

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
Gurranabraher Credit Union Account –
Church of the Ascension Renovation Fund –
A/c No. 02255200.

SUNDAY DUTY ROTA

May 2, 2021.

A priest can be contacted urgently

this Sunday at:

Farranree 087 096 71 77

We pray for those
recently deceased...

Grace McCarthy, Churchfield Place (East)
John Rahilly, Cathedral Road,

Requiescat in Pace.

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat 1, May.

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

Sun 2.

- i) David Morris, RIP (Anniv)
- ii) Nora O'Driscoll, RIP
- iii) Haulie O'Keeffe & Margaret O'Keeffe, RIP

Mon 3,

- i) Special Intention
- ii) Special Intention

Tue 4.

- i) Novena Mass 1.
- ii) Sr Claire Sheehan's Int.
- iii) Stephen & Bernie – Special Intention

Wed 5.

- i) Sr Mary-Consilio Carroll's Intention.
- ii) Nancy O'Neill, RIP
- iii) Gregory & Hornibrook Families (L & D)
- iv) Sr Margaret Mary Galvin's Intention.

Thu 6.

- i) Novena Mass 2.
- ii) Rita Mullane, RIP
- iii) For Vicky & families Intentions
- iv) Donor's Intention

Fri 7.

- i) Mary Gleeson, RIP (Died recently)
- ii) Patrick Fleming, RIP (Month's Mind)
- iii) Holy Souls.

Sat 8, May.

- i) Shaunagh O'Riordan-Long RIP (5th Anniv)
- ii) Sheila Ryan, RIP (5th Anniv)



Ascension Parish

Gurranabraher, Cork.

Sunday, May 2, 2021.

Fifth Sunday of Easter (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.

God calls us to profound and unexpected horizons

In his message for Vocations Sunday, (4th Sunday of Easter), Pope Francis focussed on Saint Joseph as the one who responded readily to God's call. He tells us that Saint Joseph suggests to us *three key words* for each individual's vocation. The first is **dream**, the second is **service** and the third is **fidelity**.

"Everyone **dreams** of finding fulfilment in life," Pope Francis says. So did Joseph. But Joseph's plans for himself were set aside when he was called by God in dreams to give up his own plans and follow the path of God. "Saint Joseph let himself be guided by his dreams without hesitation. Why? Because his heart was already directed towards God. Pope Francis writes that God's call doesn't come to us in spectacular ways. "He conveys his plans to us with gentleness. He does not overwhelm us with dazzling visions but quietly speaks in the depths of our heart, drawing near to us - and speaking to us through our thoughts and feelings. In this way, as he did with Saint Joseph, he sets before us profound and unexpected horizons."

The second theme in St. Joseph's vocation is **service**. "Joseph lived entirely for others and never for himself." Pope Francis says that God's call always urges us to take a first step, "to give ourselves, to press forward. There can be no faith without risk." Only by abandoning ourselves confidently to grace, setting aside our own programmes and comforts, can we truly say "yes" to God. A vocation, Pope Francis says, matures through **fidelity** - living out one's call every day. "The first words that Saint Joseph heard in a dream were an invitation not to be afraid, because God remains ever faithful to his promises: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid". God also reminds each person discerning a vocation of his closeness even in times of doubt and fear. "They are words you will hear anew, at every step of your vocation, as you return to your first love."

State relaxes its Penal Laws regarding Mass

As and from Monday, May 10th, 2021, the Irish Government has agreed to relax its Penal Laws preventing Christians from attending Mass, and permit 50 persons attend Mass at any one time. While this news is greatly welcome – it was a huge injustice in the first place to deprive so many, especially the old, from attending Mass is what is arguably the safest place of all for 50 people to gather. With very large churches and with stewards on duty to make sure that all regulations are complied with; there are few safer places. That devout Catholics have been denied Sacraments; something they consider essential to their very being, when other non-essential ‘services’ were allowed to stay open is something that Catholics should not forget easily when government and complicit opposition parties come knocking for votes. In truth there are hardly any politicians in this Dáil that are worthy of the Catholic vote. It is now patently plain that Christians will continue to be ignored and abused by the state for as long as we remain docile to bad laws.

Over Two Thousand Priests died in Dachau Concentration Camp

On this Thursday, April 29, the Polish Bishops’ Conference observed a National Day of Remembrance for the two thousand plus priests who were martyred at Dachau Concentration Camp during World War II. April 29th marks the 76th anniversary of the liberation of Dachau.

It’s often forgotten that the Catholic Church paid a heavy price for resistance to Nazism in Europe during the Second World War. Some 2,579 Catholic priests, seminarians, and religious were deported from across Europe to the Dachau Concentration Camp: of that number over two thousand died there - 868 of whom were Polish.

They included German priests who spoke out against the genocide and euthanasia policies of the Nazi regime, Polish priests who were considered part of Poland’s elite, French priests who resisted the Nazis, and a French bishop who aided the Jews. The Dachau camp remains the largest cemetery of Catholic priests in the world”. Here in appalling conditions they “maintained their humanity” throughout their imprisonment as they celebrated the sacraments, aided the sick, and carried on clandestine ordinations and theological training. 141 Orthodox and Protestant clergymen were also imprisoned at Dachau.

Novena Masses

We wish encourage more of our parishioners to use the Novena Mass Cards for different occasions. 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.

See the Mass on livestream at ascensionparish.ie/webcam

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 sacred presence we pray for vocations to the religious life – particularly vocations to the Priesthood. We, also, 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.

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 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.

Pornography - a Destructive Addiction

Bishop Paul Loverde of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, VA, issued a Pastoral Letter to his flock in 2014, concerning the ravaging effect pornography is having on human relationships. Each passing year this Trillion Dollar Industry leaves a wasteland of wrecked marriages, young people incapable of monogamous, loving relationships and the disintegration of society. Nobody should be in any doubt that pornography is destructive of everything a decent civilized society is built on. “Since 1996”, Bishop Loverde said, “the porn epidemic engulfing our families, marriages and communities, has reached a pandemic scale... Pornography has been excused as an outlet for free expression, supported as a business venture, and condoned as just another form of entertainment. But it is not widely recognized as a threat to life and happiness. It is not often treated as a destructive addiction that changes the way men and women treat one another in sometimes dramatic but often subtle ways... I call on every man in the Diocese of Arlington to search his heart and renew his commitment to purity. I call on every husband and father to renew his sacred commitment to his wife and children,” Loverde wrote. The Bishop quoted the Catechism of the Catholic Church on pornography, calling it “an offense against the dignity of persons,” that is “objectively evil, and must be condemned... Rather than being the expression of a married couple’s intimate union of life and love, sex is reduced to a demeaning source of entertainment and even profit for others.” Answering the objection that pornography is a “harmless” vice, Loverde writes that to the contrary, “... the porn industry preys on the most vulnerable: the poor, the abused and marginalized, and even children” with promises of easy money. This exploitation of the weak is gravely sinful... Those who produce and distribute pornography leave a wide path of broken and devalued men and women in their wake.”

Family Prayer necessary for true Formation

An authentically Christian education cannot lack the experience of prayer. “If one does not learn to pray in the family, it will be difficult to fill this void, so I want to invite you to rediscover the beauty of praying together as a family in the school of the Holy Family of Nazareth and, in that way, to become truly one heart and one soul, a true family.”