

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 4, 2021.

A priest can be contacted urgently

this Sunday at:

Gurrabraher 085 804 1951

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

Requiescat in Pace.

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat 3, April.

i) Easter Triduum – People's Intention

Sun 4.

i) Easter Triduum – People's Intention

Mon 5,

i) Easter Triduum – People's Intention

Tue 6.

- i) Jenny McCarthy, RIP (1st Anniv)
- ii) Kathleen Croke, RIP (42nd Anniv)
- iii) Holy Souls

Wed 7.

- i) Arthur Murphy, RIP (31st Anniv)
- ii) The Egan Family's Intentions
- iii) Sally Meldon. (Birthday)

Thu 8,

- i) Patrick Cummins, RIP (11th Anniv)
- ii) Holy Souls.
- iii) John Gamble, RIP
- iv) Tommy & Phil Cambridge, RIP

Fri 9.

- i) Anne Cheafney, RIP
- ii) Vicky & family's Intention.
- iii) Maureen Glavin, RIP

Sat 10.

i) Pro Populo.



Ascension Parish

Gurrabraher, Cork.

Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Easter Sunday Sunday (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. (walshthomas@hotmail.com)

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

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

Jesus, the Lord, has Truly risen

"Christ's resurrection is not a theory, but a true "historical reality revealed by the man Jesus Christ by means of his 'Passover', that has opened a 'new way' between heaven and earth. It is neither a myth nor a dream, it is not a vision or a utopia, it is not a fairy tale, but it is a singular and unrepeatable event: Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary, who at dusk on Friday was taken down from the Cross and buried, has victoriously left the tomb.

"If we take away Christ and his resurrection, there is no escape for man, and every one of his hopes remains an illusion. Yet today is the day when the proclamation of the Lord's resurrection vigorously bursts forth, and it is the answer to the recurring question of the sceptics, that we also find in the book of Ecclesiastes: "Is there a thing of which it is said, 'See, this is new'?" We answer, yes: on Easter morning, everything was renewed.

"Pope Benedict went on to reflect on the evil in the world and the need for human cooperation in spreading the Gospel message. "Even if through Easter, Christ has destroyed the root of evil, he still wants the assistance of men and women in every time and place who help him to affirm his victory using his own weapons: the weapons of justice and truth, mercy, forgiveness and love.

"The resurrection of Christ is our hope!" exclaimed Pope Benedict. "This the Church proclaims today with joy. She announces the hope that is now firm and invincible because God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. The Church communicates the hope that she carries in her heart and wishes to share with all people in every place, especially where Christians suffer persecution because of their faith and their commitment to justice and peace. She invokes the hope that can call forth the courage to do good, even when it costs, especially when it costs." (Pope Benedict, 2009)

Taking up our daily Crosses essential for Growth

Focusing on two trains of thought, Pope Francis, in his Chrism Mass Homily, said that first “We are taken aback to see the cross present in the Lord’s life at the very beginning of his ministry, even before His birth. All this makes us realize that the mystery of the cross is present ‘from the beginning... The cross does not appear by chance,” he said. “When his hour came, Jesus embraced the cross fully. “For on the cross there can be no ambiguity. The cross is non-negotiable.”

Dwelling on his second point, the Pope said, “There is an aspect of the cross that is an integral part of our human condition, our limits and our frailty. Yet, it is also true that something happens on the Cross that does not have to do with our human weakness but is the bite of the serpent, who, seeing the crucified Lord defenseless, bites Him in an attempt to poison and undo all His work... It is the venom of the evil one who keeps insisting: ‘save yourself. It is in this harsh and painful “bite” that seeks to bring death, that God’s triumph is ultimately seen”, said Pope Francis. He went on to say that “thanks to the reconciling blood of Jesus, it is a cross that contains the power of Christ’s victory, which conquers evil and delivers us from the evil one.”

Easter Celebrations in Empty Churches

For the second year running, because of Covid-19 Lockdown, we have had to celebrate the most solemn days of the Church’s Liturgy alone. One can have no idea of how soul destroying this is – to celebrate what is essentially a community activity alone - with people at our doors unable to enter. For devout Christians access to Sacraments is as essential as the very food that they eat. Yet, cold-hearted politicians have remained indifferent to the pleas of our Bishops that church buildings are safe places for worshippers to gather for liturgical worship – far safer than Off-Licences and Supermarkets. In a statement this week, Bishop Phonsie Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, expressed the growing anger of devout Catholics who feel that they have not been listened to. He wrote: “I feel that the spiritual well-being of our people has not been given any serious attention by the authorities...To say that ‘services go online’ is very hard to take - and feels dismissive.” Bishop Cullinan went on; “I must speak out to represent the voices of a very large cohort of people who are growing increasingly weary of being unable to attend Mass and whose spiritual and mental wellbeing is being eroded. Their patience is wearing thin. They are frustrated and feel unrepresented and discriminated against.” Bishop Cullinan said that... it is very difficult to explain to people why they are banned from public worship bearing in mind also that Ireland is one of the few countries in Europe where public worship is not allowed.” There is no cogent reason why churches remain closed – Masses should be allowed to resume now!”

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.

The Word became Flesh and Lived Among Us

The biblical story of Creation bears a striking resemblance to many pagan versions of the same event, with one notable difference. The Hebrew account speaks about the creation of the universe in an effortless and peaceful manner: “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made” (Ps 33:6). Creation through a *word*.

In Hebraic thought, a word was a powerful thing. It was an extension of the self, a part of one’s identity. Once a word had been spoken, a part of the speaker was afloat in the universe. A revelation of self had taken place. It was no accident, then, that when the author of the Fourth Gospel sought an image for God’s self-communication in Christ, he used the *Word*: “In the beginning was the *Word*, and the *Word* was with God, and the *Word* was God” (Jn 1:1).

As the Source of all Revelation, the God of the Hebrews obviously took words seriously. The Decalogue (or “Ten Words”) takes on its deepest significance as the document (or better, the gift) which shares with humanity God’s path to human flourishing or fulfillment. These “words” reveal in concrete terms God Himself. They are not the vague generalities of an impersonal deity, nor the collective wisdom of a nomadic people seeking an identity, nor the expression of tribal self-consciousness come of age. No, these words tell us of the inner plan of the Creator of the universe. A word spoken, in a universe that has meaning, is not uttered for its own sake but to be heard. A speaker always implies a hearer. The words of the Commandments call for acceptance in a spirit of filial love and obedience. (*Fr Peter M. J. Stravinkas. April 2021*)

Ten Commandments – Pathway to Real Freedom

‘It was God, through Moses, who gave the people of Israel the Ten Commandments. At the Red Sea the people had experienced great deliverance. They had seen first-hand the power and faithfulness of God, the God who liberates and who accompanies His people on life’s journey. Now God himself, upon Mount Sinai, indicates to his people (and to all of us) the way to remain free, a path that is engraved upon the human heart as a universal moral Law.’

The Ten Commandments point out the path to real freedom and the way to peaceful co-existence in the world. They teach us how to avoid the slavery to which the many idols that we ourselves build reduce us. “They teach us to open ourselves to a wider dimension than the material one; to live with respect for others; overcoming the greed of power, possessions, and money; to be honest and sincere in our relationships; to protect all of creation and to nurture our planet with high, noble, and spiritual ideals.” Following the Ten Commandments means being faithful to ourselves, to our most authentic nature, and walking towards the true freedom that Christ taught us in the Beatitudes. Let us reflect soberly this Eastertide on the depths of Christ’s love for us. In the Cross we see again God going to any length to get close to us. In his Resurrection we see how He raises all of human nature to greater heights than it can otherwise reach. Above all, it is only God’s friendship that can save us from the intoxication of putting our faith on what is ephemeral, and crude, and base! Christ is risen, Alleluia.

See Parish Newsletter at gurrabraherparish.ie