

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 14, 2021.

**A priest can be contacted urgently this Sunday at:
Gurranabraher 085 804 1951**

We pray for those recently deceased...

James Hussey, St Rita's Avenue,

Requiescat in Pace.

Sat. 13, February, 2021.

i) Michael (Mick) Lynch, RIP (1st Anniv).

Sun 14.

i) Special Intention
ii) Kathleen Murphy, RIP (5th Anniv)

Mon 15,

i) Novena Mass 5
ii) Elizabeth Babbington, RIP (Birthday Rem)

Tue 16.

i) Special Intention
ii) Holy Souls.

Wed 17.

i) Special Intention
ii) Special Intention

Thu 18.

i) Special Intention
ii) Special Intention

Fri 19.

i) Novena Mass 6
i) Elizabeth O'Keeffe, RIP (23rd Anniv)
iii) Seán O'Sullivan, RIP (Anniv)

Sat 20.

i) Pro Pop



Ascension Parish Gurranabraher, Cork. Sunday, February, 14, 2021. 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

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.

Pope Francis: Caring for the sick is not optional for Christians

Gathering for the Angelus at St Peter's Square on Sunday, (7th Feb), (Pope Francis using the reading from the Sunday Mass spoke on the issue of sickness and suffering. He said: "The healing of St Peter's mother-in-law is characteristic of Jesus' miracles of healing, "... Jesus drew near her, took her hand, and raised her up from the bed where she was suffering from a fever. The episode also shows the outcome of the healing: the person healed immediately resumes their normal life, thinking immediately of others, and not themselves. That same evening, after the Sabbath rest, the people of the village come to Jesus, bringing with them the sick and those who are possessed. "From the very beginning" of the Gospel, "Jesus shows His predilection for those who are suffering in body and in spirit," Pope Francis went on to say that ministering to the sick is not an "optional activity" for the Church, but an integral part of her mission; like Jesus, the Church is called "to bring the tenderness of God to suffering humanity."

Jesus, says Pope Francis, does not give an explanation that answers the question of suffering. Instead, He responds "with a presence of love that bows down, takes the one who is suffering by the hand, and lifts them up, just as He did with Peter's mother-in-law." Pope Francis continues, "The Son of God does not manifest His Lordship 'from the top down' or from a distance; but in closeness, in tenderness, in compassion."

Finally, Pope Francis notes that the day's readings reminds us that Jesus' compassion for the suffering is rooted "in His intimate relationship with the Father": In the Gospel, Jesus rises "very early before dawn," and goes to a deserted place to pray. It is from prayer, the Pope says, that Jesus "drew the strength to accomplish His ministry, preaching and healing."

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.

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.

Livestreaming all Masses at Gurranabraher

At last, Gurranabraher joins the long line of other parishes in the Dioceses who have installed cameras so that all liturgical celebrations can be livestreamed directly to the computers or smartphones of parishioners. With the Lockdown still preventing Masses from being celebrated publicly it is a powerful way of remaining in contact with our people. Indeed, as it is livestreamed all around the world former parishioners who have settled in far-away places will now have an opportunity of connecting into our services too. (During the Lockdown Masses will be livestreamed every day, **(Monday to Saturday), at 10am. On Sundays Mass will be celebrated at 11.30am**). Funeral Masses will also be livestreamed. When the Lockdown is ended we will revert to our former schedule. To access the site go to gurranabraherparish.ie Scroll down the home page until you see ‘Watch Webcam’. That will bring you into the livestream. You can also access it from the bar at top of homepage.

Matt Talbot Novena – on-line each Monday during Lent

The annual Matt Talbot Novena will go on again this year at the Church of the Way of the Cross, Togher – only this year it will be on-line. It will begin at 6.30pm on each of the Monday evening of Lent starting on 22nd February. If interested to togherparish.ie

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

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.

On-line discussions from Knock Shrine to engage you during Lent.

Questions and topics that concerns anyone wanting to live a Christian life today will be explored each Thursday over the six weeks of Lent. The discussions will be streamed online via the Knock Shrine website, knockshrine.ie/watch-live at 8.30pm. People from all over the world will the opportunity to engage in relevant topics and to hear from a range of people.

This coming Thursday 18th February

‘Living Christian Faith in the Family’ St John Paul spoke about how the future of humanity passes by way of the family. Patrick and Linda Treacy, who have four children and run a centre for domestic spirituality called Integritas from their home, will speak about the joys and challenges of living Christian Faith as a family today.

Superficial Christianity is a form of Paganism

Archbishop Charles Chaput, spoke in 2014 of lukewarm Catholics and superficial Christianity. He said: “lukewarm Christians and superficial Christianity are only a congenial form of paganism...” “The main crisis of modern Christianity is not one of resources, or personnel, or marketing”, Archbishop Chaput asserted. “It is a crisis of faith. Millions of people claim to be Christian, but they don’t really believe... They don’t study Scripture. They don’t love the Church as a mother and teacher. And they settle for an inoffensive, ‘vanilla type’ of Christianity that amounts only to a system of decent social ethics. “This is self-delusion,” he warned, “it is the worst kind of phony Christianity that has no power to create hope out of suffering, no power to resist persecution, or no power to lead anyone else to God.”

Parish Office open again for business

The Parish Office is now open again each day, Monday to Friday – 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 2.30pm to 5.00pm. We thank very sincerely all our many volunteers who staff the office and do other vital work around the Church. Without such people we would not be able to continue. May God reward each of them hugely.