

The Offertory collection last weekend amounted to €945.00.

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

Last week's Building Fund Collection amounted to €985.00.

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

January 6, 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. 5, January

6pm. Richard O'Donovan, RIP

Sun 6.

9am. Special Intentions

11.30am. Maria O'Callaghan, RIP (3rd Anniv)

Mon 7.

8am. Pádraig & Clare O'Connell, RIP.

10am. Private Intention.

Tue 8.

8am. Jack Leahy, RIP

10am. Noreen Sheehan, RIP (10th Anniv)

Wed 9.

8am. Loretto Leahy, RIP.

10am. Michael & Ann Brett, RIP.

Thu 10.

8am. Paul Wall, RIP (20th Anniv)

10am. Ellen O'Brien, RIP.

Fri 11.

8am. Novena Mass 1

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

Sat 12.

10am. Pro Populo

We pray for those recently deceased...

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 6, 2019. Feast of the Epiphany (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.

The Feast of the Epiphany – God reveals himself as a God for all peoples

This feast commemorates the visit of the pagan, wise men to worship the infant Jesus. It is a hugely significant event in that it reveals that this infant King is not only for the Jewish people but a King and Messiah for all nations. Research suggests that they had come from the Arabian Peninsula – and belonged to a pagan sect that longed for a Messiah. Tradition assigns to them the names Caspar, Melchior and Balthassar. The men were astrologers who were looking for the star that would lead them to the promised Messiah. According to the Gospel narratives, the wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and presented them to the infant in the manger. There is huge significance in these gifts that were presented. Gold was a precious and expensive gift; traditionally exchanged among royalty – a recognition that Jesus, despite his lowly birth, is King. Frankincense is a sweet perfume which was often burned in the temple to worship God – a recognition that Jesus should be worshipped. Myrrh was used to keep things fresh – and used by the Jews to preserve the body of one who died. It was used by the women to anoint Jesus' body when he died. This presentation is a recognition that this Messiah would suffer and die.

We wish all our parishioner a new year of blessings, joy and hope. May each of us like the wise men search for Jesus – the light of the world.

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.

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."*

Church Christmas Hamper Raffle

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**

Bumper Bingo last Sunday night

A great crowd turned up for the Bingo last Sunday evening, December 30th. And it was a great evening enjoyed by all. All proceeds from the night goes to the Church roof building fund. As the prize money was sponsored by Gurrabraher Credit Union, a substantial sum was raised. (Full details next weekend). The Credit Union movement was introduced into Ireland by the late Bishop of Cork and Ross, Dr Con Lucey. It began in Gurrabraher parish in the basement of the church - and was at that time a total voluntary effort. It is timely to remember those early volunteers who gave of their spare time to build up one of the great social movements in Irish history. Perhaps, it can be said that the Credit Union and the GAA were the two great movements that gave us identity and helped liberate us from the cycle of poverty. Credit Unions deserve our support.

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.

Abortion - A Crime against God and Humanity

2018 will be remembered as the year when the masses of the Irish people, (many of them supposedly Christians), voted to legalize abortion in Ireland. Shamefully, the Irish people usurped the prerogative of God and became the arbiter of who gets to live and who get to die. Undoubtedly, in the years to come that net will widen and we will be allowed again and again to decide the fate of the old, the handicapped and anyone we consider inferior. This is a diabolical position. But no matter what our civil law permits the deliberate extinguishing of innocent human life for any reason, (and that includes life in the womb), is a crime against God and humanity. The Biblical imperative: **"Thou shalt not kill"** is binding on the individual and collective conscience of humanity. That was clearly understood in the early church when a Christian layman, Athenagoras, confronted the supreme political leader of his time, Marcus Aurelius, and told him that "Abortion was murder and that all those involved would one day would have to stand before God and give an account of their actions: And he explained why: "For we regard even the very fetus in the womb as a created being and therefore, an object of God's love and care". The early Church had no debates or arguments over whether some abortions were alright – No person who promoted or permitted abortion would have dared to approach the Eucharistic table or dared to call himself/herself Christian. Our challenge as Christians is to work with all our might, despite the obstacles, to re-establish again a culture that sees all of human life sacred – from it very beginning to its natural end. May God inspire us to life up to that sacred task.

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