

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

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

Or

**To our Local Credit Union**  
**Gurrabraher Credit Union Account –**  
**Church of the Ascension Renovation Fund –**  
**A/c No. 02255200.**

### **SUNDAY DUTY ROTA**

**April 11, 2021.**

***A priest can be contacted urgently***

***this Sunday at:***

**Knocknaheeny 087 654 4836**

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

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***Requiescat in Pace.***

### **Mass Intentions this Week**

#### **Sat 10, April.**

- i) May Buckley, RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)
- ii) Mary Hegarty, RIP

#### **Sun 11.**

- i) For Poor Clare's Community

#### **Mon 12,**

- i) Sr Anne Coffey, RIP
- ii) Marie Crean's Intentions
- iii) Sr Hannah Dullen's Intentions

#### **Tue 13.**

- i) Tom Grace, RIP
- ii) May Ricken, RIP (8<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

#### **Wed 14.**

- i) Karen O'Sullivan's Intentions
- ii) Pat O'Gorman RIP
- iii) Margaret & Maura Moynihan, RIP

#### **Thu 15.**

- i) Eileen Looney, RIP
- ii) Cáit Garvey, RIP

#### **Fri 16.**

- i) Tom Porter, RIP (Anniv)
- ii) Patrick & Peggy O'Donoghue, RIP

#### **Sat 17.**

- i) Martin McCormack, RIP



## **Ascension Parish**

**Gurrabraher, Cork.**  
**Sunday, April 11, 2021.**  
**Divine Mercy Sunday (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)

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.**

### **Divine Mercy – From Jesus issues an unfathomable Ocean of Mercy**



This, the Second Sunday of Easter, is designated as Divine Mercy Sunday. From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone - even the greatest of sinners.

The message and devotion to Jesus, **the Divine Mercy**, is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread around Europe.

On this Sunday each year we are called to make atonement for our sins and to pray for the conversion, especially of family members, who show contempt for God's reign. May Mary, the mother of God, bring us to an awareness of our need for God's forgiveness.

### **Only when God grants vision is Jesus recognized**

“It is quite clear that after his Resurrection Christ did not go back to his previous earthly life, as we are told the young man of Nain and Lazarus did. He rose again to definitive life, which is no longer governed by chemical and biological laws and therefore stands outside the possibility of death, in the eternity conferred by love. That is why the encounters with him are “appearances”; that is why he with whom people had sat at table two days earlier is not recognized by his best friends and, even when recognized, remains foreign: only where *he* grants vision *is* he seen; only when he opens men’s eyes and makes their hearts open up can the countenance of the eternal love that conquers death become recognizable in our mortal world, and, in that love, the new, different world, the world of him who is to come. That is also why it is so difficult, indeed absolutely impossible, for the Gospels to describe the encounter with the risen Christ; that is why they can only stammer when they speak of these meetings and seem to provide contradictory descriptions of them. In reality, they are surprisingly unanimous in the dialectic of their statements, in the simultaneity of touching and not touching, or recognizing and not recognizing, of complete identity between the crucified and the risen Christ and complete transformation. People recognize the Lord and yet do not recognize him again; people touch him, and yet he is untouchable; he is the same and yet quite different. As we have said, the dialectic is always the same; it is only the stylistic means by which it is expressed that changes.” (Joseph Ratzinger, 2004).

### **After these times of Mercy will come Justice**

“Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize my unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice. While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of my mercy; let them profit from the blood and water which gushed forth for them” (Faustina’s Diary, p848).

### **God’s Grace and Mercy freely given**

In the dictionary, grace is defined as courteous goodwill. Meaning, it’s not asked for nor deserved, but is freely given. Mercy, on the other hand, is the compassion and kindness shown to someone whom it is in one’s power to punish or harm. It is an act meant to relieve someone of their suffering.

### **God’s Grace is for Every Human Being**

The grace of God is for everyone and the Bible says, “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people,” (Titus 2:11), “and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus,” (Romans 3:24).

### **Holy Hour of Adoration**

The regular Holy Hour of Adoration will resume each Thursday @ 7pm via the webcam. This is a quiet hour spent in the presence of the Lord. There in God’s presence we pray for vocations to the religious life – particularly vocations to the Priesthood. And we bring to the Lord the great needs of the world. We invite parishioners to join us each Thursday in these days of Lent. We invite you too if there is someone who has a life-threatening illness to let us know and we will remember them in prayer.

**Webcam: [gurrabraherparish.ie](http://gurrabraherparish.ie)**

### **Parish Office open**

The Parish Office is now open again each day, (Monday to Friday) – 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 2.30pm to 5.00pm daily. We thank very sincerely all our many volunteers who staff the office and do other vital work around the Church. Without such people we would not be able to continue.

### **Novena Masses**

We wish encourage more of our parishioners to use the Novena Mass Cards for different occasion. These cards are deeply appreciated by people are times of anniversaries of deaths, at times of sickness, at times of death itself, at 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 friends.

### **The Greatest Danger to Europe is Tiredness**

The rise of National Socialism and Nazism in Germany was seen as alarming by many German intellectuals in the 1930s but most thought (wished) it would simply go-away. In a prophetic Conference held in Vienna on May 7, 1935, the German philosopher Edmund Husserl warned, “The greatest danger to Europe is weariness”. He wrote: “There is a danger of despair, a loss of a sense of values, leading to estrangement, collapse and ultimately to barbarism”. Eighty years later, the same fatigue and passivity still dominate Western European societies. This exhaustion is seen in Europe’s falling birth rates, the mushrooming public debt, chaos in the streets, and Europe’s refusal to invest resources in its security and military might.

An Islamist challenge to this tired and decaying society could be a decisive one. Only Europe’s Christian population is barren and aging. The Muslim population is fertile and young. “In most European countries - including England, Germany, Italy and Russia the Christian death rates outnumbered Christian birth rates from 2010 to 2015”.

It seems that Europe’s societies consider themselves so strong and their ability to absorb mass immigration so extensive, that nothing will prevent them from believing they can assimilate and manage terrorist acts just as they do automobile fatalities or natural disasters. A tiredness also seems to be why these countries do not take meaningful measures to defeat jihadism, such as closing Salafist mosques or expelling radical imams.” ... The most likely scenario is that everything will continue: the internal fracture of Europe, two parallel societies and the debasement of Western culture. Piece by piece, European society seems to be coming irreparably apart.

*Giulio Meotti, Cultural Editor for Il Foglio, is an Italian journalist and author.*

### **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.” (Pope Benedict XVI)

***We thank the many who have already returned the Easter Dues Envelopes for the Up-Keep of the priests of the Parish. These envelopes can still be handed into Parish Office.***