

Thank you for your generosity
last weekend
Offertory Collection - €1,090.00

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

**Second Collection this Weekend to help
run Bishop's Office**

*Second Collection next week for
Church Building Fund*

*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 21, 2018

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. 20, January

6pm. Mossie Twomey & O'Doherty family

Sun 21,

9am. Kate & Martin O'Rourke and O'Rourke family

11.30am. Gavin Lawless, RIP

Mon 22,

8am.

10am. Kitty & Daniel O'Callaghan, RIP.

Tue 23,

8am. Novena Mass 7.

10am. Maura O'Doherty, RIP. (1st Anniv)

Wed 24,

8am.

10am. Billy O'Driscoll, RIP

Thu 25,

8am. Novena Mass 8.

10am. Margaret O'Brien, RIP

Fri 26,

8am.

10am. Mary Buckley, RIP (17th Anniv)

Sat 27,

10am. Pro-Populo.

RECENT DEATHS

We pray for those recently deceased...

Noreen O'Callaghan, Churchfield Place East.

..... 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 21, 2018.

3rd 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.

Abortion - A Crime against God and Humanity

The deliberate extinguishing of innocent human life for any reason, (and that includes life in the womb), is a crime against humanity that cries out to God for vengeance. The Biblical imperative: **"Thou shalt not kill"** is binding on the individual and collective conscience of humanity. That was clearly understood in the early church when a Christian layman, Athenagoras, confronted the supreme political leader of his time, Marcus Aurelius, and told him that "Abortion was murder and that all those involved would one day would have to stand before God and give an account of their actions: And he explained why: "For we regard even the very fetus in the womb as a created being and therefore, an object of God's love and care". The early Church had no debates or arguments over whether some abortions were alright – No person who promoted or permitted abortion would have dared to approach the Eucharistic table or dared to call himself/herself Christian.

Abortion both in UK and in the USA was legalized on the grounds that it would be a rear occurrence - permitted only in very exceptional restricted circumstances. Within a few years the flood gates opened and today abortion is available on demand. In fifty years, the UK has destroyed over 8.5 million human lives - and since 1973, the USA has deliberately killed off over 60 million of its citizens. These are crimes against humanity. Each day we turn a blind eye to this silent holocaust we become less human - and our society degenerates into barbarism. **Play your part in keeping the Eight Amendment in the Irish Constitution.**

The Mystery of Human Life

Dr George W. Corner, the great Endocrinologist and research scientist who first isolated and identified the vital female hormone progesterone, a hormone essential to the growth and development of the unborn child, believed that it was the hidden nature of human development that makes us undervalue and disrespect human life so tragically. He wrote: "The fertilization of the egg by the sperm is one of the greatest wonders of nature, an event in which magnificently small fragments of ... life are driven by cosmic forces to their appointed end, the growth of a living human being. As a spectacle, it can be compared only with an eclipse of the sun, or the eruption of a volcano. It is in fact the most common and nearest to us of nature's cataclysms; and yet it is very seldom observed because it occurs in a realm most people never see – in the region of microscopic things"

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 Months' 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. 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.

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.**

Conversion of St Paul (Feast Day – 25th January)

St. Paul, (or Saul) was born some years after the birth of Jesus Christ. He was born at Tarsus, the capitol of Cilicia. Paul, brought up as a 'strict observing' Jew, well versed in the Jewish faith, saw the emergence of Christianity as a great threat to Judaism - and was determined to destroy it. While on his way to Damascus to make new arrests of Christians, he was suddenly converted by a miraculous apparition of Our Lord. From a fierce persecutor he became the great Apostle of the Gentiles. He made three missionary journeys which brought him to the great centers of Asia Minor and southern Europe, and there made many converts. He was beheaded in Rome around 66 A.D., and his relics are in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls near the Ostian Way. Paul's conversion was another pivotal event in salvation history.