

## 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 10, 2021.**

**A priest can be contacted urgently**

**this Sunday at:**

**Clogheen 087 150 74 86**

***We pray for those recently deceased...***

***Requiescat in Pace.***

*Due to further Lock-down Mass will be said privately each day for the following Intentions*

### **Sat. 9, January 2021.**

- i) May Buckley, RIP.
- ii) John Sheehan, RIP (Birthday Rem)

### **Sun 10.**

- i)
- ii)
- i) Brenday Buckley, RIP (10<sup>th</sup> Anniv)
- ii) Kate, Martin O'Rourke, RIP (Family members)

### **Mon 11.**

- i) Holy Souls
- ii)
- i) Robert Hayes, (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv) & Family members
- ii) Margaret, John & Billy Linehan, RIP

### **Tue 12.**

- i) Novena Mass 3.
- ii) Special Intentions
- i) Ellen O'Brien, RIP
- ii) John O'Brien

### **Wed 13.**

- i) Special Intention
- ii) Mary Dalton, RIP (Anniv)
- i) John Joe Long, RIP (Anniv)
- ii) John Coughlan's Intention

### **Thu 14.**

- i) Special Intention.
- ii) Special Intention
- i) Philomena Malloy, RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)
- ii) Declan & Nell Cantillion-Murphy's Intention

### **Fri 15.**

- i) Novena Mass 4
- ii) Special Intention
- i) Anne O'Leary, RIP
- ii) Eddie O'Sullivan's Intention

### **Sat 16.**

10am. Pro Populo.



## **Ascension Parish** **Gurrabraher, Cork.** **Sunday, January 10, 2021.** **Baptism of the Lord (B)**

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

email: [ascensionparish123@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionparish123@gmail.com)

Website: [www.gurrabraherparish.ie](http://www.gurrabraherparish.ie)

### **Priests of the Parish:**

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

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

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

### **Feast of Baptism of the Lord**

John the Baptist is the last of the prophets of the Old Testament whose special assignment from God was to prepare a people for the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah of Israel – and to make him know when at last he came. John's message was "*Repent for the Kingdom of God is close at hand*". Those who came to him underwent a **symbolic washing** (baptism) as a mark of desiring to come away from sin and as a sign of sorrow for what their sins had done. However, it was not the baptism that we have undergone. John's baptism was unable to forgive actual sin; it was unable to undo the effects of original sin - and was unable to restore us to a life of grace and communion with God our Creator. Only Christ's death and resurrection and the baptism that springs from that was able to accomplish that. Why then did Jesus (The Messiah), go to John the Baptist for baptism since He was sinless? Indeed, John the Baptist intuitively knew that there was something very wrong in Jesus coming to him. When John protested; Jesus replied, "Let it be so for now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." John reluctantly consented and baptized Jesus - and at that moment the skies opened and a voice is heard from the heavens saying: "This is my beloved Son – listen to him".

God uses John's baptism in the river Jordan then as the inauguration ceremony initiating the Messianic Age. Jesus, [at the age of thirty years], is about to begin in earnest the work of undoing the sin of our first parents and restoring the communion that existed between Creator and creature in the beginning. At the river Jordan, in full view of the large crowds, there is divine confirmation from Heaven that Jesus is indeed the Messiah long-awaited by the Jews. "**This is my Beloved Son – Listen to Him**"

### **Without Jesus man suffers only an aching hunger**

The world's only hope is Christ, the Infant King, born in Bethlehem... When Bethlehem fades from the heart and 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 unimposing 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.

### **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.

### **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 Lockdown – and which need to be rescheduled. Having two intentions for a Mass is normal practice in many churches in the Diocese.

### **SMA Calendars for 2021**

The SMA Fathers have asked us once again to help the missions by selling their 2021 Calendar. This Calendar is a very good quality production with Public Holidays and Holy Days of Obligation clearly marked out. It is priced at €3 each.

### **Only in God, (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!

### **Visit Ascension Parish Website – [gurrabraherparish.ie](http://gurrabraherparish.ie)**

*We invite parishioners to visit our website – [gurrabraherparish.ie](http://gurrabraherparish.ie) - regularly.*

As well as finding the latest news from the parish there are useful links to other sites including the Sunday Readings - (go to 'About Us' then go to 'Links'). The weekly Newsletter is also available on the website.

### **Another Lock-Down – and Mass Bookings**

Once again our churches have been locked-down and we are prohibited from celebrating public Masses. Trying to rearrange Masses that were not said in 2020 has proved chaotic with the different lock-downs upsetting our plans. The only way that we will be able to function in 2021 is to have the Masses booked for a particular day celebrated privately on that day. It means that family members will not be able to be present but the Mass will definitely be for the said intentions.

Very shortly we will have cameras installed in the church so will be able to live-stream our Masses each day. It means that those who have a computer or a smart-phone will be able to click the link on our Webpage ([gurrabraherparish.ie](http://gurrabraherparish.ie)), and they will be connected directly to the live-stream. We hope this work will be completed in early January, 2021. In the meantime we ask for the understanding of parishioners in these hugely uncertain times.

### **Man in his confusion has eclipsed the sense of God from our world**

I have come here to Paris to present my latest book: '*The Day is Far Spent*'. In this book, I analyze the profound crisis of the West, a crisis of faith, a crisis of the Church, of the priesthood, of identity, a crisis of the meaning of man and human life. I discuss this spiritual collapse and all its consequences. This evening I would like to repeat these convictions I hold so deeply, by putting them into the perspective of a moving visit I made yesterday to the Cathedral of Notre-Dame of Paris. As I entered the gutted church, and contemplated its ruined vaults, I could not help but see in it a symbol of the situation of Western civilization and of the Church in Europe.

It is a sad fact: today the Church seems to be engulfed in flames on all sides. We see her ravaged by a conflagration much more destructive than the one that razed the cathedral of Notre-Dame. What is this fire? We must have the courage to name it, because "to name things wrongly is to add to the misfortune of the world."

This blaze raging in particular through the Church in Europe, is a case of intellectual, doctrinal, and moral confusion. It is our cowardly refusal to proclaim the truth about God and man and to defend and transmit the moral and ethical values of the Christian tradition. It is our loss of faith; this losing sight of the objectivity of faith and thus a loss of the knowledge of God. As John Paul II wrote in *Evangelium Vitae*: '*In seeking the deepest roots of the struggle between the "culture of life" and the "culture of death" ...we have to go to the heart of the tragedy being experienced by modern man: the eclipse of the sense of God and of man, typical of a social and cultural climate dominated by secularism, which, with its ubiquitous tentacles, succeeds at times in putting Christian communities themselves to the test... producing a kind of progressive darkening of the capacity to discern God's living and saving presence among us.*' (**Cardinal Robert Sarah – *The Day is Far Spent***)

### **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.