

**The Offertory collection at Masses  
last weekend amounted to €1,255.00**

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

Special Thanks once again to Eily Morris  
and her supporters for raising the sum of  
€500.00 in July towards  
Church Renovations.

*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, 9, 2020.**

A priest can be contacted if required  
this Sunday at:

**Knocknaheeny 087 65 44 836**

*“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. 8, August**

6pm. Teresa Sutton, RIP (50<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

**Sun 9.**

9am. Christy Quilligan, RIP (20<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

11.30am. Paul Deasy, RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

**Mon 10.**

10am. Ann & Jerry King, RIP

**Tue 11.**

10am. Denis & John McCarthy, RIP

**Wed 12.**

10am. Denis O'Brien, RIP

**Thu 13.**

10am. Michael Sheehan, RIP

**Fri 14.**

10am. Holy Souls

6pm (Vigil Mass) Special Intention.

**Sat 15. Feast of Immaculate Conception**

**9am. Pro Populo.**

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

*Maureen Babbington, Churchfield Avenue,*

*James Smith, Churchfield Hill,*

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***Requiescat in Pace.***

**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 9, 2020.**

**19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time (A)**

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

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

Website: [www.gurranabraherparish.ie](http://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](mailto:aidan1302@gmail.com))

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

**Things we don't regard as Sacred we destroy**

Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, (1821-1881), Philosopher and one of Russia's most highly regarded writers famously wrote that "Beauty will save the world." Yes, but how? Beauty opens the door to the transcendent, (that which is beyond us). "When we apprehend beauty, we become aware of all that is bigger, better, and more beautiful than we are. We love the beauty of nature, of a newborn child, of art, music, poetry, and liturgy because the beauty opens the door to the sacred. To understand Dostoevsky's thought more fully, it is useful to contemplate a world without beauty. When everything is reduced to utilitarian purpose, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness, then what is lost is not only beauty, but the sacred heart of everything. If a tree, for example, is not revered for its innate beauty and the sacredness of the life of the forest, and if it is merely viewed as an obstacle to a commercial development or as a commodity to be exploited, then we will quite happily fell the forests. Similarly, if we do not regard each person as sacred and transcendent in his beauty, then we will happily annihilate our neighbor in the same way that we tear down the trees.

If you do not regard a thing as sacred, then you will not mind killing it. The choice, therefore, is between beauty and bloodshed. Consider the twentieth century: Why the genocide of Jews and gypsies, the starvation of millions, the trampling of children, the destruction of the disabled, and the devastation of the environment? Because the murderers and maniacs revered only the five-year plan, the efficiency data, and the imposition of the utilitarian utopia. They did not consider the things they killed to be beautiful, transcendent, and sacred. Because there was nothing eternal, no heaven to win, no hell to fear, no soul that lives, and no beauty that is sacred, then the natural world, civilized society, and the people in it were no better than weeds to be pulled - or vermin to be exterminated." (Fr Dwight Longenecker: *Bloodshed or Beauty* 2016 - Adapted)

### **Feast of the Assumption, Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August. [A Holyday of Obligation]**

On Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August, the Church around the world gathers to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven. The Dogma of the Assumption holds that Mary, once she slept the sleep of death, was assumed body and soul into Heaven. Mary, for her pivotal role in God's salvation plan for the world, is singularly privileged to be taken-up into Heaven without having to experience bodily corruption as every other human being. Mary remains forever the great sign of hope for all humanity – where Mary has gone we too hope to follow. Even now Mary continues to be God's pre-eminent collaborator in bringing salvation to his people.

**Masses: Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – Vigil Mass at 6.00pm  
Saturday Mass at 9am.**

### **Confirmation Ceremony on August 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10.30am**

Our bishop, Dr Fintan Gavin, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to pupils from 6<sup>th</sup> Class from Scoil Padre Pio, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August, @ 10.30am. A second Confirmation Ceremony will take place at 12.30pm for pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> Class. The need for two ceremonies arises from the fact that with the resurgence of Covid-19 numbers must be further restricted.

We pray seriously for these children – like no other time in the past these children go out from Primary School not knowing what the future holds with Covid-19 remaining an ever-present danger. This virus has changed drastically the way that we looked at the world – and the freedoms and leisure pursuits that we took for granted. These children certainly need the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We ask our parish community to pray for these children – and their parents that they will come to know what gifts God has given them because he loves them.

### **Covid-19 - an ever Present Danger**

Covid-19, this deadly invisible virus, still lurks in our midst and can, as we have seen in other places, resurge at any moment, halting human progress. It is a virus that is going to be with us for a long time to come – radically altering our 'way-of-life' and threatening social cohesion. One must hope that we will come to understand the nature of the virus – and discover ways that will allow life to return to some kind of 'as-before-normal'. Certainly, reason and science must be utilized fully for this project to succeed – but mankind also need the 'God input'. Without this 'God input', (recourse to prayer), we will be like people searching for pins in a black-hole. Human progress and Divine protection is not possible when God is left out of the equation. And the truth is God wants to be involved in the human story – God desires human flourishing! The Covenant established with Moses at Sinai involved God inextricably in the human story. The terms of that Covenant are: *"You will be my people I will be your God."* It means that we walk in God ways, keeping his Commandments, and we will be a people like no other - enjoying God's blessings and protection - and living life as God meant us to live it from the beginning. *"Come, let us walk in the ways of the Lord!"*

**Baptisms Resume – But with Restricted Numbers** - Infant Baptisms has now resume in parish. Each Baptism will be restricted to 6 persons attending the Baptism ceremony. If you wish to have your child baptised contact the Parish Office.

### **Novena 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.

### **Booking Mass Intentions**

Those who had booked Mass intentions that were not honoured due to the Covid-19 Lockdown should report to the Parish Office to have the said Masses rescheduled. 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.

### **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).*

### **Subscription to Totus Tuus**

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. 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, address and Post Code; and telephone number along with the sum of Twenty Euro and forward to Fr Marius O'Reilly, Church of the Assumption, Ballypnehane, Cork. *If using cheque please make out in name of Totus Tuus.* Alternatively, leave your envelope c/o Fr Walsh in the Parish Sacristy.

### **Calling Young People to a deeper knowledge of their Faith**

We invite young people who wish to have a more adult understanding of the faith to make contact with the priests of the parish. They will be directed to where they can, along with people of their own age, delve into the mystery - and encounter Jesus, the Risen Lord. Only some kind of encounter with Jesus will sustain us in the years ahead as Ireland turns its back on Christ and believes more and more that it is sufficient on its own.

***"God will not allow unrighteousness to become eternal. He permits revolutions, disintegration and chaos as reminders that our thinking has been wrong – and that our dreams have been unholy."* (Archbishop Fulton Sheehan – 1947)**