

Thank you for your generosity
last weekend

Offertory Collection - €865.00

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

Second Collection last Week for Building Fund - €1,005.00

Special Thanks to Con's Shop for collecting coins amounting to €551.00.

Special thanks too to Eily Morris and friends for raising the sum of €500.00

Special thanks to anonymous donor who dropped in €500.00 into Parish Office

Donations for roof repairs gratefully accepted at Parish Office or they can be lodged directly into:

**Ascension Church Building Fund A/c at
AIB Bank
IE65 AIBK 934194 32642064**

SUNDAY DUTY ROTA

December 3, 2017

A priest can be contacted if required
this Sunday by phoning:

Cathedral: 087 - 2381187

*"If my people
who are called by my name
Will humble themselves and pray
and seek my face –
and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven
and I will forgive their sin
and I will heal their land."
- 2 Chronicles, 7:14.*

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat. 2, December

6pm. Christopher Connolly, RIP. (5th Anniv)

Sun 3,

9am. Keith Kelleher, RIP

11.30am. Mary O'Riordan, RIP.

Mon 4,

8am

10am. Martin Sexton, RIP.

Tue 5,

8am. Novena Mass 2.

10am. William, May and James Stout, RIP.

Wed 6,

8am. James & Ellen O'Driscoll, RIP & family

10am. Holy Souls.

Thu 7,

8am. Mary Dalton, RIP.

10am. Thomas & Ellen Creagh, RIP.

7pm John O'Callaghan, RIP.

Fri 8,

8am. Maggie & Willim McCarthy, RIP

10am. Vincent & Julia White, RIP.

Sat 9,

10am. Pro-Populo.

RECENT DEATHS

We pray for those recently deceased...

James Mangan, Churchfield Hill,

Bridget Cronin, Gurrabraher Avenue,

..... Requiescat in Pace.

On First Friday of each month a special Mass (Month's Mind) is offered at 7pm in Gurrabraher for those who died over the past month. We specially invite family member to attend and pray for the person who has died.



**Ascension Parish
Gurrabraher, Cork. TK23 HK31
Sunday, December 3, 2017.
First Sunday of Advent (B)**

Parish Office – 021-4303655 (If Urgent: 085-8041951)
email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com

Priests of the Parish:

Fr. Tomás Walsh, SMA. Tel: 021-4303658. (tomas.walsh@sma.ie)

Fr. Aidan Vaughan, OFM, Cap. Tel: 021-4397472. (aidan1302@gmail.com)

Weekend Masses – Saturday 6pm (Vigil) & Sundays – 9am & 11.30am.

The Season of Advent – a Time to get Ready

Today we begin a New Church Liturgical Year by celebrating the



Season of Advent. Advent is a time for getting ready - for making preparations to receive the Christ child when he comes again at Christmas. Without some type of spiritual preparation there is a great danger that we will miss the true significance of this very special and holy season. Christmas will then

be reduced to just an occasion used to over-indulge the worst aspects of our nature.

We appeal to families especially to make Advent special by having some form of family prayer in the home each day during Advent.

The Advent liturgy for today directs our minds to the Last Day, to the Second Coming of Christ, to the Day of Judgement. We look at this not as individuals, but as a great gathering of all peoples.

The suddenness of the coming of the Lord may make us a little afraid, but we should look forward in joy - rejoice when we hear them say 'Let us go to God's house'. St Paul tells us how to live in the meantime: be fully awake and cast off the works of darkness.

**May this Advent Season bring us closer to Christ the Lord –
and may each new generation of Christians
treasure the specialness of Christmas.**

Monster Bingo at Parochial Hall – December 10th.

On Sunday next, 10th December, there will be a Monster Bingo session at the Parochial Hall beginning at 8.15pm. Prizes will be double the usual – if you are not in you can't win!

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje – May, 2018.

A pilgrimage to Medjugorje is being organized for 31st May, 2018. It is 7 nights half board in Pansion Darko, close to St James' Church. Flight is from Cork and all transfers included in price. Total cost is €719.00. Special offer – all who pay the full fare by 18th December will get a €100 off price. Group Leader is Roger Power and a Spiritual Director will accompany the group.

Special Church Raffle for Roof

A Special Christmas Raffle is being organized at Gurranabraher Church on the weekend of 9/10th December & 16/17th December to raise fund for Church repairs. The raffle is being organized by Knocknaheeny Parish – they will provide the prizes and sell the tickets. All they ask of us is that we would support them in purchasing the tickets. There will be five very good prizes on offer.

Feast of Immaculate Conception - (Holy Day of Obligation)

Masses on Thursday, Vigil – 6pm & Friday 8am and 10am.

On Friday, 8th December, Christians all over the world celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This feast recalls a hugely decisive moment in salvation history when God intervenes to spare Mary [at her moment of conception in the womb of her mother, Ann], from the consequences of the sin of Adam, (Original sin). What were/are these consequences? The Church teaches that because of Adam's disobedience every human being ever born is contaminated by that original sin – resulting in the loss of innocence - where the human will is weakened, the intellect is darkened and human passions are inclined towards evil.

Why was Mary granted this special grace from God? For one reason only – Mary was singularly chosen to bring forth in her womb the Saviour of the world. It could not happen that this Saviour could dwell in the womb of a person contaminated in any way by sin - original or actual. Thus, Mary, seen by God, even before she took existence, as an exemplary disciple, is spared the contamination of that original sin and so is indeed a worthy vessel for the Christ to take human form and to be born. What was granted to Mary before Christ's death and resurrection is now granted to all of us at Baptism.

***O Mary conceived without original sin,
pray for us who have recourse to you.***

Donations of Food items for the Needy

Gurranabraher parish is one of the few parishes in the city to make a serious to come to the aid of its needy especially at Christmas time. We invite parishioners again this year to place their donations of food items in the baskets provided just off the sanctuary this week and next weekend. May God bless all generous givers. Also, if you know families that could benefit from some extra food this Christmas please let us know.

Christmas Mass Cards

Mass Cards that will remember in a Triduum of Masses all those whom the Cards will reach this Christmas are now available in Parish Office (and in Sacristy during weekend Masses). The three Masses will be offered on 24th, 25th & 26th December. These Masses will be offered up that God's love and peace may reign in each heart and home over the Christmas period - and throughout the New Year. **Cards are €2 Euro each – and six for €10.**

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Collection today

St Vincent de Paul are holding their Church Door Christmas collection this weekend for the poor. They ask that we would be generous to this collection please so that they can make Christmas special for the poor.

Regarding Infant Baptism

A minimum of One Months' notice is required for 'infant baptism'. *A pre-baptism instruction is mandatory before parents can have their child baptized.*

Next Pre-Baptism Instruction is on Thursday, December 7th @ 7pm in Parish Office

Parish Office Hours

Please be aware of the new Office Hours schedule.

10.30am – 12.30am. 2.30pm – 4.30pm. & 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

Mass Cards available for all occasions

Mass Cards are available at the Parish Office for all occasions, RIP, Get Well, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Exams, etc. – the intentions are included in Nine Masses (Novena) celebrated each month in the parish. Each card cost €3.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Church door Collection

St Vincent de Paul Society hold their Christmas Church door appeal this weekend. They appeal to your generosity. There are still many who just barely manage to survive – SVP appeal to you to help them make Christmas real for the poor of our parish.