

Thank you for your generosity
last weekend

Offertory Collection - €995.

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

**Second Collection next Weekend for to
help run Bishop's 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

January 14, 2018

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

Clogheen: 087 1507486

*"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. 13, January

6pm. Brendan Buckley, RIP, (7th Anniv)

Sun 14,

9am. Ellen O'Connor, RIP (51st Anniv)

11.30am. Frank O'Leary, RIP

Mon 15,

8am. Fr Paddy Neville, RIP. (Died Recently)

10am. E. & D Babbington and David jun & Kathllen.

Tue 16,

8am. Novena Mass 5.

10am. Rory O'Connor, RIP

Wed 17,

8am.

10am. Martin Sexton, RIP

Thu 18,

8am. Novena Mass 6.

10am. Robert Skillington, RIP. (25th Anniv)

Fri 19,

8am.

10am. Dora Cotter, RIP (9th Anniv)

Sat 20,

10am. Pro-Populo.

RECENT DEATHS

We pray for those recently deceased...

*Noreen O'Callaghan, Churchfield Place East.
John Hegarty, Seanabothair, Killeens.*

..... 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, January 14, 2018.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, (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 Ten Commandments (The Decalogue)

"The Decalogue takes us back to Mount Sinai, when God entered in a particular way into the history of the Jewish people - and through this people into the history of the whole of humanity... At Sinai God presents his commandments that express His will and which is the moral code to build a society in which the covenant relationship with God illumines and guides all other relations between peoples and nations.

In the Commandments We Discern Right From Wrong

"God gave us the commandments to educate us to liberty and genuine love, so that we can find true happiness. In these commandments, which match the criteria of every human person's right conscience, God teaches us the correct discernment of good and evil, of the true and the false, of the just and the unjust... When followed they lead us along the path where life and liberty is to be found – when ignored, we not only alienate ourselves from God and abandon the covenant with Him, but also distance ourselves from life and from lasting happiness.

Only by following the Commandments can we live life fuller, happier, better

"Man left to himself, indifferent to God, proud of his own absolute autonomy, ends up by following the idols of egoism, of power, of dominion, thereby polluting the relations with himself and with others, and following the path not of life but of death... Only the acceptance of the infinite love of God, trusting in Him, following the way of love, traced by the Commandments and perfected by Christ, is the only one capable of rendering our own lives and the lives of others fuller, better and happier."

(Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI).

Cohabitation a Disaster for Marriage

St Paul's exhortation in the Second Reading at Mass this morning: "*The body is not meant for fornication – it is for the Lord*" - must be taken seriously. The present high breakdown rates in marriage, with the human carnage that flows from it, shows that we need to seriously return to the Church teaching concerning the reverence of sexual intimacy and the permanency of marriage. Even though Cohabitation has become the norm even for those who would otherwise describe themselves as Christian – cohabitation is a disaster for stable marriages. Social data shows cohabitating relationships last on average about 2.5 years – and even for those who do eventually exchange marriage vows; the breakdown rate is double that of those who do not cohabit before exchanging vows. This is not surprising for cohabiting couples make a subliminal statement to each other that says "I don't need to be married to you to have sex with you". This is a very critical statement in the health of a relationship because sex goes from something once worthy of vows before God, to something not much bigger than deciding what one will have for lunch". Cohabitation demeans and cheapens sex – in cohabitation commitment is always held back. Sex by its very nature is designed to bond a couple - mind, soul and body - but when a relationship gets physical before its time, important issues like character, life philosophy and compatibility falls by the wayside. Budding love is very fragile and can easily be crushed by lust. Just because a cohabitating couple may eventually make it to the altar is not a sign that they truly love each other. A cohabiting relationship is based not on commitment but on the principle that one can walk away at any time – and this attitude is not easily dislodged even if wedding vows are exchanged later.

Couples who cohabit certainly desire love and they undoubtedly try their best to love one another, but the problem is their best will not be good enough because they are relying on tainted and corrupted information. They learn how to have sex with the other person but know very little about the other person; they desire to be loved but fail to understand how to love.

"If I am not interested in discerning any possible future with my girlfriend, then sure, we might as well 'shack-up' now. But my heart like every other human heart desires to find a love that will last a lifetime. I have a far diminished chance of finding that love if I take the easy option now and simply follow the prevailing trend. Love is too precious to be cheapened and destroyed through the evil that is called cohabitation. Remember the body is not meant for fornication."

Adapted from an article by Bernard Toutounji – The Norm of Cohabitation. (2012)

CHRISTMAS DUES ENVELOPES

The Christmas and Easter dues, along with the Christmas Day collection; along with stipends received from funerals, baptisms, marriages etc, are what maintains the priests of the parish. From that income the priest has to pay health insurance; run a house, heat, light, and maintain his car. We appeal to you to return your Christmas Dues envelope. Please be generous to your priests.

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. Group Leader is Roger Power and a Spiritual Director will accompany the group. Payments for trip can be made in instalments at Sacristy after Saturday evening Masses and after 11.30am Masses on each Sunday mornings.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Church of the future will survive only to the extent that the laity assumes a greater ownership of their local Church. As revenue drastically declines in most parishes, as Church-going numbers diminish and as priests become unavailable, the only way Church communities will survive into the future will be for members to make a greater contribution in helping their own parish community to survive. In Ireland up to now not much more than attendance at Sunday Mass was expected of members. Not so for the future - now, all must make a greater effort either by contributing more financially or by volunteering some service to the Church. Do you care enough about the survival of this Church community to want to do something for the Church? If you want to be of some service to the Gurrabraher parish community please discuss the matter with one of the priests. They can suggest ways that you can be of great use to your parish community.

Regarding Infant Baptism

A minimum of One Month's notice is required for 'infant baptism'. A *pre-baptism instruction is mandatory before parents can have their child baptized. Next Pre-Baptism Instruction for those living outside the parish is on*

Thursday, February 1st @ 7pm in Parish Office.

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

Lourdes 2018 – Young Adult Helpers.

The Diocese of Cork and Ross invites Young Adults 18-25 year olds to come to Lourdes as helpers from 11th to 16th June. As helpers you will assist with the sick and be involved in the full pilgrimage programme; as well as time for prayer, for making new friends and sharing in the story of Lourdes.

Limited number of places. Closing date for applicants is 28th February 2018. For further details contact Fr. Charlie Kiely 021-4537603, Pastoral Development Office, Parochial House, Ballyphehane, Cork or email: charliekiely@gmail.com This volunteering for Lourdes has proven to be a life-changing experience for many young people who have gone there. And they show it by returning year after year. If interested please see Fr Tomás Walsh.