

The Offertory collection at Masses

last weekend amounted to €

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

November 1, 2020.

A priest can be contacted if required
this Sunday at:
Gurranabraher 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. 31. October

6pm.

Sun 1, November

9am.

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

Mon 2. *Public Masses have been suspended -
8am. booked Masses will be re-arranged
10am. later).*

Tue 3.

8am.

10am.

Wed 4.

8am.

10am.

Thu 5.

8am.

10am.

Fri 6.

8am.

10am.

Sat 7.

10am. *Pro Populo.*

We pray for those recently deceased...

Edward King, Cnoc Mhuire, Fair Street.

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, November 1, 2020.

Feast of All Saints (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.

Feast of All Hallows begins our month of Prayer for the Dead

The church begins its great crusade of prayer for the dead each November by rejoicing with the Saints in Heaven, (the Hallowed); and seeking their intercession for those poor souls still undergoing purgatorial cleansing before they are admitted to God's Heavenly home.

The Feast of Halloween was the great occasion when people engaged in prayer and works of penance to make atonement for the sins of the dead. There was the strong belief that the dead somehow made themselves present to their kin on this night pleading for their prayers. Indeed, in Ireland, it was the custom to light a candle in the home and to recite prayers - and to even leave a plate of food ready as a sign of their deep communion with the dead. Today, such a custom is scoffed at - and dismissed as superstition. Like everything else religious in modern Ireland we have (for the most part) abandoned making atonement for, or even remembering, our dead. Instead, Halloween has become a secular, if not a pagan event, trivializing the Feast with our own banal celebrations of spooks and ghosts.

Still November, with its bleak grey landscape, reminds us of our own mortality; and evokes in us a need to remember, to repay with prayer the sacrifices of parents, grandparents, friends and neighbours whose lives touched ours and we are the better for it. Prayer is essentially a hunger for God, for contact again with those whom we loved, for something bigger and better than anything this world can offer.

We ask our parishioners to reflect during this month on their own mortality, on how fleeting life is – and above all, to remember in prayer those undergoing this purgatorial cleansing. Only our prayers can bring about their liberation and reunification with God their Creator. One day, (in all probability) we too will depend on the prayers of the faithful for our own liberation.

Novena of Masses for our Dead

Starting on the Monday, 2nd of November, 2020, a Novena of Masses, (9 days), will be celebrated at Ascension Church for the dead. In those days all who have died of every place and time will be remembered – but we will remember in a very special way those whom parishioners have asked us to pray for during this Novena. The list of names sent in by parishioners will be placed before the altar and a candle will be lit continuously over the nine days to remind us of our duty to pray for the dead. When sending in a list of our dead for remembrance we are engaging in a profoundly generous act of doing for the dead the only thing we can do for them now – and that is to pray for them. We ask Almighty God to hear our prayers for our loved ones during those days of the Novena.

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.**

Death from Hunger Strike of Terence McSwiney, Joseph Murphy and Michael Fitzgerald

This week citizens of Cork engaged in different acts of remembrance for three of Cork's finest sons, Terence McSwiney, Joseph Murphy and Michael Fitzgerald. All were engaged in the struggle for independence from British Rule in Ireland. When arrested they continued that struggle, in their prison cells, by the only means available, hunger-striking to death.

Michael Fitzgerald, from Fermoy was the first to die on 17th October, 1920, in Cork Gaol. A week later on the 25th October, in the same Gaol, Joseph Murphy, from Pouladuff Road, died after completing 76 days on hunger-strike. Some hours later, reigning Lord Mayor of Cork, Terence McSwiney was to die in Brixton Prison after completing 74 days on hunger strike. Their deaths aroused the conscience of the world – but even more importantly, it galvanized resistance in Ireland to British rule that resulted in Irish independence one year later.

Remembering the selfless acts of McSwiney, Fitzgerald and Murphy on this the Centenary of their deaths is hugely important. In a world consumed by materialism, where altruism is in short supply and narcissism is the prevailing creed – it is good that the heroic sacrifice of these men is brought to our attention. What Ireland needs more than anything else in this age is deep reflection and a resurgence of the national spirit.

Call to Pray the Rosary during Month of October

A plea has come from both 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.

The Family that Prays together stays together

Visit Ascension Parish Website – gurranaברהerparish.ie

We invite parishioners to visit our website – gurranaברהerparish.ie - regularly. As well as finding the latest news from the parish there are useful links to other sites. The weekly Newsletter is also available.

Church open for Private Worship

While Ireland is on Level 5 with its general lock-down - thus preventing Mass from being celebrated publicly – our Church remains open for private worship from 10am to 3.30pm daily. We encourage our parishioners to avail of this opportunity to call to the church and commune with their God - and light a candle for a world and a Church that has gone mad. The fact that Mass cannot be celebrated publicly in Ireland, the only country in Europe in this position, is deplorable. Let us storm heaven for this madness to end.

Old in Nursing Homes are being neglected spiritually

One of the important protocols listed for 'end of life' care in Nursing Homes is the necessity for the old to have access to spiritual care and sustenance. Since the lock-down in March, 2020, almost all Nursing Homes have deprived residents access to Sacraments and to visits from Priests. To have cut this life-line from the old whose focus and hope, in many cases, is on eternity is a national scandal. If our national hospitals have judged that the chaplaincy services are an integral part of the 'service of care' it offers its patients - even in lock-down situations - why should these in Nursing Homes have this essential service deprived them. As Christians we should raise our voices loudly for those who have no voice at this time.

Display a Religious Object from the windows of your homes

With no end of Covid-19 in sight; and with a great sense of hopelessness evident everywhere - one of the ways that we can reassure our world in these troubled times is for parishioners to display a religious object from the windows of their houses. A picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or one of the Blessed Virgin Mary, (or any other saint), can give a powerful message that God and his Elect are with his people in these moments of danger and confusion. Such a display will let others know that you are praying for the world and for an end to this scourge that overwhelms us.

Religion is a Public Commitment to Him who gives meaning to my life

“At the end of his life, Saint John Henry Newman would describe his life's work as a struggle against the growing tendency to view religion as a purely private and subjective matter, just a question of personal opinion. Here is the first lesson we can learn from his life: in our day, when an intellectual and moral relativism threatens to sap the very foundations of our society, Newman reminds us that, as men and women made in the image and likeness of God, we were created to know the truth, to find in that truth our ultimate freedom and deepest fulfilment.” (Archbishop Anthony Fisher; October 2019)

The unexamined life is not worth living. (Plato)