

Thank you for your generosity  
last weekend  
Offertory Collection - €890.00

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

*Lourdes collection last weekend –  
€670.00*

*Special thanks to Con's Shop who has  
again raised the sum of €320.00 for  
Church roof.*

*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**

**February 18, 2018**

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

**Gurrabraher 085 804 1951**

*"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. 17, February**

6pm. Connie Hegarty, RIP.

**Sun 18,**

9am.

11.30am. Jeremiah Sherlock RIP. (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv)

**Mon 19,**

8am. For the Protection of the Unborn

10am. Patrick O'Mahony, RIP.

**Tue 20,**

8am. Novena Mass 7.

10am. Connie Hegarty, RIP.

**Wed 21.**

8am.

10am. Bryan Cotter, RIP. (8<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

**Thu 22,**

8am. Novena Mass 8.

10am. Denis O'Brien, RIP

**Fri 23,**

8am.

10am. Christy Barry, RIP (7<sup>th</sup> anniv)

**Sat 24,**

10am. Pro-Populo.

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### **RECENT DEATHS**

*We pray for those recently deceased...*

**Bridie Radley, Mt Nebo Avenue.**

**Gerald Coleman, St Colmcille Road.**

*..... 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.**

**Sunday, February 18, 2018.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, (B)**

**Parish Office – 021-4303655 (If Urgent: 085-8041951)**

email: [ascensionparish123@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionparish123@gmail.com)

### **Priests of the Parish:**

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

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

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

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

Archbishop Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia, in his Lenten Message talks of our 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 our miserable little concordats with sin to bits. 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.

### **Lent – A Season of Grace God gives to his Family**

Lent is the season that draws us in, calls us to return to sanity, to a bit of austerity, to a change of heart and mind. It's a second chance at our new year's resolutions, long since broken and forgotten. It's a second chance at making changes in our lives. For some people, it's no less than a second chance at life. That something that draws us is God's grace. And it's drawing us back to God's merciful embrace. **(Pope Francis - 2017)**

### **Abortion an Unspeakable Crime**

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... *(Pope Francis - 2014)*.

### **Monster Dublin Rally to save the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, thousands of Pro-Life supporters from all over Ireland will gather in Dublin to show the Irish government the size and commitment of those people who fight for the rights of the unborn child. We appeal to our own parishioners who can make it to Dublin to be present on that day. This may well be the most important gathering of people this decade. The unborn have no voice to plead for life than ours. If interested in travelling by bus please leave your name, address and telephone number in the sacristy – and we will make contact with you.

### **Encountering Family in the Gospel:**

A special talk exploring the meaning of family as portrayed in the Gospels will take place at North Cathedral on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 10:30am to 11:45am. This is in preparation for the Icon pilgrimage which will come to Cork on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. These sessions will be facilitated by Fr Charlie Kiely and Sr Karen Kent. All are welcome.

### **Icon of Holy Family visits North Cathedral**

The Icon of the Holy Family which will be used at the "World Gathering of Families" in Dublin in August 2018, will be on display at the Cathedral for a number of days starting on Thursday, 22 February, 2018 and continuing until Monday 26, February. Catholics are asked to visit the Icon and pray for God's blessings on their families. The programme is as follows:

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - 7:30pm. Welcome celebration for Icon in the Cathedral

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February - 3:00pm. to 4:00pm. Special Prayers for Vocations in families.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February - 3:00pm. Ecumenical Service – North Cathedral

***Next Pre-Baptism Instruction for those living outside the parish is on***

***Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm in Parish Office.***

***All Baptisms Ceremonies in future will be on Saturdays at the new time of 3pm.***

### **Fresh Perspective on Faith for Young People**

An eight week film series for those aged between 20y-35y who want to explore questions of faith and doubt - who want to discuss their world view or wrestle with things that don't make sense. It begins on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm at Scala (Redemptorist Community) directly across the road from Blackrock Castle. For more information visit [www.scala.ie](http://www.scala.ie) or on Facebook at Scala Cork.

### **CORK MARRIAGE & FAMILY COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELLING**

**CALL 021-4275678 TO SIMPLY SET UP A PRELIMINARY APPOINTMENT  
TO SEE IF COUNSELLING MAY HELP.  
PROFESSIONAL, CONFIDENTIAL, AND EXPERIENCED CLINICIANS.**

### **Holy Hour of Adoration**

Each Thursday, parishioners gather from 7pm – 8pm to pray (mostly in silence) to the Lord for the needs of the world. During this Holy Hour we pray especially for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life. We bring before the Lord the names of those who are sick and in need of healing. We pray too for stable and happy marriages. Join with us in praying for the needs of the world each Thursday evening.

### **Protect your Children from Porn**

Scientists at Cambridge University have studied the brain scans of porn addicts. They have discovered that these scans are identical to those of drug addicts. Porn being so readily accessible, there is a growing concern that porn is beginning to effect human brains, relationships and even our bodies. A survey of a Reddit community called NoFap has helped researchers open the door to a better understanding of the effects of pornography on our lives. Some staggering figures emerge:

- i. 59 percent surveyed report watching between 4 - and 15 hours of porn every week.
- ii. Fifty-three percent of those surveyed developed a regular porn habit between the ages of 12 and 14. An alarming 16 percent said they started watching before they were 12y. There is enough evidence emerging to show that pornography has a destructive effect on future stable, happy relationships. It is also a factor in the rise in paedophilia and violent crimes against women. The efforts you take now to protect your children from pornography may one day save them from committing sexual crimes. Some psychologists believe that no child under the age of sixteen should ever have a smart phone.