

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

May 16, 2021.

A priest can be contacted urgently

this Sunday at:

Gurrabraher 085 804 1951

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

Requiescat in Pace.

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat 15, May.

6pm.

- i) Tom & Bidy Crean, RIP
- ii) John Gamble, RIP

Sun 16.

- 9am. Paul Montgomery, RIP
- 11.30am. Michael Daly, RIP

Mon 17.

- i) Novena Mass 5.
- ii) Liam O'Sullivan, RIP

Tue 18.

- i) Holy Souls
- ii) James & Marie Stout, RIP

Wed 19.

- i) Denis & Coleen's Intentions
- ii) Special Intention

Thu 20.

- i) Paul Montgomery, RIP (Month's Mind)
- ii) The Sheehan Family's Intentions

Fri 21.

- i) Novena Mass 6.
- ii) Special Intention

Sat 22.

- i) Pro-Populo



**Ascension Parish
Gurrabraher, Cork.
Sunday, May 16, 2021.
Ascension of the Lord (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 5.30pm (Vigil) & Sundays – 9am & 11.30am.

The Ascension of Our Lord

This Sunday we commemorate Jesus' ascent to his Father after accomplishing the work He came into this world to do which was to restore the communion that existed in the beginning between creature and Creator – a communion that was destroyed by the disobedience of our first parents when they rebelled against God - and refused to live their creaturely status. The Ascension event occurred forty days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. On this day, the risen Christ, in the sight of His apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven (Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11).

The reality of Christ's Ascension is so important that the creeds (the basic statements of belief) of Christianity all affirm, in the words of the Apostles' Creed: *"He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead."* Christ's bodily Ascension foreshadows our own entrance into Heaven not simply as souls, after our death, but as glorified bodies, after the resurrection of the dead at the Final Judgment.

Our Parish is dedicated to our Ascended Lord. In a plaque in the Sacristy a promise was made by Bishop Lucey in 1956 that "as long as this building lasts prayers will be offered on this day for all who contributed to the building of this church." May God reward with eternal life all who worshipped in this church - and who in difficult times contributed to the building of this beautiful edifice - built for the glory of God.

New Pastoral Initiative in North City Parishes

Following the retirement from active ministry of Archdeacon Liam O'Driscoll, who was Parish Priest of Clogheen/Kerry Pike for the past 14 years – and the non-availability of a priest to fill the vacancy - Bishop Fintan Gavin has convened a number of meetings with some priests of the north city Deanery, (Gurranabraher, Farranree and Knocknaheeny), to work out an initiative that would provide for the continuing pastoral needs of Clogheen/Kerry Pike parish; as well and the needs of the other three parishes in the event of circumstances changing in these places. Consequently, Fr Greg Howard, Fr John Walsh, Fr Aidan Vaughan and Fr Tomás Walsh have agreed to accept shared responsibility for the above named parishes. This means that with immediate effect these priests will be visible in all of the four parishes and will regularly celebrate Sacraments there.

For us here in Gurranabraher, it means having to make some changes to our current schedule to facilitate this new pastoral initiative. It means bringing forward the Saturday Vigil Mass from its present time of 6pm to 5.30pm and discontinuing the weekday 8am Masses. Other parishes have also been asked to accept changes. We ask parishioners' understanding and cooperation with this new arrangement. *A letter, from Bishop Fintan, addressed to all parishioners, outlining the necessity for these changes is available at all Masses this weekend.*

Gurranabraher Parish - New Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday @ 10am

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass (Saturday evenings) 5.30pm and 9am & 11.30 on Sundays.

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.

Ballymurphy Massacre

Fifty years of waiting for a Coroner's Inquest to ascertain the truth of the deaths of 10 members of the nationalist community shot dead by the UK's Parachute Regiment, between the evening of 9th and the morning of the 11th August, 1971, took a giant leap forward this week with the Coroner, Mrs Justice Siobhan Keegan, concluding, after a hundred days of hearing evidence, that those shot were not armed – "were in fact innocent and that the use of lethal force by the British Army was not justified".

One woman and nine men, (one of them the Parish Priest of Ballymurphy, Fr Hugh Mullin, shot while waving a white flag as he attended the wounded), were killed in five separate incidents over a thirty-five hour period. The British Army and English Political leaders have always maintained that those killed were gunmen. The same Parachute Regiment would inflict similar terror and death on the Catholic community in Derry just 20 days later with the murder of thirteen innocent people.

It seems unlikely now that those responsible for the deaths of these innocent civilians will ever face justice in a human court – but none of them will be able to evade justice in the 'Final Court of Appeal': And that is true for all who have inflicted terrible injustice on others. It is not possible that a God of Justice and love will permit perpetrator and victim sit together at the heavenly banquet until the scales of justice are truly balanced.

Churches Reopen after long Lockdown

It was hugely encouraging to see so many return to Mass on Monday morning after four months of Covid-19 lockdown'. Behaving in a hugely responsible way regarding mouth coverings, sanitising of hands – and maintaining social distance; showed the huge injustice of closing down Churches in the first place and the deprivation of Sacraments to our Catholic communities. Now that we are open again for worship; we intensify our prayers that we will be soon rid of this Corona virus and the madness that surrounded it. Lord help us to live untroubled in these confusing times.

Dedication of our Church in 1955

On Ascension Thursday, 1955, 66 years ago, with great pomp and ceremony, our church building was blessed, consecrated and dedicated to the Ascended Lord by the then Bishop of Cork, Cornelius Lucey. The church was erected in the midst of the newly constructed housing estates so that all would know that God was close to his people. In hard times, the work of the early priests and nuns along with many volunteers worked to better the lives of the people by acquiring land for the school, opening a credit union, acquiring sporting facilities and constructing the Parochial Hall. Gradually a community came together trusting each other that they could do more when working together than when alone. Many who were involved in those initiatives are still with us today. They know what has been achieved – and the cost of that achievement in sweat and toil. It is important that we don't forget the sacrifices of those who have gone before us. Even more important that we don't forget the goodness of the Lord. Let us thank God today for all that the Lord has given us.

Easter Dues

We ask parishioners who have yet to return Easter Dues to do so at their convenience. These Easter Dues are the main source of income for our priests. We recognise the incredible generosity of our people who kept contributions coming into the parish over the past few months. May God reward hugely each one favourably.

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 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.

See the Mass daily on livestream at ascensionparish.ie/webcam