

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 31, 2021.

A priest can be contacted urgently

this Sunday at:

Farranree 087 096 71 77

We pray for those recently deceased...

Eddie Walsh, Orrery Road

Requiescat in Pace.

Sat. 30, January 2021.

- i) Jean Forde, RIP (3rd Anniv)
- ii)

Sun 31.

- i) Paddy Shanahan, RIP
- ii)

- i) Seán O'Donovan, RIP
- ii)

Mon 1, February.

- i) Special Intention
- ii)

- i) Special Intention
- ii)

Tue 2.

- i) Special Intention
- ii)

- i) Special Intention
- ii)

Wed 3.

- i) Novena Mass 1
- ii)

- i) Special Intention
- ii)

Thu 4.

- i) Special Intention
- ii)

- i) Special Intention
- ii)

Fri 5.

- i) Novena Mass 2
- ii)

- i) Special Intention
- ii)

Sat 36.

- i) Pro Pop



Ascension Parish

Gurrabraher, Cork.

Sunday, January 31, 2021.

4th 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.

Jesus is Consubstantial (of the same substance) with the Father

It is the constant faith of the Church that Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity who has existed with the Father without beginning or end. From the [Apostles] experience of the absolute dedication of Jesus to the will of God and the welfare of men, of his life of total, unrestricted love and above all his resurrection, by which that love was triumphantly vindicated, and all its conquering power made manifest, the first disciples were led by the light of faith to a new vision of his Person and his destiny. In that vision the universal, supra-temporal dimensions of his being were disclosed. He came to be recognized as the Lord of history, in whom all human life, with its hopes and ideals, found its meaning, and the whole cosmos its center and goal. As such, he had to be acknowledged as transcending the bounds of time, not just in the future, but also antecedently; he had to be accorded a share in the eternity and the very Being of the Godhead” John’s Gospel expresses it fully: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God” (Jn 1: 1). “The line of thought which culminates in this sublime confession of faith would be robbed of its significance, if the words meant no more than that from the very beginning of his life Jesus was filled with the divine presence. Only if Jesus himself personally, the one who had proclaimed, lived and died for the Kingdom, and was shown by his resurrection from the dead to be that Kingdom in his very own Person, had existed before time and history began, could he measure up to the role with which his disciples had been led, step by step, to invest him.” The Council of Nicea, 325AD, did not rest content with proclaiming the consubstantiality of the Son, but went on to anathematize explicitly those who say ‘There was a time when Jesus was not’, and, ‘that he was made out of nothing or out of some other substance or essence’ or that ‘the Son of God is changeable or mutable’ (*Sacrament of Salvation – Kevin McNamara, p34*).

Ash Wednesday on 17th February

This year, Ash Wednesday, falls on 17 February. For the forty days of Lent Christians are called to reflect and come close to the God that they worship. Only those who have had some kind of encounter with the Lord Jesus - and know Him to be alive – will be able to live alone for the Lord - and not be mesmerised by what this world has to offer. The arrival of Covid-19 to western Europe in early 2020, has created a huge insecurity in our lives. Gone are the certainties; the taking of things for granted. Suddenly its not parties or holidays that matter anymore but protecting our health and the health of our children. These insecure times can create the optimum environment for getting close to the Lord. During these days of Lent we can pray with our families and cry out to God to make his presence felt. We can ask God to help us to realise what it important in our lives – and that He show us the way to life and happiness. Let us avail of this opportunity – let us make space for God in our lives.

The distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday 17th February next will have to be done differently this year. As Mass and the blessing of ashes on that day will be celebrated without a congregation present arrangements will be made for people to collect the Blessed Ashes after the Mass or during the course of the day. Suitable envelopes are being prepared to contain the ashes.

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.

Free accommodation in return for light Care-taking duties

Free Accommodation in the Cork area available to mature married couple, or widowed person, in return for light caretaking duties. Please email resetini@gmail.com

Day for Consecrated Life - Feast of Presentation, 2nd February.

Last year over 200 religious, sisters, brothers and clergy from throughout the Diocese joined in a celebration of consecrated life in the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord at the invitation of Bishop Fintan. That day is the one chosen by late Pope Saint John Paul for the celebration of consecrated life.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions ,this year Bishop Fintan has invited the religious sisters, brothers and clergy to join with him via the internet on **Tuesday 2nd February at 5pm** for the celebration of Vespers, (Evening Prayer), in the Poor Clare Colletine Monastery College Road. The celebration of Vespers on that evening will be made available on the Diocesan Website for people throughout the Diocese to participate.

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.

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

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 unintimidating 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.

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 would 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.

Visit Ascension Parish Website – gurrabraherparish.ie