

The Offertory collection last weekend
amounted to €1,020.00

*This collection is for the ordinary day-to-day running
of the Church at Gurrabraher.*



*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

August 22nd, 2021.

A priest can be contacted urgently

this Sunday at:

North Cathedral 086 45 70 292



We pray for those recently deceased...

Eileen Cambridge, Spriggs Road,

Daniel O'Regan, Sprigg's Road,

Requiescat in Pace.

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat 21st August (5.30pm)

- i) Marie Harris RIP (5th Anniv)
- ii) Denis, Ellen & John O'Brien RIP

Sun 22nd August, (9am)

- i) Rita O'Neill RIP
- ii)

Sun 22nd (11.30am).

- i) Graham O'Connell RIP (Anniv)
- ii) Shaunagh O'Riordan-Long RIP (Birth Rem)

Mon 23rd (10am).

- i) Kathleen Crowe RIP (Birth Rem)
- ii) Special Intention

Tue 24th (10am).

- i) Charlie Watt RIP
- ii)

Wed 25th (10am).

- i) Harry & Hannah Goulding RIP
- ii) George Puthulparambil RIP

Thu 26th (10am).

- i) Thanksgiving – favours received
- ii) Mary McGrath RIP

Fri 27th (10am).

- i) Special Intention
- ii) Sr. Kathleen's Intentions

Sat 28th (10am).

- i) Pro Pop



Ascension Parish

Gurrabraher, Cork.

Sunday, August 22nd, 2021.

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

Parish Office – 021 - 430 36 55 (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.

How can you be Spiritual and not be Religious

“I’m spiritual but not religious” is one of the catch phrases you’ll hear a good bit these days. When I hear this my question is, “How do you do that?” Just exactly what do you *do* to be spiritual without being religious? Saying you’re spiritual but not religious would be like saying you love music, but you don’t play an instrument and don’t listen to music. Because if you were to do any of those things you would be taking advantage of the rules and regulations and structures that actually make music possible.

The root of the word “religious” means “to bind”. That means you bind yourself to a certain rule or way of doing things. It’s not all free flowing, do as you please and make it up as you go along. Just as there are rules to music, so there is religion to make “being spiritual” possible. Surely as soon as a person starts to try to “be spiritual” they start being religious.

So maybe what the “spiritual but not religious” person really means is that they do not go in for organized religion. They mean they are not members of an institutional church. That’s possible, but maybe they misunderstand what the purpose of organized religion actually is.

Organized religion with all its devotions and duties, with all its doctrines and dogmas, with all its rules and rubrics and regulations is simply the rules for the game, the music on the printed page. But this gets messy because it gets real. I suspect being “spiritual but not religious” is too easy and too unreal. Getting spiritual in a religion, on the other hand, means you have to get to work. You have to climb the mountain. You have to scrape your knees. You have to learn how to love, forgive and help other people who are on that same journey and part of your team...and all that is tough.

(Fr. Dwight Longenecker 13 July, 2015)

Building Fund Collection next weekend – (29th August).

The end-of-month building fund collection will take place at all Masses next weekend. At present essential work is going on around the compound at replacing broken underground drainpipes that carry away rainwater from roof. Forensic testing showed that many of the clay pipes were broken and in need of urgent replacing. This had resulted in serious fragmentation of the concrete driveway. This is expensive work which cannot postpone. We appeal once again to parishioners to be generous.

Afghanistan has fallen to the Taliban

To tremendous embarrassment to the American government, Taliban fighters, within days of America's attempted pull-out of Afghanistan, have taken-over all major towns and cities with many American citizens still trapped behind enemy lines. It is hard to imagine that America, having poured Trillions of US Dollars and losing huge numbers of personnel trying to establish a robust opposition to the Taliban, over the past twenty years, have now lost everything and their reputation as a lethal force is in tatters. This is not good for the American citizens still trapped there, for the Afghani people who supported their presence and for the world at large. The Taliban have shown themselves to be the most savage, tyrannical, despotic regime of the 20th and 21st Century as they launch their Jihad to create a world community of Muslims, 'Ummah'. The Afghani Taliban have no intention in stopping in Afghanistan – and this massive victory will boost their prestige worldwide. Certainly, the world is a much more dangerous place today than it was last week. Christians must intensify their prayers and their efforts so that some miracle of God will rid Afghanistan – and us - of this very dark force.

Church must be very Clear about Revealed Truths

Once we depart from a truly Catholic understanding of the authority and reliability of Scripture and tradition, there is no longer a foundation to stand on, and Christianity has no defence from the cultural pressures of the times that insist that we accommodate ourselves to them... If the Catholic Church does not remain very clear on what the revealed truths of our faith are, we will – and are in some ways already – cast adrift in the same sea of relativism and cultural accommodation as many of the Protestant denominations are, as they eagerly reinterpret the faith to allow for whatever popular opinion demands that they accept. (**'A Church in Crisis' Ralph Martin**)

Printer Ink Cartridges Wanted

We are looking for empty ink cartridges from HP and Canon Printers. These cartridges are sold back to the company that makes them and the money obtained is used to purchase 'Tablets' and Laptops for children in schools. Drop them into the church near the confessional.

Ministers of the Word Needed

We appeal for Ministers of the Word, (Readers), to proclaim the Word of God at Masses, particularly at weekends. We ask especially that younger members of the parish community would volunteer for this task in the church. If interested see Fr Tomás.

"Prayer is not a passive response to life's challenges, or something we do in the absence of something more productive or beneficial; no, prayer in all its many forms is an active engagement calling upon the powers of heaven to come to our assistance."

Vigil to the Alliance of the Two Hearts – Friday, September, 3rd.

The First Friday Prayer Vigil to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will again take place at Gurrabraher Church beginning at 7.30pm, on Friday, 3rd September. The first Mass of the Vigil will take place at 8.30pm and the second Mass at 11.40pm on the night. The Vigil begins with Rosary and Divine Chaplet. This is a very beautiful devotion to the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary – and in these confusing times we desperately need to pray more and more. Therefore, we invite you to join us, at least for part of the night on that date.

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.

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.

Appeal for Financial Assistance for Parochial Hall – Go Fund Me



The lock-down due to Covid-19, has put the Parochial Hall into serious financial difficulty. The main source of income was from rental of the hall by the different groups that used it - and the Sunday night Bingo – all of this has stopped since March 20, 2020. However, light and heat and other bills are accumulating. Also, serious work had been started in

Parochial Hall installing windows in the main hall - and undertaking a total replacement of the electrical installation costing over One Hundred Thousand Euro. (The electrical contractor, Mr Denis O'Neill, is presently awaiting some payment for the work done so far. For now, the project has been placed on hold).

Almost everybody in the northside of Cork, if not the whole of Cork city, have benefitted at one time or another from the activities in the hall. When constructed in 1958, by Fr James Horgan, it was the only amenity for the working class people of the city – dancing, socials, Saturday films, basketball, ice-skating and numerous other activities were features that drew large numbers. Sadly, for some years that Hall has become dilapidated – and shown up further by the modernity of our neighbours, Churchfield Leisure Centre and the Sam Allen Football Courts. Up to the Lock-Down over 2,000, mostly young people, passed through it every week. We appeal to all who use the Hall, particularly the basketball clubs, to join us in this appeal. Unless this work is completed now it will delay the opening whenever the Covid-19 'restrictions' are lifted. You can also drop your contributions to the Parish Office or to:

AIB IBAN Account – [IE38 AIBK 934194 00015145](#) – [BIC AIBKIE2D](#)