

Donations for Church Renovations gratefully
accepted at Parish Office -
or it 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 25, 2021.

A priest can be contacted urgently

this Sunday at:

Cathedral 086 457 0292

We pray for those
recently deceased...

Ann Barrett, Cathedral Road,
John Rahilly, Cathedral Road,

Requiescat in Pace.

Special thanks to Eily Morris and her supporters
again this month for raising the sum of Five
Hundred Euro for Church Renovations.
May God bless them for their efforts.

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat 24, April.

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

Sun 25.

- i) Kathleen Collins, (10th Anniv)
- ii) Phil Sorenson, RIP, (1st Anniv)
- iii) Mossie Crowley, RIP (13th Anniv)
- iv) Lily Wilkinson, RIP (40th Anniv)

Mon 26,

- i) Sr Bernadette Cotter's Int.
- ii) Eileen O'Mahony, RIP
- iii) John Sutton RIP (Birthday Remembrance)

Tue 27.

- i) Sr Genevive Lyne, RIP
- ii) Hannah Walsh, RIP (Anniv)

Wed 28.

- i) Sr de Sales Horgan, RIP
- ii) Special Intention

Thu 29.

- i) Tracey Foley, RIP (2nd Anniv)
- ii) Nora O'Driscoll, RIP
- iii) Paul Montgomery, RIP

Fri 30.

- i) Nora O'Driscoll, RIP

Sat 1, May.

- i) Jim Hussey, RIP (Month's Mind)
- ii) Phil Sorenson, RIP (1st Anniv)



Ascension Parish **Gurrabraher, Cork.** **Sunday, April 25, 2021.** **Fourth 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.

Man in the Horror of his Poverty will turn again to God

From the crisis of today the Church of tomorrow will emerge - a Church that has lost much. She will become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning. She will no longer be able to inhabit many of the edifices she built in prosperity. As the number of her adherents diminishes, so will she lose many of her social privileges... Alongside this, the full-time ministry of the priesthood will be indispensable as formerly. But in all of the changes at which one might guess, the Church will find her essence afresh and with full conviction in that which was always at her center: faith in the triune God, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, in the presence of the Spirit until the end of the world... But when this trial, this sifting, is past, a great power will flow from a more spiritualized and simplified Church. Men in a totally planned world will find themselves unspeakably lonely. If they have completely lost sight of God, they will feel the whole horror of their poverty. Then they will discover the little flock of believers as something wholly new. They will discover it as a hope that is meant for them, an answer for which they have always been searching in secret. And so it seems certain to me that the Church is facing very hard times. The real crisis has scarcely begun. We will have to count on terrific upheavals. But I am equally certain about what will remain at the end: not the Church of the political cult, which is dead already with Gobel, but the Church of faith. She may well no longer be the dominant social power to the extent that she was until recently; but she will enjoy a fresh blossoming and be seen as man's home, where he will find life and hope beyond death. *(Fr Joseph Ratzinger, 1969)*

Shakespeare – Continues to speak to the Soul of Man

William Shakespeare, widely considered the greatest writer the English language has ever produced, died just over 400 years ago, on April 23, 1616. In a short life of just 58 years, he wrote some of the greatest plays and poems the world has ever read and heard. Officially, he was a Protestant, but a number of scholars have argued that there is evidence that Shakespeare had connections through his family and school teachers with Roman Catholicism, a religion which, through the banning of its priests, had effectively become illegal in England at that time. In any event his works display great Catholic themes as he writes about life, love, death, revenge, grief, jealousy, murder, magic and mystery. He wrote the blockbuster plays of his day - some of his most famous are Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, and Hamlet. Altogether, he wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets. Not only did Shakespeare teach us about ourselves and humanity, but he also invented around 1700 words which we still use in everyday English today. Arguably what makes Shakespeare's work so enduring is that he doesn't provide easy answers. He does not tell us what to think; he teaches us how to think. His characters and the situations they find themselves in are complex; complex enough to warrant continued investigation four centuries later.

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 at 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.

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*)

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.

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."

Church must remain Steadfast and Unaccommodating

There are many who write nowadays that the Church has lost touch with the world – especially with the world of the young. They insist that the Church must accommodate her teachings and doctrines to the 'fads' of the times. Former Pope, Benedict XVI, insists that were the church to do that it would no longer be 'a light' to the world. He wrote: "For the Church to be 'light' to the world it must be detached from the world. This is necessary so that the active potency of the faith can be revealed again. We have to remain steadfast and unaccommodating, in order to demonstrate, without any frivolity, that Christianity is intertwined with a world-view that reaches beyond everything linked with a secular, materialistic attitude. The Christian world-view involves the revelation of the eternal God. It is naïve to think you only need to dress all in different clothes, speak as the world speaks, and then suddenly all will be well. We must find our way back to an authentic proclamation, and a liturgy that brings the radiant mystery of the Mass to light." Benedict makes it clear that the true problems of the Church lie not in dwindling numbers but in a dwindling faith. He said: "The extinguishing of the Christian conscience is causing the crisis - the lukewarmness in prayer and worship; the neglect of mission. Benedict XVI insists that true reform is a question of inner awakening, of setting hearts on fire. "The top priority is to proclaim what we can know and believe with certainty about Jesus Christ." Pope Benedict welcomes (and sees great hope) in the dynamism and enthusiasm of the African, South American and Asian Churches. He believes that it can reinvigorate the tired West, "wake it from its exhaustion, from its forgetfulness of the faith". His criticism of the European Church, particularly the Church in Germany, is that it has become too weighed down, even crushed, by bureaucracy – that it no longer has a living dynamism.

Calling Young People to a deeper knowledge of their Faith

We invite young people who wish to have a more adult understanding of the faith to make contact with one of the priests of the parish. They will be directed to where they can, along with people of their own age, delve into the mystery - and encounter Jesus, the Risen Lord. Only some kind of encounter with Jesus will sustain us in the years ahead as Ireland turns its back on Christ and believes more and more that it is sufficient on its own.

Holy Hour of Adoration

The regular Holy Hour of Adoration has resumed on 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 for this quiet time with the Lord.