

**Offertory collection last weekend
amounted to €1,060.00**

Thank you for your generosity

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

*Last weekend's 2nd Collection for Papal event
amounted to €515.00*

*Donations for Church Renovations 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 16, 2018

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

Clogheen 087 150 7486

***"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. 15, December

6pm. Deceased members of the Murray family.

Sun 16.

9am. Nancy O'Connell, RIP.

11.30am. Margaret & Mary Moynihan, RIP

Mon 17.

8am. Charles Lynch, RIP

10am. Donal, Julie & John Hanover, RIP.

Tue 18.

8am. Nora & Patrick Cotter, RIP.

10am. Sean Burns & Twomey family, RIP

Wed 19.

8am. Theresa White, RIP

10am. John O'Regan, RIP (12th Anniv)

Thu 20.

8am. Christy Quilligan, RIP

10am. Rachel O'Leary, RIP

Fri 21.

8am. Helen McSweeney & grandson, Brendan, RIP

10am. John & Patrick Kelleher, RIP

Sat 22.

10am. Pro Populo

We pray for those recently deceased...

Michael O'Donovan, St Colmcille Road.

... Requiescat in Pace.

***We have now opened an Account at
Gurrabraher Credit Union
to facilitate those who may wish to leave
some money into our account –
Church of the Ascension Renovation Fund -
A/c No. 02255200.***



Ascension Parish

Gurrabraher, Cork.

Sunday, December 16, 2018.

3rd Sunday of Advent (C)

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

email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com

Website: www.gurrabraherparish.ie

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.

We must intensify prayer and penance for the purification of the Church

Catholic intellectual, George Weigel, writing of the sexual scandal that has rocked the Church in recent years says that: "Reaching too easily for "Satan" as the explanation of a Church crisis or a historical disaster should be avoided. Equally, ignoring Satan is just as dangerous. The 'Evil One' is surely a factor in sowing the evil with which the Catholic Church is contending today. Each act of sexual abuse is a manifestation of evil and of a victory for the Evil One. Malfeasance among bishops - whether it be rooted in cowardice, a false notion of the imperatives of institutional maintenance, or personal corruption - is not just a matter of managerial mistakes; the failures of the shepherds touch the *mysterium iniquitatis*, the "mystery of evil" - and that should be recognized at every level of the Church's life.

At the end of one liturgical year and the beginning of a new year of grace, the Church reads from the apocalyptic literature of the Old and New Testaments. Whether the seer is Daniel in Babylon or John on Patmos, the message is similar: Do not flee from difficult, even horrific, situations, but live responsibly even when things seem to fall apart - perhaps *especially* in those moments when the foundations seem to be crumbling.

We must all intensify prayer and penance. We should all be inviting to church those who have left out of boredom, anger, confusion, or disgust. We should all support the good priests and bishops we know, and we should firmly call clergy who are wayward to a change of heart and a change of life. It may seem as if Jesus is asleep in the storm-tossed boat, and we should call to him for help. But he also expects us to do something, and "something" will always be close at hand.

Christmas Party at Hut this Sunday: 2.30pm – 6pm.

Cork City Partnership is holding a Christmas party at the Hut on this Sunday, 16th December, from 2.30pm – 6pm. All are invited; no tickets required – just turn up for music, dance, song and craic.

Christmas Triduum Mass Cards

Mass Cards that will remember in a Triduum of Masses, all those whom the Cards will reach this Christmas are now available in Parish Office (and in Sacristy during weekend Masses). The three Masses will be offered on 24th, 25th & 26th December. These Masses will be offered up that God's love and peace may reign in each heart and home over the Christmas period - and throughout the coming Year. **Cards are €2 Euro each – 3 for €5.**

Church Christmas Raffle

We invite parishioners to support once again our church building project by purchasing tickets for our Christmas raffle for a Super Hamper and other prizes. Tickets are €2 each - or a strip of tickets for a €5. Tickets can be purchased after each of the parish Masses. Draw will take place after the 6pm Children's Christmas Mass on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Mass Schedule

By now each home in the parish will have received the Christmas Mass schedule along with the Christmas Dues envelope. We ask that you would keep this notice pinned up in your home so that you will know the times of Masses all over the Christmas period. If you did not receive one please find this schedule at church doors. Keep in mind the following:

Christmas Eve, December 24th @ 6pm – Special Christmas Mass for children.

@ 8pm – Vigil Mass to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

Christmas Day, December 25th @ 9am. & 11.30am to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

New Year's Eve – Morning Mass at 10am – and at 11pm a special Hour of Thanksgiving for God's blessings in 2018. This 'Thanksgiving' will include Mass.

New Year's Day – Mass at 10am.

North Presentation Secondary School Christmas Market

North Pres Secondary School are holding a Christmas Market on this Sunday, 16th December, 2018 from 12noon to 5pm to raise much needed funds for their Secondary School. Santa will be in attendance- Cakes for sale and Bric-a-brac. Admission €2.

Mass Cards available for all occasions

Mass Cards are available at the Parish Office for all occasion, RIP, Get Well, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Exams, etc. – the intentions are included in Nine Masses (Novena) celebrated each month in the parish. Card cost €3.

Next Pre-Baptism Instruction on Thursday, January 3, 2018 @ 7pm in Parish Office

Donations of Food items for the Needy

Gurrabraher parish is one of the few parishes in the city who makes a serious effort to come to the aid of its needy especially at Christmas time. We invite parishioners again this year to place their donations of food items in the baskets provided near the Christmas Crib. May God bless all generous givers. ***Also, if you know families that could benefit from some extra food this Christmas please let us know.***

SMA Calendars for 2019

The SMA Fathers have asked us once again to help the missions by selling their 2019 Calendar. This Calendar is a very good quality production with Public Holidays and Holy Days of Obligation clearly marked out. It is priced at €3 each.

Wanted used clothing and other unwanted items for Bric-a-brac

We are still requesting for quality used clothing and other unwanted items that can be sold at a Bric-a-brac to raise funds for the Church. They can be handed into Parish Office or if necessary they can be collected.

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Eucharistic Adoration each Friday

There will be 'Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament' in the side Chapel each Friday beginning after the 10am Mass - and concluding at 6pm. Pope Benedict spoke of the necessity of Eucharistic Adoration ***"in order to help the world rediscover again the face and love of God."*** We invite all parishioners to come at any time during these hours of adoration and spend some time with the Lord. Jesus says: *"Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened – come and find rest for your souls."*

Jesus Is Who He Said He Was

"Jesus could have been a madman when he claimed to be God, but it is a curiously catching madness in which the world has believed for two thousand years. He could have been a cruel liar making fools of the disciples by promising redemption. If so, it is odd that such a lie told to a group of fishermen in an obscure village of a backward colony, a kind of ancient Puerto Rico, should have toppled empires and led generations of men to martyrdom and monasteries and scholarly concentration on this lie. The only possible alternative answer is the truth of what He said: that He was indeed truly God, and truly come to save the world. The "good man" theory which would turn Christ into a Jewish Confucius, will not wash: good men do not delude friends into persecution with promises they cannot fulfil."

(Gretta Palmer. Journalist and Author. An avowed atheist turned Catholic)