadly toll, and has made us all suddenly aware that we could die.

We are all afraid of death. How we react to that fear is a question of formation. A society formed largely without any mature understanding of mortality and mostly shielded from suffering, one that believes the here and now is all there is, encounters the uncontrollable immediacy of death in a pandemic as an existential shock. To a society with no formation in the hope of eternal life death is a maddening abyss, and will inspire irrational fear. There is, of course, another way. A person - or society - formed with a healthy understanding of mortality, enlightened by faith, does not cease to fear death, but can react to that fear rationally, and have a rational conversation about how to carry on. A society with a rational fear of death is grounded in knowledge of the value of every human life. It can evaluate and accept the utility of some public health measures, like mask-wearing in public spaces, social distancing, and avoiding large-scale indoor gatherings. It can also, in valuing human life, have conversations about the social costs of lockdowns: the effects on mental health, the surges in drug and alcohol abuse. Above all, a society with a rational fear of death, illuminated by true faith, can accept that no solution is perfect and no plan fool-proof, because nothing apart from God - and nothing this side of eternity - is. It can prize the good of every life and accept each death in hope, and in doing so it can be a sign of hope to others. This is not faith as fatalism, or freedom from responsibility to the common good. On the contrary, a rightly-ordered perspective on the mortal and the eternal calls us to mutual concern and sacrifice: to love God, and to love our neighbor. (*Abridged version: The Limits of Politics by Ed. Condon – First Things*)

Parish Office closed until Further Notice

Because of the high incidence of Covid-19 around the Parish Office will remain closed until further notice. We ask parishioners to bear with us until this wave of Covid-19 passes.

Prize Winners

1st Prize - Maura Mullane

2nd Prize – Anna Cotter

3rd Prize – Presentation Sisters, Churchfield

12 Consolation Prizes to the following

Amanda Harris, Chrissie O’Keeffe, Fia McGillicuddy, Edel Thornton, Frank Thornton,
Majella Mulqueen, May O’Donoghue, Bernard Gregory, Nellie Bruton, Francis McCarthy,
Phil Foley, Francis McCarthy.

Prizes not collected can be taken once Parish Office re-opens.

Booking of Masses in 2021

From January, 2021, two intentions will be taken for each of the Masses celebrated at Ascension parish. This move has become necessary due to the large amount of Masses not said in 2020 because of the different Covid-19 Lockdowns – and which needed to be rescheduled. Having two intentions for a Mass is normal practice in many churches in the Diocese. We undertake that the Masses will be said as indicated in Parish Newsletter.

Accommodation required for Young People

Accommodation is required for young boys and girls, (13 – 16y), from other European countries, who will be attending the newly created Catholic Secondary School in Cork, situated presently in the Dominican quarters at Pope’s Quay. New sets of students would be coming from September to December and from January to May each year. If you are committed to the Catholic faith and have room in your home to house any one of these students please contact Fr Tomás Walsh.

Ash Wednesday on 17th February

This year, Ash Wednesday, falls on 17 February. For the forty days of Lent Christians are called to reflect and come close to the God that we worship. Only those who have had some kind of encounter with the Lord Jesus - and know Him to be alive – will be able to live alone for the Lord - and not be mesmerised by what this world has to offer. The arrival of Covid-19 to western Europe in early 2020, has created a huge insecurity in our lives. Gone are the certainties; the taking of things for granted. Suddenly its not parties or holidays that matter anymore but protecting our health and the health of our children. These insecure times can create the optimum environment for getting close to the Lord. During these days of Lent we can pray with our families and cry out to God to make his presence felt. We can ask God to help us to realise what is important in our lives – and that He show us the way to life and happiness. Let us avail of this opportunity – let us make space for God in our lives.

The distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday 17th February next will have to be done differently this year. As Mass and the blessing of ashes on that day will be celebrated without a public presence arrangements will be made for people to collect the Blessed Ashes after the Mass or during the course of the day. Suitable diocesan-wide envelopes are being prepared for this to take place.

We invite parishioners to visit our website – gurrabraherparish.ie

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 would 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.

Only in Sacramental Confession is forgiveness to be found

We are living in extraordinary times. Almost everyone wishes to make a confession. Shameful things are disclosed on ‘chat shows’ and ‘reality programmes’ that only weakens and degrades human society. “There is much confession but there is no absolution. Sin confessed but unredeemed either leads to despair or is trivialized. We see that despair in the vast anguish that fuels an enormous therapeutic industry. Our culture does not need to be taught how to confess; **it needs to discover where forgiveness can be found**. Our culture does not need to further expose the stain of its sinfulness; **it needs to discover the only ONE who can wash it away – Jesus Christ.**” May humanity discover again the liberating joy of God’s mercy found only in the Sacrament of Confession!

Mass Cards available for all occasions

Mass Cards are available at the Parish Office for all occasion, RIP, Get Well, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Exams, etc. – the intentions are included in Nine Masses (Novena) celebrated each month in the parish. Card cost €3.