

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 9, 2021.**

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

**Gurranabraher 085 804 1951**

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

**Requiescat in Pace.**

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### Mass Intentions this Week

#### Sat 8, May.

- i) Shaunagh O’Riordan-Long RIP (5<sup>th</sup> Anniv)
- ii) Sheila Ryan, RIP (5<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

#### Sun 9.

- i) Dan, Joe O’Mahony, RIP
- ii) Helena and Maurice Newman, RIP
- iii) For Eileen and a Special Intention

#### Mon 10.

- i) Novena Mass 3.
- ii) Noreen Drummond, RIP
- iii) Mary Lee, RIP (100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Rem)

#### Tue 11.

- i) Austin Fenton, RIP
- ii) Mary Gibbs, RIP
- iii) Willie Wilkinson, RIP, (5<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

#### Wed 12.

- i) Special Intention

#### Thu 13.

- i) Novena Mass 4.

#### Fri 14.

- i) Special Intention

#### Sat 15.

- i) Tom & Biddy Crean, RIP & family.



## **Ascension Parish**

### **Gurranabraher, Cork.**

### **Sunday, May 9, 2021.**

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)**

**Parish Office – 021 - 430 3655 (If Urgent: 085 - 804 1951)**

email: [ascensionparish123@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionparish123@gmail.com)

Website: [www.gurranabraherparish.ie](http://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](mailto:aidan1302@gmail.com))

**Weekend Masses – Saturday 6pm (Vigil) & Sundays – 9am & 11.30am.**

#### **Only a Church that has bigger Horizons has Relevance**

Dr Jeff Mirus reviewing the recently published book by Catholic Journalist, Phil Lawler, titled; **Contagious Faith: Why the Church must spread Hope not Fear in a Pandemic** observes: “Most of us have at least a vague suspicion that something is very wrong when the Church shuts down her sacramental ministry for any reason, especially if she seems to be simply following secular political directives... At first this was uncharted territory... because the Church as a whole has never in her 2,000 year history restricted her mission so much or so quickly as she did in 2020... There can, in fact, be little doubt that the long-term erosion of the Church in the West... has been suddenly accelerated... by the near-complete suspension of sacramental ministry during the lockdown. Live-streaming is not a sacramental thing, but it does neatly blur the distinction between practicing one’s faith and letting it slide. Clearly, the message in all this - the scale of values - has been badly skewed in favour of the things of this world...”

Mirus suggests that perhaps Covid was... a Providential test of the commitment of the contemporary Catholic Church to her own mission. Would the present Church emphasize the life-giving power of Catholic ministry and bring that ministry to new heights in the care of souls? Or would she signal by her own response that souls do not matter very much after all?

...But Phil Lawler also raises questions for the future, questions that each one must answer for himself. As feckless bishops, priests and laity drift away, perhaps we can use that answer to forge a smaller, more deeply committed, and much-renewed Church. Perhaps we can gradually turn Catholicism once again into what Lawler calls a “contagious faith”. Perhaps in the foreseeable future, that contagious faith can be nurtured not by a Church that goes along to get along - but by a Church that saves.” (*Catholic Culture - April 27, 2021*)

### **Public Masses to resume as and from Monday, 10, 2021.**

Public Masses will resume at Ascension Parish as, and from this Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. After a prohibition on Masses for over four months our parish community has indeed been sorely tried. Only time will tell how damaged each community is? We pray that God will touch the hearts of all who have grown lukewarm or cold to the faith – that there may be a new springtime in the Church. There will always be a disconnect within man and within his world until we find our way back to the Lord. John Henry Newman's prayer comes readily to mind: "Lead kindly light amidst the encircling gloom – Lead thou me on!"

**Weekday Masses** – Monday to Saturday @ 10am.

**Weekend Masses** – Saturday @ 6pm and Sundays @ 9am & 11.30am.

### **Acute shortage of Priests being felt in Cork - Northside**

The recent withdrawal of Archdeacon Liam O'Driscoll from ministry due to ill health puts further strain on the diocese of Cork and Ross, due to the already acute shortage of priests. Archdeacon Liam O'Driscoll was Parish Priest of Clogheen parish for many years. Fr Greg Howard, presently Parish Priest of Knocknaheeny, has now also taken on the responsibility of Administrator of Clogheen parish - and is to be assisted in the task by the priests from Gurrabraher and Farranree. This change will make greater demands on the priests involved. It will also call for the cooperation and understanding of parishioners from these parishes who will have to adjust to some changes. Greater details will be provided later. We thank Archdeacon Liam O'Driscoll for his service to the Diocese of Cork and Ross over a lifetime and pray that God will bless him with health and wellness.

### **Family Prayer necessary for true Formation**

"If children do not learn to pray from their parents, it will be difficult for them to ever learn to communicate with God naturally, simply and deeply", wrote Pope Benedict XVI in 2012. He continued: "In the family, children from a tender age can learn to perceive the sense of God thanks to the teaching and example their parents give of living in the presence of God," he said at his weekly general audience. Continuing a series of audience talks on prayer, Pope Benedict looked at the Holy Family as a model of family life marked by faith, work and regular moments of prayer together. "The Holy Family is the icon of the domestic church called to pray together. The family is the domestic Church and must be the first school of prayer," he said. While the Gospels do not give many details about Jesus' childhood, he said, the Bible is clear that Mary and Joseph were observant Jews, which means they prayed at regular times throughout the day and before meals. They went to Jerusalem to present Jesus in the temple when he was 40 days old and journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. "An authentically Christian education cannot lack the experience of prayer," the Pope said, "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."

***See the Mass daily on livestream at [ascensionparish.ie/webcam](http://ascensionparish.ie/webcam)***

### **Holy Hour of Adoration Open to Public**

The regular Holy Hour of Adoration has resumed on each Thursday @ 7pm. Parishioners are now invited to attend in person this quiet hour spent in the presence of the Lord. There in the 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 and find in prayer answers to the great problems that beset our world.

### **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 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 each day, (Monday to Friday) – 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 2.30pm to 5.00pm. 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.

### **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.

### **The Ten Commandments [The Decalogue]**

"When God, through Moses, gave the people of Israel the Ten Commandments he wanted them to be free. At the Red Sea the people had experienced great deliverance. They had seen first-hand the power and faithfulness of God, the God who liberates. Now God himself, upon Mount Sinai, indicates to his people, and to all of us, the way to remain free, a path that is engraved upon the human heart as a universal moral Law. Hence, we shouldn't see the Ten Commandments as restriction upon our freedom; no... we should see them as signs for our freedom... They teach us how to avoid the slavery to which the many idols that we ourselves build reduce us... They teach us to open ourselves to a wider dimension than the material one; to live with respect for others; overcoming the greed of power, possessions, and money; to be honest and sincere in our relationships; to protect all of creation and to nurture our planet with high, noble, and spiritual ideals.

***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 be handed into Parish Office.***