

Thank you for your generosity
last weekend

Offertory Collection - €785.00

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

**Donations gratefully received for Church
Building Fund from the following.**

Cllr. Kenneth Flynn - €250.00
Cllr. John Sheehan - €200.00
Churchfield Christmas Tree - €85.00
Craft Fair (Ann Cotter) - €200.00

*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 24, 2017

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

Gurrabraher: 085 - 8041951

*"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. 23, December

6pm. Kathleen & Michael Collins, RIP

Sun 24,

9am. Teresa White & Charles Lynch RIP

11.30am. Noel Twomey, RIP (4th Anniv)

6pm. Christmas Eve, Triduum Mass

8pm Christmas Eve, Triduum Mass.

Mon 25, Christmas Day

9am. Triduum Mass

11.30am. Triduum Mass.

Tue 26, St Stephen's Day

10am. Triduum Mass

Wed 27,

10am. John O'Sullivan, RIP

Thu 28,

10am. Christiana Gould, RIP

Fri 29,

10am. Pat O'Gorman, RIP

Sat 30,

10am. Pro-Populo.

RECENT DEATHS

We pray for those recently deceased...

Pauline Twomey, Columcille Road

Mary O'Leary, Churchfield Tce, 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, December 24, 2017.
Fourth 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.

'And man will live forever more because of Christmas day...'

The birth of the Christ child: "This was the moment that Israel had been awaiting for centuries, through many dark hours and painful trials... the moment that all mankind was somehow awaiting, in terms as yet ill-defined: when God would take care of us, when He would step outside his concealment, when the world would be saved – and when all things would be restored to their original purity.

"Yet when at last he came there is 'no room at the inn'. In some way, humanity is awaiting God, waiting for Him to draw near. But when the moment comes, there is no room for Him. Man is so preoccupied with himself, he has such urgent need of all the space and all the time for his own things, that nothing remains for others - for his neighbour, for the poor, for God. **And the richer men become, the more they fill up all the space by themselves. And the less room there is for others.**

But for those who did receive Him there grows silently the new house, the new city, the new world. The message of Christmas makes us recognize the darkness of a closed world... Yet it also tells us that God does not allow himself to be shut out. He finds a space, even if it means entering by way of a stable.

"Whether we are simple shepherds or 'wise men' - the light and its message call us to set out, to leave the narrow circle of our desires and interests, to go out to meet the Lord and worship him. And we worship Him by opening the world to truth, to goodness, to Christ, to the service of those who are marginalized and in whom He awaits us."

Go Raibh gach sonas ort an Nollaig seo

This Christmas Collection goes to Priests of Parish

The collection taken up at Sunday evening and at Monday morning Masses goes towards the support of the priests of the parish. This collection plus the Christmas and Easter Dues is what supports your priests. We ask you earnestly to show your support by contributing generously towards this collection.

Church Raffle for Church Roof

A Special Christmas Raffle to raise funds for the Church roof was drawn last Sunday after the 11.30am Mass. The following numbers were drawn

1st Prize – Large Hamper. Yellow ticket strip 966 - 970

2nd Prize – Small Hamper. Blue ticket strip 451 - 455

3rd Prize – Bottle of Whiskey & Wine; White ticket strip 761 - 765.

4th Prize – Christmas Cake. Yellow ticket strip 671 - 675

5th Prize – Two bottles of Wine. Blue ticket strip 56 - 60.

We thank sincerely all who organized this raffle, those who sold tickets and those who purchased them. Once again the response was magnificent.

Ascension Parish Carol Service

We thank Mr Jack Kenefick, and Gurranabraher Parish Assembly for organizing a very beautiful Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday night last. We thank too the visiting choirs and our own from Gurranabraher for participating in the event. While we would have wished that lots more would have attended – those who did attend were able to reflect on Christ saving work by the beautiful favourite Carols sung on the night.

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.

Donations of Food items for the Needy

We thank sincerely our parishioners who have contributed food and other items for the benefit of the poor of the parish. We are one of the few parishes in the city who engage in this kind of initiative. Once again you have proven that you are a good Christian people.

There will be no Holy Hour of Adoration on Thursday 28th December.

Christmas is about reawakening human solidarity

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call Him ‘Immanuel,’ a name which means, ‘God with us’.” Matthew 1:23

Christmas is a time for family, remembrance, thanksgiving, appreciation, forgiveness, above all, **love**. But it is for many others a time of loneliness and pain. Christmas is robbed of its magic and meaning for those who have no home or have lost the solidarity of family. There are others who have lost loved ones - and things that once made them happy at this time of year now make them sad because Christmas evokes happy memories of times spent together. Therefore, Christmas becomes a difficult time for some.

There are many who are in need of encouragement at this time of year. They don't need a Christmas present; they need His Christmas presence. They need to be reminded of what this season is all about.

It is not about things. It is not about presents. These things have their place, but we need to remember the essential message of Christmas, which is Immanuel - God is with us. And for the hurting person, the lonely person, the sorrowing person, this is the time of year to bring the gift of encouragement to them and say, “The message of Christmas is: God will be with you. God will help you. God will strengthen you.”

So look for opportunities to share the love of God during this season, because it is a time when we seem to be more open to engaging in conversation with others. Now is a great opportunity for you to bring encouragement to someone who is struggling. Who needs your encouragement today? The early Christians were distinguished from all others by their love and concern for the least among them.

Priests of the Parish say “Thank You”

The priests of the parish, Fr Aidan Voughan and Fr Tomás Walsh thank very sincerely Gurranabraher parishioners for their love and support during the year 2017 – even when great demands were made upon them. We thank most especially all who generously give of their time and talents to making sure that there is a responsive Christian presence in Gurranabraher.

We wish all parishioners a happy and grace-filled Christmas 2017. May this season be for each parishioner a time of celebration and of happy memories – above all, may it be time when each is enraptured and enthralled by the grace of God's nearness in the presence of a little Godchild.