

## The Offertory collection at Masses

last weekend amounted to €

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

**Special thanks to Eily Morris and her supporters for raising the sum of €500. for Church renovations during these difficult times.**

*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 22, 2020.**

A priest can be contacted if required  
this Sunday at:  
**Clogheen 150 7486**

*“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. 21. November**

6pm.

**Sun 22.**

9am.

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

**Mon 23.** *Public Masses have been suspended -  
8am. booked Masses will be re-arranged -  
10am. later).*

**Tue 24.**

8am.

10am.

**Wed 25.**

8am.

10am.

**Thu 26.**

8am.

10am.

**Fri 27.**

8am.

10am.

**Sat 28.**

10am. *Pro Populo.*

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

*Ellen Price, Presentation Road  
John O'Flynn, Templeacre Avenue.  
Joan Sheehan, Churchfield Avenue,  
William (Billy) Lenihan, Churchfield Avenue,  
Ann O'Leary, St Rita's Avenue.*

***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 22, 2020.

**Feast of Christ the King, (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](mailto: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.**

### **Feast of Christ, Our King**



Today as a Church community, we conclude our Liturgical year by celebrating the Feast of Christ the King – the One to whom all times and seasons belong.

The Gospel we proclaim shows the great mystery of our faith: In the moment of his crucifixion, Jesus is shown to be King and Savior of the universe.

Luke's Gospel has been loaded with surprises: the poor are rich, sinners find salvation, the Kingdom of God is found in our midst. Here we see the greatest surprise of all. We are confronted with the crucified Jesus, whom faith tells us is King and Savior of all. The irony is that the

inscription placed on the cross, in mockery, contains the profoundest of truth. As the leaders jeer, the thief crucified by his side recognizes Jesus as Messiah and King - and finds salvation.

Jesus is King, but not the kind of king we might have imagined or expected. His kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries, but those who had the eyes of faith were able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we, too, struggle at times to recognize Jesus as King. Today's Gospel invites us to make our own judgment. With eyes of faith, we, too, recognize that Jesus, the crucified One, is indeed King and Savior of all.

### **Mandatory Church Closure Violates our Human Rights**

More than 120 leaders from various Christian denominations in the UK are leading a legal challenge against government orders that have made it a criminal offence for Christians to gather for communal worship or prayer. The religious leaders say the new restrictions on public worship violate the Human Rights Act's Article Nine, which "protects Christians' freedom to show their religion or beliefs in communal worship, teaching, practice and observance". They also point out the unreasonableness of a law that allows places of worship be used during the Lock-down for secular purposes but not for divine worship. Dr. Gavin Ashenden, former Anglican Bishop and personal Chaplain to English Queen Elizabeth - now a Catholic convert - cited the long history of government attempts to control, restrict and prohibit Christian worship in England. He mentioned the 12th-century assassination of Archbishop of Canterbury St. Thomas Becket, and the treatment of both Catholic and Protestant dissenters. He said: "Church leaders, as their successors, have a duty both to ensure they are faithful to their memory and sacrifices; and in our generation to be faithful to their God and their consciences." The Leaders challenging the Lock-down of Churches and other places of worship point to German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, who has refused to close churches during the country's current lockdown on the grounds that doing so would raise serious constitutional issues.

### **Globalisation – an Insidious Snare to force Uniformity**

In a homily at Mass on October, 18, 2018, Pope Francis warned that an insidious snare is running through the world: the snare of the "globalization of hegemonic uniformity". It is marked by a "uniformity of thought" which leads people to deny their own traditions and even their very identity. The Pope was reflecting on the passage in the Book of Maccabees where seven brothers and their mother were cruelly put to death for remaining steadfast to the faith of Israel.

Pope Francis describes this story in the Old Testament as the saddest story of the scripture. "Sad, first of all because of the evil inflicted on a righteous family – but even sadder still that so many Jewish families were prepared, in the face of persecution, to abandon their Jewish culture and tradition."

"The people," Pope Francis said, "negotiated and bargained with the king. But they didn't negotiate away only their habits and customs ... they negotiated away their fidelity to the God of Israel. And this is what we call apostasy; the prophets called it prostitution or adultery. They were an adulterous people who *"negotiated away something essential to their very being, i.e., their faithfulness to the Lord"*.

Pope Francis likened their attitude to modern day Catholics who thinks that it is right and permissible to negotiate away precious truths of the faith - Catholics who in the face of a little bit of persecution or ridicule negotiate away what defines them as Catholics. "We would do well to think about what happened in the Book of Maccabees", Francis continued, "about what happens when a people, step by step, forfeit their own customs, their own thoughts - indeed their very identity; and slavishly follow simply what everyone else is thinking and doing. We would also do well", he said, "to ponder the consequences of their infidelity to God" - There are countless examples in history, down to this very day, of the cruelty and hell we inflict on others when there is denial of God and a compelling uniformity of thought.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **November – a Call to remember our Dead**

For the month of November we continue to remember the dead of every place and time - but we remembered also in a very special way those whom parishioners asked us to pray for during this month. The list of names sent in by parishioners is now placed before the main Altar beside a lighted candle and will be left in place for the whole of November.

### **Booking of Masses in 2021**

From January, 2021, two intentions will be taken for each of the Masses celebrated at Ascension parish. This move has become necessary due to the large amount of Masses not said in 2020 because of the Covid-19 Lockdown – and which need to be rescheduled. Having two intentions for a Mass is normal practice in many churches in the Diocese.

### **Donations of Food items for the Needy**

Gurranabraher parish is one of the few parishes in the city who makes a serious effort to come to the aid of its needy especially at Christmas time. We invite parishioners again this year to place their donations of food items in the baskets provided in front of the main Altar. The Covid-19 Lockdown is having devastating consequences on the economy – with many out of work. Thus, we appeal to parishioners to make a very special effort this Advent Season that will begin shortly. May God bless all generous givers.

### **Church open for Private Worship**

While Ireland is on Covid-19 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 visit the church and commune with their God - and light a candle for a world and a Church that has gone mad. We also ask our parishioners to keep phoning all politicians letting them know your yearnings for Mass – and your displeasure that while other places can remain open public Masses are forbidden

### **Cultivation of Ethical and religious values necessary to preserve Freedom**

"A culture and a nation that cuts itself off from the great ethical and religious forces of its own history, commits suicide. The cultivation of essential moral insights, preserving and protecting these as a common possession but without imposing them by force, seems to be the one condition necessary for the continued existence of freedom in the face of all [of today's] nihilisms and their totalitarian consequences." (Pope Benedict XVI)

**Visit Ascension Parish Website – [gurranabraherparish.ie](http://gurranabraherparish.ie)**