

## 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**

**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.**

### SUNDAY DUTY ROTA

**February 7, 2021.**

**A priest can be contacted urgently**

**this Sunday at:**

**Gurranabraher 085 804 1951**

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

*Rita O'Neill, Cathedral Road,*

*Mary White, Gurranabraher Road,*

*Frances O'Doherty, Gurranabraher Avenue,*

**Requiescat in Pace.**

### Sat. 6, February, 2021.

i) Daryl Golbey, RIP (Died recently)

### Sun 7.

i) Nancy O'Connor, RIP

ii) Mary & Neliu Joyce, RIP

### Mon 8,

i) Special Intention

ii) Mary Mullins, RIP

### Tue 9.

i) Novena Mass 3.

ii) Holy Souls

iii) Molly & Denis O'Sullivan, RIP

### Wed 10.

i) Special Intention

ii) Special Intention

### Thu 11.

i) Special Intention

ii) Special Intention

### Fri 12.

i) Novena Mass 4.

i) Special Intention

### Sat 13.

i) Pro Pop



## Ascension Parish

Gurranabraher, Cork.

Sunday, February 7, 2021.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

**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.**

### A 'throw away' culture discards all who are not considered useful

Pope Francis addressing the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, in 2014, praised the work of the Academy for highlighting respect for the aged and the sick in our society. He said: "Aging and Disability" is a topic that is extremely relevant to our own day and something always very close to the Church's heart. Indeed, in our society one encounters the tyrannical dominion forced upon us by a logic of economics that discounts, excludes and at times evens kills our elderly. We have created a 'throw away' culture which is now spreading... One easily forgets that the relations among human beings are always relations of reciprocal dependence, which manifest themselves according to different degrees throughout the life of a person and become indispensable in situations of old age, illness, disability and indeed suffering in general. This requires of all of us our offers of necessary help through interpersonal as well as community relationships, in an attempt to answer the present need of these persons in their respective situations..." Pope Francis went on to say that our value system and how we treat those less fortunate than ourselves are ultimately formed in the home. He said: The family is the mistress, one might say, of acceptance and warm welcome as well as of solidarity. It is in the very womb of the family that education draws in a substantial manner from relations of solidarity. In the family, one learns that the loss of health can never be a reason for discriminating against any human life. The family teaches about not falling into an individualism that weighs oneself against the others. And it is here, in the family, that 'taking care of you' constitutes one of the fundamentals of human existence and a moral attitude that must be promoted... The testimony offered by the family... in its consistent affirmation of the importance of the aged person as he or she is a subject of the community, who has a mission to fulfil, and about whom it is always false to say he or she receives without offering anything in return... A society is truly open to life when it recognizes that life is precious even in the elderly population, in the disabled, and in those who are gravely ill or in the process of dying. Only when society affirms that the call to the realization of one's humanity does not exclude suffering, only then may this society call itself open to life.

### **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day of the Sick**

On World Day of the Sick which is celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Bishop Fintan will celebrate Mass in Mercy University Hospital in prayer and solidarity with the sick - and in thanksgiving for healthcare workers in hospitals, residential care facilities and homes throughout the Diocese. He is inviting all of us to join him via the Internet in the Mass on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 12noon.**

In his message for World Day of the Sick 2021; Pope Francis says that it gives an “opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities”. Bishop Fintan’s Mass will be live-streamed so that as many people as possible can participate from hospitals, nursing homes, other residential settings and family homes. The link to the live-stream will be available on Cork and Ross Webpage.

### **Ash Wednesday on 17<sup>th</sup> 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 is 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:resetini@gmail.com)

### **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.

### **Only in Christ is forgiveness to be found**

We are living in extraordinary times. Almost everyone wishes to make a confession. Shameful things are disclosed on ‘chat shows’ and ‘reality programmes’ that only weakens and degrades human society. “There is much confession but there is no absolution. Sin confessed but unredeemed either leads to despair or is trivialized. We see that despair in the vast anguish that fuels an enormous therapeutic industry. Our culture does not need to be taught how to confess; *it needs to discover where forgiveness can be found.* Our culture does not need to further expose the stain of its sinfulness; *it needs to discover the only ONE who can wash it away – Jesus Christ.*” May humanity discover again the liberating joy of God’s mercy found only in the Sacrament of Confession!

### **Trócaire Boxes available in Church**

Each Lent, Trócaire, an agency of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Ireland, appeals to the generosity of Irish Catholics to support their many projects in the developing world aimed at alleviating hunger and promoting integral human development. This year, with Lock-down still in operation it will be harder to get the message across to the Irish people that hunger and poverty stalks the developing world and that these people remain in need of our generous Lenten contributions. Bishop William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne, and Chairman of Trócaire, has written appealing that we make an extra special effort this Lenten season to think of those who live in dire poverty. He wrote: “This past year has brought many challenges to parishes and communities around Ireland, and the impact of Covid-19 continues to be felt by many. We are continually humbled by and grateful for the generosity shown by you and your parishioners. Now more than ever, families like Awut and Ajak’s In Sudan need our compassion and our support as they continue to carry their immense burdens with dignity. I commend this vital work to you, and ask for your continued support and generosity.

### **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.