

Mass Intentions this Week

The Offertory collection last weekend amounted to: €905.

This collection is for the ordinary day-to-day running of Ascension Church

Lourdes Collection: €730.

Donations gratefully accepted at the Parish Office – or 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.**

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

Joan Rice, 27, Churchfield Place West,

Requiescat in Pace

**Ascension Church is open for
private prayer from 9am until 3pm,
Monday to Saturday.**

Sat 17th February 5.30pm Vigil

- i) Liam Field, RIP
- ii) Francis McCarthy, RIP (3rd Anniv)

Sun 18th February, (9am)

- i) Julia & Michael Collins, RIP
- ii) Hanna Given, RIP

Sun 18th February, (11.30am)

- i) Seán O'Sullivan, RIP, (6th Anniv)
- ii) Tony Dunphy, RIP

Mon 19th February (10am)

- i) Máiread Lonergan, RIP
- ii) Novena Mass 3.
- iii) Thanksgiving for favours received.

Tue 20th February (10am)

- i) Special Intentions.
- ii) Sr Claire's Intentions
- iii) Michael Dineen, RIP (48th Anniv)

Wed 21st February (10am)

- i) Deceased members of McLoughlin family.
- ii) Bernard Corcoran, RIP (4th Anniv)
- iii) Novena Mass 4.

Thurs 22nd February (10am)

- i) Ann Cotter, RIP (21st Anniv)
- ii) Holy Souls.
- iii) Novena Mass 5.

Fri, 23rd February (10am)

- i) Denis O'Brien, RIP
- ii) Novena Mass 6.

Sat 24th February (10am)

- i) Pro Populo



Ascension Parish, Gurrabraher

***(Part of the family of parishes incorporating
Farranree/ Knocknaheeny/ Clogheen/ Kerry Pike)***

Sunday, February 18th 2024

First Sunday of Lent (B)

Parish Office – 021 - 430 3655

email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com Website: www.gurrabraherparish.ie

Office Hours: 10:30 – 12:30 - Mon - Fri

Priests of the area:

Fr. Tomás Walsh, SMA. PP (walshtomas@hotmail.com)

Fr. Aidan Vaughan, OFM, Cap. (aidan1302@gmail.com)

Fr Seán O'Sullivan, resident at Farranree, (021 493 2230)

Fr Cian O'Sullivan, resident at Knocknaheeny, (021 439 2427)

Hell is Real – and lasts forever

The doctrine of hell is so frightening that numerous Evangelical figures have advocated the view that there is no eternal hell - the wicked will simply be annihilated. Alarmingly: even some Catholic theologians take the same view – but that is not the faith of the Catholic Church.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “The teaching of the Church clearly affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin, (a total breakdown in the relationship with God), are confined to hell, where they suffer the punishments of eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs” (CCC 1035).

In his 1994 book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, Pope John Paul II wrote that too often “preachers, catechists, teachers... no longer have the courage to preach the threat of hell” (p.183). The words of Christ are unequivocal. In Matthew's Gospel he speaks clearly of those who will go to eternal punishment (cf. Matt. 25:46). But who will these be? The Church has never made any pronouncement in this regard” (pp. 185–186). That answer is known only to God alone. The Church Fathers were also absolutely firm on the reality of an eternal hell for those who rejected God's friendship on earth. That there is 'no Hell' is mere wishful thinking.

The Message of Lent is: Repent and believe the Gospel.

Connect-4 Gathering for Young People, (18-35)

Connect-4, an event for young people will take place again on February, 18th, at Students Centre, UCC from 10am – 4pm. The guest speaker is, Fr James Shea, a renowned US Evangelist, who will address young people on the Theme: “*What is the point of being Catholic*”. Event fee is €10 which includes food and refreshments.

Gurranabraher Bus Trip to Knock – Saturday, 1st June, 2024

A 55 Seater Bus has been booked again this year for our annual pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday, 1st June. The bus will leave the Church at 7.30am and return at 10.00pm. Last year there was a huge demand for seats on the bus so we ask you to book early. We do not know the exact price of the bus, but we hope it will be around the same as last year - €55.

Finding hope in a hopeless world – Lent 2024: This is a seven-week programme for Parish groups or individuals which will be available on the Diocesan website (www.corkandross.org) from Ash Wednesday (February 14th). This programme explores how we can still be people of faith and hope in today’s world. It includes a series of reflections, Scripture readings and prayers, and a guide on how to use this resource in your Parish/Family of Parishes. **Connect-4 Gathering for Young People, (18-35)**

Cork Alzheimers Café at St Finbarr’s Hospital

a safe place for people with Alzheimers and other dementias, their carers, family and friends along with social and health professionals to meet.

Last Friday of each month 11- 12.30 pm in St Finbarrs Hospital, Douglas Road.

Light refreshments provided free of charge. All welcome.

Contact: bettycogan@hotmail.com Next Meeting: **Friday 23rd February**

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.

Bingo at Gurranabraher Credit Union Parochial Hall Arena



Bingo continues every Sunday from 8pm at C.U. Parochial Hall Arena. Competitive prizes are available - including a ‘must win’ category. Bring friends and family to this great social event at your local Parish Hall and support the renovation of the Arena structure.

Monthly Building Fund Collection next Weekend

The Building Fund collection taken up on the last Saturday/Sunday of each month goes towards repaying the substantial loan still owed to AIB for roof renovations. Thank God, despite ‘Lock-downs’ and other difficulties, we have been able to maintain our monthly repayment schedule; that is a tribute to the generosity of parishioners. We ask that you would remain committed to the repayment of this loan.

News from Pioneer Abstinence Association

1. The Mass and Novena Prayers in honour of Matt Talbot will begin on Monday 19th February at 7.30 p.m. in the Way of the Cross Church Togher and will continue each Monday in Lent. All are invited – especially members of the Pioneer Assoc. In our Novena we pray for individuals and families who are suffering because of addiction, but also for those who are dealing with crosses or challenges of any kind. The Novena can be viewed online at www.churchservices.tv/togher.
2. The next meeting and A.G.M. of Cork Regional Pioneer Council will take place on Wednesday 21st February at 8p.m. in the Wilton Parish Centre.

Stop children accessing Pornography

Cork Psychotherapist, Dr Richard Hogan, has launched a PETITION calling on the Government of Ireland to bring in legislation that would prevent children from accessing pornography on the Internet. The psychotherapist said: “access to pornography at a young age can damage one’s prefrontal cortex leading to impulsivity and addiction – It shoots dopamine to your brain and that’s really serious... Last year I worked in a school where a senior infant consumed extreme hardcore material.” Dr Hogan revealed that Meta had 1.1million children under 13 years accessing pornography on their platform.

An increase in the number of children, even as young as 12 years, appearing in Court charged with sexual offences, has prompted a number of Judges to warn parents of their responsibility to protect children from accessing pornography. The stark truth about ‘2024 Ireland’ is that children are not only victims but are perpetrators as well.



We ask parishioners to support Dr Hogan’s Petition that aims to put pressure on the Government to draft legislation that protects children from accessing pornography in the same way that we protect children from accessing cigarettes and alcohol. Follow Bar Code or Google search for ‘Dr Richard Hogan’s Petition’

Cultivation of Ethical and religious values necessary to preserve Freedom

“A culture and a nation that cuts itself off from the great ethical and religious forces of its own history, commits suicide. The cultivation of essential moral insights, preserving and protecting these as a common possession but without imposing them by force, seems to be the one condition necessary for the continued existence of freedom in the face of all [of today’s] nihilisms and their totalitarian consequences.” **(Cardinal Ratzinger 2008).**