

**The Offertory collection at Masses  
last weekend amounted to €1,000.00**

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

**Collection for Holy Places - €660.00**

*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**

**September, 20, 2020.**

A priest can be contacted if required  
this Sunday at:

**Gurrabraher 085 804 1951**

*“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. 19, September**

6pm. Jerry O’Sullivan, RIP (21<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

**Sun 20.**

9am. Paddy Hession, RIP

11.30am. Sylvie Nagle, RIP (Died on 24<sup>th</sup> March)

**Mon 21.**

8am. Novena Mass 5.

10am. Josephine O’Donovan, RIP (15<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

**Tue 22.**

8am. God’s B & P on Svetlana Litvinova)

10am. Humphrey O’Callaghan, RIP (9<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

**Wed 23.**

8am. For those who have died by Suicide

10am. Daniel Swaine, RIP (Anniv)

**Thu 24.**

8am. James Blacoe, RIP (Died recently)

10am. Special Intention.

**Fri 25.**

8am. Novena Mass 6.

10am. Hannah Daly, RIP (Anniv)

**Sat 26.**

10am. *Pro Populo.*

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

***Requiescat in Pace.***

**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.**



**Ascension Parish**

**Gurrabraher, Cork.**

**Sunday, September 20, 2020.**

**25<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.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.**

**It’s a duty on Christians to Christianise Society – to give it the imprint of Christ**

What we believe - or don’t believe - about God profoundly shapes what we believe about the nature of the human person and the purpose of human society. It follows that the more we remove God from our public life, the more we remove the moral vocabulary that gives our public institutions meaning. The more secularized we become, the more we undermine the common good and the more we feed the problems that are hurting us as a nation.

People have a duty to bring their beliefs to bear on every social, economic and political problem facing their community. That’s not just a privilege. And it’s not just a right. It’s a duty! For Christians it is a binding obligation. [Real Christians have always understood their mission to change the society they live in and shape it into a civilization of love.] Obviously, we have an obligation to respect the dignity of other people and their own basic rights as well. We’re always bound to treat other people with charity, justice and prudence. But that can never be an excuse for our own inaction or silence.

Unless we live our faith not just in our private behaviours, but also in our public actions, including our political involvement, then **we’re living a lie**. We’re lying to ourselves, because we’re not really serious about our faith unless we have the zeal and the courage to witness it. And we’re also cheating our fellow citizens. In a democracy, the best gift any of us can give to our country is the public witness of our convictions. Democracy depends on an honest, unashamed, public struggle of ideas. If we withhold our religious and moral beliefs from our political debates because of a misguided sense of good manners, we are not being “polite.” On the contrary: We’re stealing from the public conversation.

**Archbishop Charles Chaput, Philadelphia.**

### **Building Fund Collection next weekend**

The normal monthly building fund collection will take place at all Masses in the parish next weekend. This collection helps us to meet our monthly repayment of €4,000.00, to bank - but it allows us also to do other essential repairs. The next major work to be tackled is on underground drain-pipes. Many are broken causing the obvious subsidence around the compound. We are very grateful for your generosity since returning after 'lock-down'.

### **First Holy Communion on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

Children from 2<sup>nd</sup> Class at Scoil Padre Pio will receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020. Like the Sacrament of Confirmation administered, on 15<sup>th</sup> August, to the 6<sup>th</sup> Class First Holy Communion will be celebrated with serious restriction on numbers present in the Church. In consultation with Scoil Padre Pio, there will be two ceremonies – the first at 10am and the second at 12 noon. Only parents of the children will be able to be present at these ceremonies. First Holy Communion Day is a huge event in a child's life – it is a day for family celebrations and meeting relatives and friends. We know that the restriction on numbers this year will be a huge disappointment for both children and their families. Unfortunately, in the times we are in, public health is a major concern.

### **Let us Pray for our Children about to make Holy Communion**

We ask our parishioners to please pray for these children who will receive Holy Communion– they grow up in a most confusing and dangerous world. Without Jesus figuring in their lives they will have no moral compass to know right from wrong, the good from the bad - the truth from the lie. May parents who made a solemn promise to God at Baptism that they would bring their children up in the practise of the Catholic faith become aware of what God expects of them – and realise that one day they will be held to account for how they performed that sacred task.

### **Wearing of Face Masks to prevent Spread of Covid-19**

In view of the resurgence of Covid-19 in different parts of Ireland, Bishop Fintan Gavin has asked people attending church in the Diocese of Cork and Ross to wear a face covering. He wrote: "... I would ask people to wear face coverings in Church for all liturgical celebrations - such as Mass, Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms, Confirmations and First Holy Communions - so that we can create as safe an environment as possible for those who come to Church - and minimise the possibility of spreading the virus." Children under 13 years of age and people who have received medical advice 'to not wear a mask' are, of course, exempt. Bishop Fintan paid tribute to the work done at parish level to establish structures so that people would feel safe and welcome in Church.

***“Prayer is not a passive response to life's challenges,  
or something we do in the absence of something more productive or beneficial;  
no, prayer in all its many forms is an active engagement,  
calling upon the powers of heaven to come to our assistance.”***

### **Assisted Suicide Bill to be debated in Dáil**

A Bill, titled 'Dying with Dignity' is shortly to be debated in Dáil Éireann, which seeks to have Euthanasia legalized in Ireland. The Bill is proposed by Socialist TD, Gino Kenny, with the support of some of the Socialist Parties – including the Labour Party who supports the Bill in principle. Some of the other mainstream Political Parties, while against this Bill as it stands, are open to the possibility of debating the issue.

There is no doubt that as the demographic pyramid inverts in Ireland caused by falling birth rates and a larger population aging; huge costs will have to be budgeted for geriatric care in the years to come. For many who do not hold human life sacred from the moment of conception to natural death, the aged will become the first casualties. Hence “the old will be encouraged to jump and if they do not jump they must be pushed.”

Of course, like the abortion debate, hard and tragic cases will be put forward – and the argument will be made that it should be available for those who want it. But that is not the way law works in a utilitarian, materialist society. Invariably, sooner or later, decisions will be taken for those who are not able to make such decisions themselves.

Professor Des O'Neill cautions that decisions regarding Euthanasia are often led by the “potency of prejudice against ageing and disability.” To those who advocate for “death with dignity” he responded that human dignity cannot be lost through disability, disease, dependency, or suffering. However, he added that: “insensitive treatment or attitudes to those so affected can constitute undignified care,”

### **Subscribe to Totus Tuus Magazine**

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### **Cork Autism Online Conference 2020 - Autism: Beyond Behaviours**

A special on-line Conference on Autism will take place on Sunday, October 11th. This online conference offers interventions, skills and strategies to support people on the autism spectrum. Suitable for Parents, Families, Caregivers, Autistics, Employers, Educators, Professionals, Agencies, Advocates and anyone with an interest in autism. Visit: [www.autismcork.ie](http://www.autismcork.ie)

### **Without Christ Man suffers only an aching hunger**

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