

## Mass Intentions this Week

The Offertory collection last weekend amounted to: €1,000.

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

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...***

***Requiescat in Pace***

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

### **Sat 24<sup>th</sup> February 5.30pm (Vigil Mass)**

- i) Michael Wall, RIP (5<sup>th</sup> Anniv)
- ii) Paddy Corcoran, RIP (37<sup>th</sup> Anniv)
- iii) Leslie Hourigan, RIP, (Month's Mind)
- iv) Sheila Buckley, RIP, (Month's Mind)

### **Sun 25<sup>th</sup> February, (9am)**

- i) Mary & John O'Callaghan, RIP
- ii) Private Intentions

### **Sun 25<sup>th</sup> February, (11.30am)**

- i) Liam O'Riordan, RIP
- ii) Eddie O'Brien, RIP (7<sup>th</sup> Anniv)
- iii) Bina O'Sullivan, RIP (Month's Mind)

### **Mon 26<sup>th</sup> February (10am)**

- i) Margaret & Michael Hussey, RIP
- ii) Tommy Cambridge, RIP (12<sup>th</sup> Anniv)
- iii) Novena Mass 7.

### **Tue 27<sup>th</sup> February (10am)**

- i) Catherine, Christy, Christopher & Nuala Gregory, RIP
- ii) Margaret & Pat McGann, RIP
- iii) Novena Mass 8.

### **Wed 28<sup>th</sup> February (10am)**

- i) Michael White, RIP (6<sup>th</sup> Anniv)
- ii) Sr Anna Ryan, RIP (Died recently)
- iii) Christopher, Ellen & Michael Murphy, RIP

### **Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> February (10am)**

- i) Holy Souls
- ii) Novena Mass 9.

### **Fri, 1<sup>st</sup> March (10am)**

- i) Tom & Bidy Crean, RIP
- ii) Egan Family Intentions

### **Sat 24<sup>th</sup> February (10am)**

- i) Pro Populo



## **Ascension Parish, Gurrabraher**

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

**Sunday, February 25, 2024.**

**Second Sunday of Lent (B)**

**Parish Office – 021 - 430 3655**

email: [ascensionparish123@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionparish123@gmail.com) Website: [www.gurrabraherparish.ie](http://www.gurrabraherparish.ie)

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

**Priests of the area:**

Fr. Tomás Walsh, SMA. PP ([walstomas@hotmail.com](mailto:walstomas@hotmail.com))

Fr. Aidan Vaughan, OFM, Cap. ([aidan1302@gmail.com](mailto:aidan1302@gmail.com))

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

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

### **Lent – A time to recognise the ugliness of Sin**

In a Lenten Message to the Church in Philadelphia in 2028, then Archbishop Charles Chaput, spoke about our great capacity to delude ourselves – seeing the splinter in the eyes of others but not observing the plank in our own. He observed that Lent is an opportunity for each of us to take a serious look at our own lives and see where we are in our relationship with God. He wrote: “Human beings have great capacity to rationalise about sin - to talk down its effects.” He warns that: “the deals we make with the world, and the flesh, and the devil, always go south. The line dividing good and evil is usually pretty bright for anyone who wants to see it. Most of us really *don't* want to see it, of course, because doing so would cramp our life-style. We negotiate little “concordats”, (‘agreements’), with our favourite personal sins, our ugly habits and our dictatorial appetites all the time. For every forbidden, hurtful, dishonest thing we like to do, we’re experts at self-deceit - we make excuses. We all have a barrelful of excellent excuses.

“Lent is especially a season when God invites all of us to smash to bits our miserable little concordats with sin. The teaching of the Church – rooted in the Word of God, confirmed by experience, consistent in its expression, sometimes difficult but always liberating – is the standard of holiness and the guide to our Heavenly Father’s expectations. We need to cling to it, confident in God’s mercy, in judging our own actions and redirecting our lives, no matter how radically that new path demands. So may God grant all of us a holy and fruitful Lent.”

### Monthly Building Fund Collection this 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 this 'Monthly Collection'.

### Gurranabraher Bus Trip to Knock – Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2024

A 55 Seater Bus has been booked again this year for our annual pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> June. The bus will leave the Church at 7.30am and return by 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 - €60.

**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](http://www.corkandross.org)) from Ash Wednesday (February 14<sup>th</sup>). 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.

### Cork Alzheimers Café at St Finbarr's Hospital

Cork Alzheimers Café is a safe place for people with Alzheimers and other dementias, their carers, family and friends along with social and health professionals to gather. Meet on last Friday of each month 11am - 12.30pm in St Finbarrs Hospital, Douglas Road. All welcome.

Contact: [bettycogan@hotmail.com](mailto:bettycogan@hotmail.com)

### 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.

### 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**).

### Eucharist Adoration on Thursdays @ 7pm

We invite parishioners, (especially during Lent), to join us each Thursdays to give God praise and worship – and to pray especially for vocations to Priesthood and strengthening the bonds of Marriage.

### Bingo at Gurranabraher Credit Union-Parochial Hall Arena



Bingo continues every Sunday from 8pm at C.U. Parochial Hall Arena. Very good 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.

### Novena Mass Cards

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 death itself, at birthdays, at exams or just to say 'Thank you'.

### Help stop children accessing Pornography

Cork Psychotherapist, Dr Richard Hogan, has launched a PETITION calling on the Irish Government to bring in legislation that would prevent children from accessing pornography on the Internet. Dr Hogan 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... Dr Hogan revealed that Meta (Google), had 1.1 million 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'



### Over 10,000 Lives terminated each year in Ireland

Spokesperson for 'Right to Life UK', Catherine Robinson, said: "Ireland's continued increase in abortions is deeply disturbing. Less than a decade ago, unborn babies' lives were protected by law. Now, according to the latest data, they are being ended at a rate of over 10,000 per year". Pope Francis reminds us: "It is necessary to reaffirm our solid opposition to any direct offense against life, especially when innocent and defenceless – and the unborn child in its mother's womb is the quintessence of innocence. Let us remember the words spoken at Vatican Council II: "... From the moment of conception life must be guarded with the greatest care while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes... "