

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

April 18, 2021.

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

Cathedral 086 457 0292

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

*Eileen Crockett, Cathedral Road,
Michael (Mick) O'Mahony, Mt Eden Road,*

Requiescat in Pace.

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat 17, April.

i) Martin McCormack, RIP (Anniv)

Sun 18.

- i) Michael Lynch, RIP (Birthday Rem)
- ii) Betty Lee. (Birthday Intentions)
- iii) Gerald O'Leary, RIP (1st Anniv)

Mon 19,

- i) John McCarthy, RIP and family members
- ii) Special Intention

Tue 20.

- i). Katherine & James Hession's Intentions.
- ii) Novena Mass 7

Wed 21.

- i) Tom Grace, RIP
- ii) Novena Mass 8

Thu 22.

- i) Novena Mass 7
- ii) Special Intention

Fri 23.

- i) Special Intention
- ii) Special Intention

Sat 24.

- i) Norah Ahern, RIP (1st Anniv)
- ii) Joe & Maureen Glavin, RIP



Ascension Parish **Gurrabraher, Cork.** **Sunday, April 18, 2021.** **Third Sunday of Easter (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.

Human Fetal Tissues in Vaccines Abhorrent to Reason and Faith

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities has launched a campaign in America urging Catholics to write letters to pharmaceutical companies urging them to stop the use of abortion-derived cell lines in the development and testing of all future vaccines. The fact that all the Covid-19 vaccines presently in use are contaminated in different degrees with fetal tissue from aborted babies prevents many pro-life protagonists from taking the vaccine. In the absence of any non-compromised Covid-19 vaccines available in the present Covid-19 pandemic the American Bishops Conference has permitted Catholics as an act of mercy to others to avail of the vaccines but urged that they should make their objections known when receiving their vaccine.

This demand that vaccinations should not be tainted with aborted fetal tissue is no more unreasonable than 'animal rights' protesters' demanding in a very forceful way that animal tallow must not be included in the production of the UK's plastic money. Because of loud protest the UK Government quickly reversed its plans - and found alternative materials in the production of the currency notes. There is other human tissue readily available for production of Covid-19 vaccines but is not considered as the shelf life of the end product would be shorter.

For us who believe that abortions are an outrage against humanity; we should be as zealous as 'animal rights' activists in forcing governments and pharmaceutical companies to change what is truly reprehensible to the rational mind and find alternatives for vaccine production.

Among the companies singled out by the American Bishops are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson for their COVID-19 vaccines, GlaxoSmithKline for its Shingrix shingle vaccine, and Merck for its MMR, Chickenpox, and Hepatitis-A vaccines.

In promoting this campaign, Valerie Schmalz, director of the Office of Human Life & Dignity in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, urged Catholics there to participate in it because "we can never allow ourselves to become calloused to this gross violation of human dignity and life. We have an obligation to speak up for life and for a return to respect for all life in our society."

Only when God grants vision is Jesus recognized

“It is quite clear that after his Resurrection Christ did not go back to his previous earthly life, as we are told the young man of Nain and Lazarus did. He rose again to definitive life, which is no longer governed by chemical and biological laws and therefore stands outside the possibility of death, in the eternity conferred by love. That is why the encounters with him are “appearances”; that is why he was not readily recognized even by friends whom he had sat at table only two days earlier – and even when recognized remains foreign: only where *he* grants vision *is* he seen; only when he opens men’s eyes and makes their hearts open up can the countenance of the eternal love that conquers death become recognizable in our mortal world - and, in that love, the new, different world, the world of him who is to come. That is also why it is so difficult, indeed absolutely impossible, for the Gospels to describe the encounter with the risen Christ; that is why they can only stammer when they speak of these meetings and seem to provide contradictory descriptions of them. In reality, they are surprisingly unanimous in the dialectic of their statements, in the simultaneity of touching and not touching, of recognizing and not recognizing, of complete identity between the crucified and the risen Christ and complete transformation. People recognize the Lord and yet do not recognize him again; people touch him, and yet he is untouchable; he is the same and yet quite different. As we have said, the dialectic is always the same; it is only the stylistic means by which it is expressed that changes.”

(Joseph Ratzinger, 2004).

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.

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.

Parish Office open

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.

We thank the many who have already returned the Easter Dues Envelopes for the Up-Keep of the priests of the Parish. These envelopes can still be handed into Parish Office.

Webcam: gurrabraherparish.ie

Christ’s Resurrection – Core Truth of Catholic Faith

Christ’s Resurrection from the dead is the guarantee of our own resurrection. If he was not raised from the dead, we certainly have no hope for resurrection either. Belief in the Resurrection is central to our faith. In the Creed we recite at Mass, we profess not only our faith in the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, but also our own eventual resurrection. Why do so many find it hard to believe in this central teaching of our faith?

Perhaps some believe it, but not as directly as is stated in the Creed. Many seek immortality and a type of resurrection in the biological continuation of their genes. It is their children and grandchildren, their progeny, who carry on their life in some way. Others say that it is their achievements that guarantee a type of immortality so that they will not be forgotten, while still others, in New Age religious terms, see their relationship to the cosmos as a way that they could achieve immortality. Still others look for transcendence, immortality and resurrection in psychic experiences. Most recently, we have heard about the practice of cryonics, that is, the freezing of bodies, awaiting the science that will resurrect them.

The story of the Resurrection of Jesus is no myth, it is a mystery. Were it not for the witnesses of Scripture and the eyewitness testimony of so many, it would be easy to dismiss as some cleverly concocted myth. As we search the Scriptures and understand the living tradition of the Church down through the centuries, however, we know that this truth is real. It is not only the eyewitnesses of the Apostles and disciples that encourage us, but also the lives of so many martyrs and saints down through the ages who have given their lives for Jesus Christ, the One who was risen from the dead. People do not die for historical figures, no matter how important they might have been to the world’s history, but many people do live and die for Jesus Christ. **(The Tablet – March 31, 2021)**

Only Christ can help us to be decent human beings

“Civilization is far more fragile than we would like to believe. As we dispense with religious institutions, beliefs, and practices - as we dispense with God Himself in the ridiculous belief that we are enough on our own - we leave ourselves open to a barbarism within and a more overt barbarism from without. For far too long we have been living off the bank and capital of the Christian ages even as we deny the value of the currency we spend. God insists on being loved for Himself. But even a belated recognition that such love is necessary for the possibility of any kind of decent life here on earth might help us recognize the necessity of order in the soul... Only by recognizing God’s will and His love can we recognize the dignity of ourselves and our fellow human beings. And only then will it be possible, however unlikely, that we will behave as, and become, decent human beings. **(Bruce Frohnen – How Christianity Civilized Mankind - January 2017)**

Visiting the House of Lord

Ascension Church is open for private worship daily from 10.30am until 3.30pm seven days per week. We invite our parishioners, for so long starved of the Sacraments, to find a time to visit the Church and commune there with your God. The words of Jesus ring out throughout history: Come to me all who labour and are overburdened –come and find rest for your soul.”