

Thank you for your generosity
last weekend

Feast of Holy Family - €1,035.00

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

*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 7, 2018

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

Knocknaheeny: 087 6544 836

*"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. 6, January

6pm. David & Mary Higgins RIP

Sun 7,

9am. Richard Mulvihill, RIP

11.30am. Noreen Sheehan, RIP (9th Anniv)

Mon 8,

8am. Paul Wall, RIP

10am. Mary O'Riordan, RIP

Tue 9,

8am. Novena Mass 3.

10am. Frank Joyce, RIP (4th Anniv)

Wed 10,

8am.

10am. Noel O'Riordan – (Birthday Blessings)

Thu 11,

8am. Novena Mass 4.

10am. Maisie Dalton, RIP. (Anniv)

Fri 12,

8am.

10am. Ellen O'Brien, RIP. (11th Anniv)

Sat 13,

10am. Pro-Populo.

RECENT DEATHS

We pray for those recently deceased...

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 7, 2018.
Baptism of the Lord (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.

FEAST OF BAPTISM OF CHRIST JESUS

John the Baptist is the last of the prophets of the Old Testament whose special assignment from God was to prepare a people for the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah of Israel. John's cry to his people was: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is close at hand". Those who came to him underwent a *symbolic washing* (baptism) as a mark of desiring to come away from sin and as a sign of sorrow for what their sins had done.

However, it was not the baptism that we have undergone. John's baptism was unable to forgive actual sin; it was unable to undo the effects of original sin - and was unable to restore us to a life of grace and communion with God our Creator.

Why did Jesus (The Messiah), go to John the Baptist for baptism since He was sinless? Indeed, John the Baptist intuitively knew that there was something very wrong in Jesus coming to him. When John protested; Jesus replied, "Let it be so for now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." John reluctantly consented and baptized Jesus - and at that moment the skies opened and a voice is heard from the heavens saying: "This is my beloved Son – listen to him".

God uses John's baptism in the river Jordan then as the inauguration ceremony initiating the Messianic Age. Jesus, [at the age of thirty years], is about to begin in earnest the work of undoing the sin of our first parents and restoring the communion that existed between Creator and creature in the beginning. At the river Jordan, in full view of the large crowds, there is divine confirmation from Heaven that Jesus is indeed the Messiah long-awaited by the Jews. "This is my Beloved Son – Listen to Him"

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.

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.

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 22nd February - 7:30pm. Welcome celebration for Icon in the Cathedral
- Saturday 24th February - 3:00pm. to 4:00pm. Special Prayers for Vocations in families.
- Sunday 25th February - 3:00pm. Ecumenical Service – North Cathedral
- Monday 26th February - Departure of Icon to Skibbereen.

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.

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.

Without the Creator the creature would disappear

"When the sense of God is lost, the sense of man is also threatened and poisoned, as the Second Vatican Council concisely states: "Without the Creator the creature would disappear ... Man then is no longer capable to seeing himself as 'mysteriously different' from other earthly creatures; he regards himself merely as one more living being, as an organism which, at most, has reached a very high stage of perfection. Enclosed in the narrow horizon of his physical nature, he is somehow reduced to being 'a thing', and no longer grasps the 'transcendent' character of his 'existence as man'. He no longer considers life as a splendid gift of God, something 'sacred' entrusted to his responsibility and thus also to his loving care and 'veneration'. Life itself becomes a mere 'thing', which man claims as his exclusive property, completely subject to his control and manipulation."

(Evangelium Vitae. No. 22. Pope John Paul II).

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.

Church Raffle for Church Roof

The Christmas Raffle to raise funds for the Church roof was drawn after the 11.30am Mass on Sunday 17th. The 4th Prize – Christmas Cake has yet to be collected. The winning ticket is - Yellow ticket strip 671 – 675

Death of Fr Paddy Neville, MHM.

Our sympathy goes to Maureen Horgan, whose brother, Fr Paddy Neville, a Mill Hill Missionary, died during the week. Fr Paddy worked in many parts of the world in bringing the Gospel message of love. May God reward him now for his labours.