

The Offertory collection last weekend amounted to €1,070.00.

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

Special thanks to Eily Morris and her supporters for collecting the sum of €500 each month for Church roof.

Second collection next week for Bishop's Office

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

January 13, 2018

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

Farranree 087 096 7177

"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. 12, January

6pm. Masie Dalton, RIP (3rd Anniv)

Sun 13.

9am. Martin & Kate O'Rourke, RIP

11.30am. Brendan Buckley, RIP (8th Anniv)

Mon 14.

8am. Novena Mass 2

10am. Robert Hayes, RIP. (1st Anniv)

Tue 15.

8am. Novena Mass 3.

10am. Denis McCarthy, RIP.

Wed 16.

8am. Special Intentions

10am.

Thu 17.

8am. Special Intentions

10am.

Fri 18.

8am. Novena Mass 4.

10am.

Sat 19.

10am. Pro Populo

We pray for those recently deceased...

Michael Behan, Gurrabraher Road.

Mary-Bridget O'Leary, Gurrabraher Avenue

Maureen Myers, Blarney 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, January 13, 2019.

Baptism of the Lord (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.

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 – and to make him know when at last he came. John's message 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. Only Christ's death and resurrection and the baptism that springs from that was able to accomplish that. Why then 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 needs volunteers to assume duties that can no longer be paid for by the parish.

If you have free time on your hands and would like to do something for the Church please see any one of the priests. At present we require somebody i) who is computer literate (with knowledge of Excel and Excess) and has time to contribute in bringing parish records up to date; ii) people able to assist in cleaning of Church or parish sacristy. *We appeal especially to younger people to take up the baton and come to the assistance of older members of the community.*

We are indeed grateful to the many who already give of their time to ensure the smooth running of the church. They give a magnificent service to Gurrabraher parish.



Tuesday Prayer Group

The Tuesday Prayer Group that meet at the Parish Office will resume praying on Tuesday, 22nd January, 2019 @ 7.30pm.

Eucharistic Adoration each Friday

There will be 'Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament' at the Fatima Chapel each Friday in the 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."*

Church Christmas Hamper Raffle – last call!

1st Prize – (Salmon colour) BM 910 711 (Large hamper)

2nd Prize – (Claimed)

3rd Colour – (Pink colour) BZ 636 776. (Small hamper).

**Prizes can be claimed
at Parish Office**

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.

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.

It is our Solemn Obligation to Christianise Society

Christians have a duty to bring their beliefs to bear on every social, economic and political problem facing their community. That's not just a privilege. And it's not just a right. It's a duty! For Christians it is a binding obligation. [Real Christians have always understood their mission to change the society they live in and shape it into a civilization of love.] Obviously, we have an obligation to respect the dignity of other people and their own basic rights as well. We're always bound to treat other people with charity, justice and prudence. But that can never be an excuse for our own inaction or silence.

Unless we live our faith not just in our private behaviours, but also in our public actions, including our political involvement, then **we're living a lie**. We're lying to ourselves, because we're not really serious about our faith unless we have the zeal and the courage to witness it. And we're also cheating our fellow citizens. In a democracy, the best gift any of us can give to our country is the public witness of our convictions. Democracy depends on an honest, unashamed, public struggle of ideas. If we withhold our religious and moral beliefs from our political debates because of a misguided sense of good manners, we are not being "polite." On the contrary: We're stealing from the public conversation.

Archbishop Charles Chaput, Philadelphia, USA.

Cork Pioneers meet at SMA, Wilton

The next Regional meeting of Cork Pioneers will take place at 8pm. on Wednesday 16th January in the SMA Hall in Wilton. New members are particularly welcome. This year, 2019, marks the 121st Anniversary of the founding of the Pioneer Association at Gardiner Street, Dublin by Fr Cullen. A great new crusade is needed again to teach young Irish people how the abuse of alcohol ends only in enslavement.

First Friday Calls to the Sick and Housebound for August

Each month the priests of the parish visit the elderly and housebound. Many of them were once strong, active members of this parish community but can no longer attend weekly Mass. We are privileged to visit these people in their own homes. We remind those who have loved ones unable to attend Mass to please bring it to the attention of the priests.

**Next Pre-Baptism Instruction for those parents who live outside the parish
will take place on Thursday, February 7, 2019 @ 7pm in Parish Office.**