

Donations for Church Renovations gratefully
accepted at Parish Office -
or they can be lodged directly into:

**Ascension Church Building Fund A/c
at any AIB Bank
IE65 AIBK 934194 32642064**

Or

**To our Local Credit Union
Gurrabraher Credit Union Account –
Church of the Ascension Renovation Fund –
A/c No. 02255200.**

SUNDAY DUTY ROTA

March 21, 2021.

**A priest can be contacted urgently
this Sunday at:**

Farranree 087 096 7177

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

Requiescat in Pace.

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat 20, March.

i) Donor's Intention

Sun 21.

i) Special Intention

ii) Deceased members of the Kelliher family

Mon 22,

i) Novena Mass 7.

ii) Nora & Frank Dilworth, RIP

iii) Nellie & Frank O'Leary, RIP

Tue 23.

i) Nuala O'Brien, RIP

ii) Jerry Hurley, RIP (1st Anniv)

Wed 24.

i) Sylvie Nagle, (1st Anniv)

ii) Joe O'Mahony, RIP

Thu 25.

i) Brendan Twyford, RIP

ii) Donor's Intention

Fri 26.

i) Novena Mass 8

ii) Special Intention

Sat 27.

i) Pro Pop



**Ascension Parish
Gurrabraher, Cork.
Sunday, March, 21, 2021.
Fifth Sunday of Lent (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.

Only the one who gives creates the future

In 1969, Fr Joseph Ratzinger, (later Pope Benedict XVI) gave a lecture that outlined where he saw the Church going as it approached the Third Millennium. It was a stunning and prescient speech – the truth of which becomes clearer by the day. It is going to be a much smaller Church that will undergo great persecution – and robbed of prestige; it will become a beacon of hope for a lonely world.

“The future of the Church can and will issue from those whose roots are deep and who live from the pure fullness of their faith. It will not issue from those who accommodate themselves merely to the passing moment or from those who merely criticize others and assume that they themselves are infallible measuring rods; nor will it issue from those who take the easier road, who sidestep the passion of faith, declaring false and obsolete, tyrannous and legalistic, all that makes demands upon men – all that hurts them and compels them to sacrifice themselves. To put this more positively: the future of the Church, once again as always, will be reshaped by saints - by those whose minds probe deeper than the slogans of the day, who see more than others see, because their lives embrace a wider reality. Unselfishness, which makes men free, is attained only through the patience of small daily acts of self-denial. By this daily passion, which alone reveals to a man in how many ways he is enslaved by his own ego, by this daily passion and by it alone, a man's eyes are slowly opened. He sees only to the extent that he has lived and suffered. If today we are scarcely able any longer to become aware of God, that is because we find it so easy to evade ourselves, to flee from the depths of our being by means of the narcotic of some pleasure or other. Thus, our own interior depths remain closed to us. If it is true that a man can see only with his heart, then how blind we all are!

Holy Hour of Adoration

The regular Holy Hour of Adoration will resume each Thursday @ 7pm via the webcam. This is a quiet hour spent in the presence of the Lord. There in God's presence we pray for vocations to the religious life – particularly vocations to the Priesthood. And we bring to the Lord the great needs of the world. We invite parishioners to join us each Thursday in these days of Lent. We invite you too if there is someone who has a life-threatening illness to let us know and we will remember them in prayer.

Mí na Gaelige

"As we celebrate our Irish heritage during the month of March each year, (Mí na Gaelige), it is important to remember the huge part language and culture plays in the lives of people. An old Irish proverb describes it succinctly "*Tír gán cultúr tír gán t-anam*" (A country without a culture is a county without a soul) – nothing to guide us through each succeeding generation – nothing to link us to the past or to chart the course for the future.

"A United Nations Report claims that nine-tenths of the languages now spoken will become extinct in the next hundred years. Most endangered languages have only a very small number of speakers. It is painful to imagine how the world must look to these individuals. They are orphaned in eternity; wiped clean of memory, their existence reduced to the exigency of the moment." The culture of a community is what unites the dead with those yet to be born. The death of a culture is an uncanny event, for it erases not only the future but also the past - that is, the hopes and fears, the sweat and sacrifice of countless generation whose lives no longer can be remembered, for no living being will sing their songs or tell their stories."

A Day of Judgement awaits us all

Lent is a season of grace where we are called each year to take some kind of stock-take of our lives – and reflect on where we are in our relationship with God. At the end of our lives the only thing that really matters is whether our orientation is towards God or away from God. The choices we make in this life will determine whether our eternity is spent in Heaven (where God is) or in Hell (where God isn't). Pope Benedict XVI, made numerous appeals to Christians to return to God with renewed hearts. He wrote: "One of the great errors of believers today is to feel at ease with sin. As a result the heart becomes blind, ceases to seek God, does not desire grace, and does not feel any need for repentance." He spoke of 'a day of judgement' that awaits all people; where the good are rewarded and the evil are cast forever from God's presence. Pope Benedict said: "*It is not possible to remove God's judgement and punishment from the Christian faith, because to do so would mean that God is indifferent to evil. God combats evil and for this reason, as judge, he must also punish to do justice.*"

Livestreaming all Masses at Gurrabraher

During the Lockdown Masses will be live-streamed every day, (**Monday to Saturday, at 10am. On Sundays Mass will be celebrated at 11.30am**). To access the site go to gurrabraherparish.ie Scroll down the home page until you see 'Watch Webcam'. That will bring you into the livestream.

See Parish Newsletter at gurrabraherparish.ie

Feast of the Annunciation – Thursday, 25th March.

The feast of the Annunciation of the Lord celebrates the Angel Gabriel's appearance to the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38), and his announcement that she had been singularly chosen to be the Mother of Our Lord. The Annunciation represents Christ's Incarnation – His coming to dwell among us though still unknown to the world. When Mary signaled to Gabriel her acceptance of God's Will, Christ was conceived in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. Most of the Church Fathers agree that Mary's '*fiat*', (her 'Yes'), was essential to God's plan of salvation - God foresaw Mary's acceptance of His Will from all eternity. The narrative of the Annunciation testifies powerfully to the truth of the Catholic tradition that Mary was indeed a virgin when Christ was conceived, and remained 'ever Virgin'. Mary's response to Gabriel: "How shall this be done, because I know not man?" (Luke 1:34) was universally interpreted by the fathers of the Church as a statement of Mary's resolution to remain a virgin forever.

What has happened to you Europe?

"What has happened to you Europe, the home of poets, philosophers, artists, musicians, and men and women of letters? What has happened to you Europe mother of peoples and nations, the mother of great men and women who upheld, and even sacrificed their lives for, the dignity of their brothers and sisters? The answer is to be found in the tiredness of Europe's soul – where Jesus Christ is no longer relevant; where faith is often seen as a crutch for the weak. The future of Europe is not so much threatened by political tensions as by the danger of conformism, and a uniformity of thoughts and feelings. The expulsion of God from every aspect of society is leaving Europe bereft of any spiritual foundations or moral compass" (Pope Francis – May, 2016).

Parish Office open 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 daily. 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.

Live-in Carers for the Elderly

'Live-in Homecare' provides live-in carers for the elderly in this area. The 'live-in' carer is provided with accommodation, food and a reasonable wage. If you are looking for a live-in carer for your relatives please visit our website alhomecare.ie or call Eileen or Tom today on 087 9916791 or 087 7440729.

Novena Masses

We wish encourage more of our parishioners to use the Novena Mass Cards for different occasion. These cards are deeply appreciated by people are times of anniversaries of deaths, at times of sickness, at times of death itself, at birthdays, exams or just to say 'Thank You' to those who have been good to us. At difficult moments it is nice to know that you have the support of friends.

See Parish Newsletter at gurrabraherparish.ie