

Mass Intentions this Week

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**

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.

SUNDAY DUTY ROTA

January 17, 2021.

A priest can be contacted urgently

this Sunday at:

Cathedral 087 23 811 87

We pray for those recently deceased...

*Mary Ring, Dublin Hill,
Jerry Heaphy, Gurrabraher Road,
Michael Brady, Mount Nebo Avenue,
Eamonn Ryan, Ballingearry.*

Requiescat in Pace.

Sat. 16, January 2021.

- i) Joe Murphy, RIP (1st Anniv)
- ii)

Sun 17.

- i)
- ii)

- i) Ellen O'Connor, RIP (54th Anniv)
- ii)

Mon 18.

- i) John O'Donovan, RIP
- ii) Marie Crean's Intentions

- i) Brendan Kelly, RIP
- ii) Betty & Nial O'Keeffe's Intention

Tue 19.

- i) Novena Mass 5.
- ii) Matthew Dooly, RIP

- i) Timmy Byrd's Intentions
- ii) Mary Twohig, RIP (Anniv)

Wed 20.

- i) Thomas Whyte, RIP
- ii)

- i) Tom & Kathleen Sexton, RIP
- ii) Jim Howard, RIP

Thu 21.

- i) Pauline O'Riordan, RIP
- ii) For all 'my deceased friends'.

i)

- ii) Rose O'Brien, RIP

Fri 22.

- i) Novena Mass 6.
- ii) Batt & Maureen Kiely, RIP

- i) John Lehane, RIP
- ii) Michael O'Riordan, RIP

Sat 23.

- Catherine (Kitty) O'Callaghan, RIP (5th Anniv)



Ascension Parish

Gurrabraher, Cork.

Sunday, January 17, 2021.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

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

email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com

Website: 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)

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

The Martyr of Wuhan

Francis-Regis Clet was the tenth child of a family of fifteen children, and when he was twenty-one years old he entered the Vincentians because of his admiration for Saint Vincent de Paul's love for the poor and afflicted. He was in Paris when the violent persecution of Catholics began during the French Revolution (1789-1799), and when priests were being exiled from their native France he volunteered to go to China where he was certain to confront more of the same persecution.

Francis-Regis Clet knew that human life is *from* and *for* God, and so he was determined to leave a place that seemed to be turning away from God in order to serve the poor in a place that did not yet know God... He began his life as a missionary in China in 1789, and three decades later he was tied onto a wooden pole in Wuhan; a rope was wrapped around his throat and he was slowly deprived of the air his body required to remain alive.

A violent destructive storm in 1818 was blamed on the Christians that unleashed a great persecution. Father Clet was forced into hiding; hiding out in small caves and remote places in the woods. He eventually sought refuge in the home of a Catholic family, where he "sheltered in place" for six lonely months. Clet's location was eventually revealed by an apostate and he was delivered to a local court, where he was forced to kneel on chains and badly tortured because he refused to denounce his Christian faith. When he was later transferred to the prison at Wuhan, his clothes were scarlet in blood from the torture inflicted. He was condemned to death by slow suffocation on February 17, 1820, and he was taken to the execution ground where he "calmly endured strangulation when a chord was tightened around his neck in three stages." His remains were affectionately collected by devout Chinese Catholics, and they were eventually sent to Paris where they are today kept in the Vincentian motherhouse. **(Bishop Thomas Daly, Spokane, WA. 2020)**

Parish Office closed until Further Notice

Because of the high incidence of Covid-19 around the Parish Office will remain closed until further notice. We ask parishioners to bear with us until this wave of Covid-19 passes.

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 different Covid-19 Lockdowns – and which needed to be rescheduled. Having two intentions for a Mass is normal practice in many churches in the Diocese. We undertake that the Masses will be said as indicated in Parish Newsletter.

New Year Raffle

We wish to thank parishioners for making a gallant efforts to raise funds over the Christmas period for Church Loan debt. It was a very spontaneous effort by a number of people present at the Christmas Masses – and it raised the sum of €3,515. We ask God's blessings on all who went out of their way to raise these funds.

Prize Winners

1st Prize - Maura Mullane

2nd Prize – Anna Cotter

3rd Prize – Presentation Sisters, Churchfield

12 Consolation Prizes to the following

Amanda Harris, Chrissie O'Keeffe, Fia McGillicuddy, Edel Thornton, Frank Thornton,
Majella Mulqueen, May O'Donoghue, Bernard Gregory, Nellie Bruton, Francis McCarthy,
Phil Foley, Francis McCarthy.

For those who have yet to collect their prizes they will have to wait until Parish Office reopens.

Accommodation required for Young People

Accommodation is required for young boys and girls, (13 – 16y), from other European countries, who will be attending the newly created Catholic Secondary School in Cork, situated presently in the Dominican quarters at Pope's Quay. New sets of students would be coming from September to December and from January to May each year. If you are committed to the Catholic faith and have room in your home to house any one of these students please contact Fr Tomás Walsh.

Without Jesus man suffers only an aching hunger

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

We invite parishioners to visit our website – gurrabraherparish.ie - regularly.

For as Long as Man lives in Time he can choose for God

Up to the time of the Judeo/Christian revelation, first made manifest with the divine encounter between God and Abraham, some four thousand years ago, man lived in great fear of the gods - unable to make choices, his whole life was circumscribed by the repetitious cycle of seasons and events. First with Abraham and then with Moses, God entered into a Covenantal relationship whereby God and man will work together in the creation story – shaping and fashioning a world built on justice and love. For the first time man will be an agent of transformation and change writing history by the imprint he would leave on the world. History, then, is a place of human decision. At every moment of our lives, we're asked to choose for good or for evil. Therefore, time has weight. It has meaning. Archbishop Chaput of Philadelphia writes: "The present is vitally important as the instant that will never come again; the moment where we are not determined by outside forces but self-determined by our free will. Our past actions make us who we are today. But each 'today' also offers us another chance to change our developing history. The future is the fruit of our past and present choices, but it's always unknown, because each successive moment presents us with a new possibility. Time and freedom are the raw material of life because time is the realm of human choice. The Devil wants us to think that freedom really doesn't exist because when we fail to choose, when we slide through life, we in effect choose for Satan. Time is the Devil's enemy. He lives neither in the eternity of God nor the realm of man. Satan has made his choice against God and he is forever fixed in that choice. But as long as man lives in time, which is the realm of change, man may still choose in favour of God. And of course, God is always offering the help of his grace to do just that. If the Devil can sell us the idea that history is a single, determined mechanism, if humanity's freedom of will can be forgotten or denied, then man will drift, and the antichrist will win.

What is Covid-19

Covid-19 is an illness, identified in late 2019, caused by a new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, that has resulted in thousands of deaths worldwide – mostly for people with underlying conditions. The virus is spread mainly through tiny droplets scattered from the nose and mouth of a person who is already infected – even in many cases when they are not aware of it. The droplets can be scattered when the infected person coughs, sneezes, talks or laughs. As Covid-19 is a new illness, we are still learning about how easily the virus spreads from person to person - and how to control it.

The Covid-19 virus can be picked up if you come into close contact with someone who is shedding droplets containing the virus, when they talk, laugh, cough or sneeze. You can also get infected if you touch - with your hands – a surface or object (for example a table top or a religious item) contaminated with virus, and then you touch your mouth, nose or eyes without having washed or sanitised your hands thoroughly. The surest way to avoid contacting the virus is that each person would sanitise their hands when entering and leaving the church and making sure that the social distance of 2 metres is kept at all times.

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