

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 28, 2021.

A priest can be contacted urgently

this Sunday at:

Gurrabraher 085 804 1951

We pray for those
recently deceased...

Angela O'Leary, Churchfield Tce., East

Eily Jones, Mt Nebo Avenue

Requiescat in Pace.

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat 27, March.

- i) John Bruton, RIP (27th Anniv)
- ii) Special Intention

Sun 28.

- i) Donal O'Connor, RIP (55th Anniv)
- ii) Martin & Paddy Ryan, RIP
- iii) Frank & Paddy O'Leary, RIP

Mon 29,

- i) Novena Mass 9.
- ii) Pat and Bernie McSweeney's Intention.
- iii) Mrs Gamble on her 100th Birthday.

Tue 30.

- i) Donor's Intention
- ii) John & Julia McGrath, RIP
- iii) Margaret Corcoran, RIP (25th Anniv)

Wed 31.

- i) Donor's Intention
- ii) Michael & Maura O'Brien, RIP
- iii) Donor's Intention

Thu 1, April. (Holy Thursday)

7pm. Triduum Mass (LiveCam)

Fri 2. (Good Friday)

12noon. Stations of the Cross (LiveCam)
3pm. Lord's Passion (LiveCam)

Sat 3. (Holy Saturday)

- i) Triduum Mass – People's Intention.



Ascension Parish

Gurrabraher, Cork.

Sunday, March, 28, 2021.

Palm (Passion) Sunday (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.

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Today, Palm Sunday, Christians enter the holiest week in the Church's calendar culminating with His resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. Palm Sunday marks the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. The Bible reveals that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and covering his path with palm. Immediately following this great time of celebration in the ministry of Jesus, he begins his journey to the cross. The biblical account of Palm Sunday can be found in Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19.

This year again, the Passion of the Lord will be celebrated privately and only available via WebCam, as most of the world is in 'lockdown' due to Covid-19. It is hard to remember any time in history when most of the Christian world has been prevented from celebrating these sacred events. It will be another moment that will cause pain and confusion in the lives of Catholics – already deprived of sacraments for a number of months. It can be very easy to dismiss this event, and other recent events, just as catastrophic failure – without trying to understand how and why it happens. For us believers God guides and directs all of history. When man usurps that authority – when man forces God out of things and sets himself up as arbiter of what constitutes right and wrong then God withdraws his benevolence – and from that moment on man is doomed. That this generation, more than any other, has openly and brazenly defied God's authority is undeniable. Only the truly wise will see recent events as a warning that without God man loses himself.

"If my people who bear my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my presence and turn from their wicked ways, then I will listen from heaven and forgive their sins and restore their country."

(2 Chronicles 7: 14)

Special thanks to Eily Morris and her small band of supporters for raising the sum of Five Hundred Euro each month going back over many years. We ask God to bless with health and joy Eily and all involved in this initiative.

Mass of the Chrism celebrated in the Cathedral – Holy Thursday

Parishioners, as well as priests of the Diocese, are invited to live-stream into the 'Mass of the Chrism' on **Holy Thursday @ 10am from the Cathedral of SS Mary & Ann**. The Chrism Mass is celebrated each Holy Thursday morning, when the Bishop of a diocese, along with his priests and people, gather in his Cathedral church to fulfill two sacred duties, i) to consecrate and bless the three holy oils used in the Church's ministry throughout the year, and ii) to renew Priestly vows - and rededicate themselves to the ministerial priesthood to which they have been called.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 Lockdown for the second year running, only our Bishop and his two Vicar Generals will be present in the Cathedral on that morning. Priests and people are invited to participate via the internet, beginning at 10am. The link to the livestream is found at <https://youtu.be/igHFxWufJ0>

The Holy Oils used in the Church's Ministry

The Holy Oil of Chrism is used for the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination; ii) the Oil of Catechumens is used for anointing those preparing for baptism and the Oil of the Sick is used to bring healing in the Sacrament of Anointing. These holy oils, flowing from the Body of Christ on the Cross, are channels of grace to eternal life - gateways to heaven. They are the sacred means by which the Holy Spirit, poured out afresh, heals, animates and strengthens God's people, for service and mission, bringing new life and energy to Christ's Church.

Livestreamed Liturgies from Church of Ascension over the Easter period

Over the solemn days of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus, the Liturgical arrangements at Ascension Parish are as follows: **Holy Thursday @ 7pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper.** (available on web at gurrabraherparish.ie)

Good Friday @ 12noon – Stations of the Cross. (gurrabraherparish.ie)

Good Friday @ 3pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion. (gurrabraherparish.ie)

Holy Saturday @ 9pm – From the Cathedral. (Link: <https://youtu.be/12SFG4tjwXl>)

Easter Sunday @ 11.30am. Mass of the Lord's Resurrection. (gurrabraherparish.ie)

Easter Monday @ 10am. Octave Mass of Easter. (gurrabraherparish.ie)

Chinese Communist Party exerts Total Control of its Citizens

To describe China as "lingering totalitarianism" couldn't be more wrong. On the contrary, modern technology and information systems have made the CCP every bit as effective in controlling its citizens as what Orwell portrayed in 1984. The Chinese may not use an avuncular face like Big Brother to appeal to the love and terror of its citizens, but that is hardly essential. Every single social encounter in China has potentially severe consequences for a person's life. There is NO distinction between public and private life in China. There are millions of people in concentration camps in China, and many executions for purely political reasons. The Chinese state is EXACTLY what Orwell feared. And there is nothing "lingering" about it. It has become more powerful and omnipresent with each generation.

Greenhouse Gases of Sin Greatest Danger for mankind

The redemption from sin establishes in truth that Jesus is the Son of God. Without the truth of the Incarnation, the Church would shrink into a mundane world improvement agency. It would have no bearing on our longing for God and the desire for eternal life. The priest would be merely the functionary of a socio-religious movement. The Church does not gain relevance and acceptance when she carries behind the world all the baggage of the current zeitgeist, but only when she, with the truth of Christ, carries the torch before the world. We must not puff ourselves up with secondary issues and work to accomplish the agenda of others who do not want to believe that God alone is the origin and unique goal of man and all creation.

For the real danger for humanity today consists in the greenhouse gases of sin and the global warming of unbelief and of moral decay, when no one any longer knows or teaches the difference between good and evil. The best protector of the environment and friend of nature is he who proclaims the Good News that there is survival with God alone: not only a limited survival, for the near future, but an eternal one, forever. (**Cardinal Gerhard Muller – 2018**)

When God is Abolished – Man has nothing to Live or Die for.

Georges Bernanos, (1888 – 1948), prolific writer and social critic of French society, is best remembered for two of his most famous novels, "The Diary of a Country Priest" (1946) and "Under Satan's Sun." (1947). Born into a family of craftsmen he, more than most in France at that time, saw clearly that French society was in terminal decline. He argued fiercely that the calamity that had befallen France, in 1940, (occupation by Germany), was due to 'spiritual exhaustion'. Bernanos held that once people lose their spiritual values they sink into individualism and baseness – and they allow the world to collapse around them. The loss of spiritual values is only made bearable by creating a culture of material comfort – and feeds off of – personal selfishness. Eventually everything breaks down starting with the person, then community - and then the national spirit. In the end one no longer has anything to live for – or anything to die for.

Two themes dominate Bernanos' work. The first is man's eagerness to abolish, forget or rewrite his own history in favour of determinisms like liberal capitalism, which makes society nothing more than a market system, and Marxism. For Bernanos, the attack on human memory and history is a primary mark of the antichrist. As Bernanos explains it, big ideological systems "mechanize" history with high-sounding language like progress and dialectics. But in doing so, they wipe out the importance of both the past - which they describe as primitive, unenlightened or counter-revolutionary - and the present, which is not yet the paradise of tomorrow. The future is where salvation is to be found for every ideology that tries to eliminate God, whether it's explicitly atheistic or pays lip service to religious values. Of course, this future never arrives, because progress never stops and the dialectic never ends. Georges Bernanos was indeed a prophet for our times.

Livestreaming all Masses at Gurrabraher

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.