

**The Offertory collection at Masses
last weekend amounted to €1,260.00**

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

*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

October, 11, 2020.

A priest can be contacted if required
this Sunday at:
Cathedral 087 238 11 87

*“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. 10. October

6pm.

Sun 11.

9am.

11.30am. *(Due to the Covid-19 Lock-down*

Mon 12. Masses have been suspended

8am. **Booked Masses will be re-arranged**

10am. **later).**

Tue 13.

8am.

10am.

Wed 14.

8am.

10am.

Thu 15.

8am.

10am.

Fri 16.

8am.

10am.

Sat 17.

10am. *Pro Populo.*

We pray for those recently deceased...

Christine Nagle, Churchfield Square

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, October 11, 2020.
28th Ordinary Time (A)**

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

email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com

Website: 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)

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

Saint Francis of Assisi – Feast Day, Friday, 4th, October,

St Francis of Assisi, (1181 – 1226), is the patron Saint of Italy - and is one of the most best loved saints in the Church. His radical response to the Gospel has drawn countless men and women through the ages to embrace his life-style of leaving behind everything and living for Christ alone. After responding to Christ's call he began to understand that God had a bigger mission for him than just in his own place – he was called to repair and make beautiful again a Church that had become disfigured and sullied by sin.

Francis' conversion to Jesus was so radical that for a time he was considered a religious fanatic. Hours of daily prayer - and begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, evoked sadness or disgust to the hearts of his former friends and ridicule from the unthinking. Gradually more and more began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian and help them to live better and more wholesome lives.

Francis had no intention of founding an order, but once disciples flocked to him he began to accept the legal structures needed to support it and so the Franciscan Order was born. Francis was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favor of the latter, but always returned to solitude whenever he could.

Francis of Assisi died at age 44, burdened by near total blindness and serious illness. Two years before his death he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side. On his deathbed, Francis said over and over again the last addition to his *Canticum of the Sun*, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior's permission to have his clothes removed when the last hour came in order that he could expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord, Jesus Christ.

We must not Over-React to Covid-19

NPHET's recommendation that Ireland be placed at Level 5 cannot make sense except from a very narrow tunnelled-vision perspective. The Government is right to reject NPHET recommendation. The fall-out from Covid-19 is already having devastating effects on mental health, on the economy and on social cohesion. These are considerations that Governments must also take into account when making decisions for the overall common good.

NPHET reports daily the rise in confirmed cases of Covid-19 – but that is an obvious result from far bigger numbers being tested than in March, April or May. As most infected by Covid-19 are asymptomatic - they will feel none or only minor effects from the virus. Were they not tested they would be blissfully unaware that they have or had Covid-19. The fact that the greater majority do not need any kind of medical attention suggests that Covid-19 is no more dangerous than seasonal flu. Certainly, precautions must be taking to protect those with underlying conditions who are particularly susceptible to the virus – but to shut down vital organs of a functioning society with devastating consequences is a massive over-reaction.

The only criterion for judging the impact any virus is having on society normally is to judge the numbers presenting at clinics/hospitals, the numbers occupying ICU beds and the numbers dying. But clinics are not overwhelmed, ICU bed occupation is not significant and deaths from Covid-19 is relatively low. Over 5000 die annually from smoking and thousands are left impaired for life from destroyed lungs. Yet, there is no great urgency to highlight the human cost of smoking, no emergency and draconian responses to fast-track victims through the health system. It is the same with cancer patients – delayed consultations, delayed diagnosis and delayed treatment has catastrophic effects on countless numbers of families in this state. Where is the urgency to address these issues?

That there is a Covid-19 virus – and that it presents a danger to those with underlying medical conditions is not contested. That proportionate measures are needed to protect these vulnerable member is the right response of any civilized society. But that societies close down again and again; unleashing fear and paralysis – causing devastating mental health issues, a massive increase in alcohol consumption, and a catastrophic effect on the economy for years to come seems to me not to be the work of minds operating with any great common sense.

Suspension of Religious Services wrong!

The suspension once again of religious services is devastating news for Churchgoers, many of them elderly whose only outlet from 'solitary confinement' is their daily/weekly visit to church. To suggest that they should go On-line instead shows an insensitivity to the real needs of the elderly, many who have no access to computers – and whose real desire in any case is for human contact.

The discipline of members coming to Church – adjusting to social distance, hand sanitizing, wearing masks, and complying with other mad excesses of some priests – is truly edifying. The response is far more disciplined than in any supermarkets, restaurants/pubs or football or hurling matches around.

What Law-makers do not realise is that it is the prayers and entreaty of these Churchgoers that will ultimately bring about solutions to this virus. For, as the Psalmist puts it succinctly, "If God is not with the builder, in vain does the builder labour".

Christmas Triduum Mass Cards

Mass Cards that will remember in a Triduum of Masses, all those whom the Cards will reach this approaching Christmas are now available in Parish Office (and in Sacristy during weekend Masses). The three Masses will be offered on 24th, 25th & 26th December. These Masses will be offered up that God's love and peace may reign in each heart and home over the Christmas period - and throughout the coming Year. **Cards are €2 Euro each – 3 for €5.**

St Vincent's Secondary School Enrolment

St Vincent's Secondary School is now accepting Applications for Enrolment to First Year in September, 2021. Closing date is October, 16th. Visit the school website to view promotional Video.

Radio Maria – Ireland

Radio Maria is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station. Through Prayer, Catechesis, uplifting music, talks, Interviews and testimonies it hopes to deepen the Catholic faith of believers. Tune-in via TV on Saorview - Channel 210; or Download our Free App – 'Radio Maria Ireland'. Also, streaming on www.radiomaria.ie or via Phone – get live radio feed by telephoning 01 437 3277 (no extra charges apply). Please join our growing faith family!

Call to Pray the Rosary during Month of October

A call by Pope Francis and by Archbishop Eamonn Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, for families across Ireland to pray the Rosary together during the month of October in a great Family Rosary Crusade. Our nation is facing insurmountable problems - and very great dangers beset the world. Prayer must always be a first-recourse for believers. As never before, we need the protection and motherly care of Mary in our trials and tribulations.

Booking of Masses must be done in person at Parish Office

In future all booking of Masses must be done directly at Parish Office – We regret that we can no longer take bookings of Masses over the phone. We also ask that you collect Receipt of Payment/Booking at the time of booking the Mass. Without this Receipt we will not be able to entertain complaints of wrong dates, etc. We ask for parishioners co-operation on this issue please.

Men have forgotten God – that's why all this Happened

"More than half a century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia; '*Men have forgotten God; that's why all this happened*'. Since then I have spent well-nigh fifty years working on the history of our Revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own towards the effort of clearing away the rubble left by the upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous Revolution that swallowed up some sixty millions of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: '*Men have forgotten God; that's why all this happened*'.” Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, 1983.