



# Aughavas & Cloone Parishes

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## Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

**Pray** for the happy repose of Bernard Cunningham, Doogra, Kilmakenny who died on Friday.

### Meditation on the Ascension

Father, on Ascension day the Easter candle is extinguished,  
and in the smoke ascending from the wick

we see an image of Christ's heavenly ascension.

At the Passover feast, Jesus already knew

his hour had come for him to pass over  
from this world unto you.

'Father,' he said, 'I have glorified you on the earth;

I have finished the work you gave me to do.

Now, Father, glorify me in your presence

with the glory which I had with you

before the world began.'

Father, you glorified Jesus on his cross;

and on this day he ascends to you

to enter his glory everlastingly..

He is our High Priest who has passed through the heavens.

He has entered the true sanctuary on high

where he offers up for us unceasingly

the once-for-all sacrifice of his life.

Because of him, Father, we too

have access to the heavenly sanctuary through his blood.

The curtain of this sanctuary was his flesh;

and his flesh was rent asunder on the cross

so that we might go through it to you, God,

and meet you with confidence and a pure heart.

Through hope our hearts are anchored in the heavens;

and we feel already something of your Sabbath rest.

Father, today Christ is seated at your right hand.

Lift our minds above the earth to heavenly things.

For in a sense we, too, have died,

and our life is hidden away with Christ in God.

### The Benefits of Prayer and Praise of God

The praise of God should be the object of our meditation in this life, because in the life to come it will be for ever the object of our rejoicing. No one will be fit to receive the life to

come unless he has prepared himself in this life to receive it. And so in this life we do not only praise God: we make petitions to him. Our praise is expressed with joy, our petitions with sighs. For we have been promised that we shall receive what we do yet possess; and since he is true to his promises, we rejoice in hope; but since we have not yet received what he promised, we sigh in longing.

There are, then, two ages: the first is the present age, which consists of the temptations and tribulations of this life; the second is the future age, which consists of everlasting peace and rejoicing. So too we celebrate two seasons, one before Easter and one after. The season before Easter signifies the tribulation in which we now live; the present season after Easter signifies the happiness which will be ours hereafter. What we celebrate before Easter, we already experience; what we celebrate after Easter signifies that we do not yet possess what we celebrate. And so we keep the season before Easter in fasting and prayer; but in the present season we relax our fast and devote ourselves to praise. This is the meaning of the Alleluia which we sing.

Both of these truths are symbolized and expressed in the life of Christ our head. The Lord's passion reminds us of our state of need in this present life, in which we have to toil and suffer and finally die; the Lord's resurrection and his glorification reveal to us the life which is destined to be ours.

We are praising God at this moment when we are gathered together in the Church; when anyone leaves to go home, in a sense he ceases to praise God. But provided he does not cease living a good life, he praises God continually. You stop praising God only when you turn aside from righteousness and all that pleases him. For if you never turn aside from a holy life, though your tongue is silent your life speaks aloud; God has ears for what your heart is saying. For just as we have ears for men's voices, God has ears for their thoughts.

*St. Augustine.*

**Vocations:** Imagine if, in every Parish and faith community, people were encouraged to spend a few minutes discerning who in their midst might be a possible candidate for religious life/priesthood? Then, if they gently and sensitively shared the fruit of their reflection with that person, saying what they saw in the person and then left it for him/her to think and pray about it? What would happen? Only God knows! As well as full time ministry, every community has a need for willing people to serve as readers, ministers of the Eucharist, Mass servers, catechists or members of various committees. God continues to call, sometimes we just don't hear. Contact the diocesan vocations director: Fr. Seamus O'Rourke. Tel: 071 9620054/ 087 9195315. [seamusoro@gmail.com](mailto:seamusoro@gmail.com). [www.vocations.ie](http://www.vocations.ie).

**Cemetery Sunday:** Considering the present circumstances, it is not advisable to hold the normal Cemetery Sunday celebrations this year. Complying with social distancing requirements along with the gathering of large numbers of people would present major difficulties. Masses will be offered privately on dates to be published later for the souls of all the people interred in the graveyards of Cloone and Aughavas.

**Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2020:** Trócaire encourages Parishioners to return their Lenten donation by next weekend 30th/31st May.

**Offertory Collection:** Since 3rd May some people have put offerings in the letter box of the Parish House in Cloone. These offerings have been counted and lodged recently. Cloone Offertory: €1,105.00; Cloone Easter Dues: €570.00; Cloone Lenen Alms: €30.00. Aughavas Offertory: €495.00; Aughavas Easter Dues: €245.00; Aughavas Lenten Alms: €105.00.