

Offertory collection last weekend
amounted to €960.00.

Thank you for your generosity

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

*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 23, 2018

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

Cathedral 087 238 1187

***"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. 22, December

6pm. Pauline Twomey RIP (1st Anniv) & Denis

Sun 23.

9am. Noel Twomey, RIP (5th Anniv)

11.30am. Pat O'Gorman, RIP

Mon 24. Christmas Eve

8am. Special Intention

10am. Holy Souls.

6pm. Mass of Christmas – Triduum Mass

8pm. Mass of Christmas – Triduum Mass.

Tue 25. Christmas Day

9am. Triduum Mass

11.30am. Triduum Mass.

Wed 26. St Stephen's Day

10am. Triduum Mass.

Thu 27.

10am. John O'Sullivan, RIP (25th Anniv)

Fri 28.

10am. Paddy O'Connor, RIP (22nd Anniv)

Sat 29.

10am. Pro Populo

We pray for those recently deceased...

... 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 23, 2018.

4th 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.

'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

Jesus has brought God to our world

Our last Pope, Pope Benedict XVI, asked the question that many ask today “What does Jesus bring to the world? – he answered it by saying: “He has brought God, and now we know His face, now we can call upon Him. Now we know the path that we human beings have to take in this world. Jesus has brought God and with God the truth about our origin and destiny... It is only because of our hardness of heart that we think this is too little. Yes indeed, God’s power works quietly in this world, but it is the only true and the lasting power. Again and again, God’s cause seems to be in its death throes. Yet over and over again it proves to be the thing that truly endures and saves.

Priests of the Parish say “Thank You”

The priests of the parish, Fr Aidan Voughan and Fr Tomás Walsh thank very sincerely Gurrabraher parishioners for their friendship and support during the year 2018 – 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 Gurrabraher. We wish all parishioners a happy and grace-filled Christmas 2018. 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.

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.

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.**

Next Pre-Baptism Instruction for those parents who live outside the parish will take place on Thursday, January 3, 2018 @ 7pm in Parish Office.

Christmas collection for the Priests of the Parish

The Church collections on Christmas Eve and on Christmas day go towards the up-keep and support of the priests of the parish. Gurrabraher is blessed to have two priests resident in the parish. We ask for your support for our priests.

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 per strip -3 strips for €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.

Bumper Bingo at Parochial Hall – December 30th at 8pm.

On Sunday 30th December a bumper bingo session will take place at the Parochial Hall at 8pm - with all proceeds going towards the Church roof appeal. There are bumper prizes for all lines and full houses on the night. The Double books and single books are at the normal price of €10 & €7. Gurrabraher Credit Union are kindly sponsoring the event. We ask parishioner to come to the Parochial on that night. It will be a great night out after the Christmas.

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.

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.**

Without Jesus man suffers only an aching hunger

The world’s only hope is Christ, the Infant King, born in Bethlehem... When Bethlehem fades from the heart and souls of men, then their starved souls escape to a dead-end transcendence. Look at our culture without Christ. Its men and women, especially its young, seek to step beyond their flattened world by absorption with ghosts, and zombies; with end of the world obsessions and cartoon superheroes. A thousand pities - for the true Hero is so close - awaiting them in the unintimidating face of a Divine Child. Christmas imposes upon every Catholic a solemn obligation: to tell the world that our joy, our peace and our rescue lay in the humility of Bethlehem.