

The Offertory collection last weekend amounted to €1,010.00

This collection is used for the ordinary day-to-day maintenance of the Church.

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 15, 2019.

A priest can be contacted if required this Sunday at:

Clogheen 087 150 44 86

*“For those who sought renown and honour... by always doing good there will be eternal life; for the unsubmitive who refused to take the truth for their guide – and took depravity instead - there will be anger and fury. Pain and suffering will come to every human being who employs himself in evil.”
(Luke 2: 7-10)*

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat. 14, December

6pm. Seán Burns & Twomey family RIP

Sun 15.

9am. Jimmy & Josie Hussey & family, RIP

11.30am. Nancy O’Connell, RIP

Mon 16.

8am. Novena Mass 5.

10am. Denis Ryan, RIP (3rd Anniv)

Tue 17.

8am. Helen McSweeney & Grandson, Brendan, RIP

10am. Daniel O’Regan, RIP

Wed 18.

8am. Novena Mass 6.

10am. Parish’s Intentions (R/by Myers family)

Thu 19.

8am. Novena Mass 7.

10am. John O’Regan, RIP (13th Anniv)

Fri 20.

8am. Novena Mass 8.

10am. Margaret & Marian Moynihan, RIP

Sat 21.

10am. Pro Populo.

We pray for those recently deceased...

John Mulcahy, Cathedral Road.

Requiescat in Pace.

Gurranabraher Parish asks you to please consider dropping a few Euro each week into our Credit Union Account – Church of the Ascension Renovation Fund - A/c No. 02255200.



Ascension Parish

Gurranabraher, Cork.

Sunday, December 15, 2019.

Third Sunday of Advent, (A)

Parish Office – 021 - 430 3655 (If Urgent: 085 - 804 1951)

email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com

Website: www.gurranabraherparish.ie

Priests of the Parish:

Fr. Tomás Walsh, SMA. [Tel: 021-4303 658](tel:021-4303658). (walshtomas@hotmail.com)

Fr. Aidan Vaughan, OFM, Cap. Tel: 021-439 7472. (aidan1302@gmail.com)

Weekend Masses – Saturday 6pm (Vigil) & Sundays – 9am & 11.30am.

Christmas - A long-awaited promise fulfilled

The promise: “*You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are so little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler of Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days*” (Micah 5: 2)

Consult any history book and the author will point you to the great centres of civilization in antiquity: Rome, Athens, Tenochtitlan, The Indus River Valley, China.

Nowhere in any ancient estimation would it be said that the fulcrum of the world was to be found in a hard-scrabble little village of washed-up dreams out on the fringe of Augustus’ realm. True, Bethlehem had had its little moment in the sun, politically, a thousand years before, because it was the birthplace of David (an obscure Semitic monarch who meant a great deal to one of the little ethnic groups that buzzed like flies somewhere on the borders of Roman political consciousness).

But let’s face it: Jewish nostalgia for David had about as much to do with hope as some tribe of Bantus dream of achieving world military domination. So *why did the Jews hang on? Because God promised a Saviour would be born of them. And on that Christmas night, against all hope, the promise came true. The King of the Universe – Jesus, the Christ, came to be born – and “man will live forever more because of Christmas Day!”*

May that King’s rule reign in the hearts of all people this Christmas.

Christmas Tea-Party at Hut

A Christmas Tea Party, free for all parishioners, will take place in the Hut Community Centre this Sunday, December 15th starting at 2.30pm. We invite parishioners to collect the 'house-bound' to enable them to be part of this Christmas event. For many it may be the only time that they are out of their own homes from one end of the year to another.

Scoil Padre Pio Christmas Carol Service – 17th December @ 11am.

A very special Christmas Carol Service will take place at Ascension Church on Tuesday, 17th, December at 11am. This Carol Service was very successful last year - and with children and teachers involved it promises to be a very beautiful event. We invite parishioners to join with Scoil Padre Pio on that morning as we try to set the right atmosphere for our Christmas celebration.

Gala Bingo for Church Roof – December 29th

A Gala Bingo Game will take place at Gurrabraher Parochial Hall on Sunday, December 29th @ 8pm. All proceeds on the night will go towards bringing down debt arising from Church roof repairs. The pay-outs on the night are: all lines €100. 8 of the ten games Full house; €250. Game 4 & 9 Full house; €500. Cost of Bingo Books – Double €15 and Single €10. We ask all parishioners to support us on that night – it will be great fun and there will be lots of 'spot prizes'.

We are hugely grateful to Gurrabraher Credit Union for part sponsoring this event. They have been incredibly generous to the Church - and indeed to nearly every other organisation on the north-side of Cork city. Older parishioners will remember that the Credit Union had its beginnings in the basement of Gurrabraher Church. It was an initiative spearheaded by Bishop Lucey aimed at unlocking the grinding poverty experienced by most working class communities at the time. Perhaps the two organisations that has made the greatest contribution to the Irish nation since independence has been the GAA and the Credit Union Movement: The GAA in that it fostered a national spirit and the Credit Union in that it provided the wherewithal to help many to achieve some kind of financial independence. We strongly encourage parishioners to support; and be part of these organisations.

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 spend time during these hours of adoration and spend time with the Lord. Jesus says: ***"Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened – come and find rest for your souls."***

SMA Calendars for 2020 @ €2 each

The SMA Fathers have asked us to help their missionary work by selling their 2020 Calendar. This Calendar is a very good quality production with Public Holidays and Holy Days of Obligation clearly marked out. It is priced at €2 each. A Calendar is a gift much appreciated by family members.

Christmas Food Collection

As we enter the season of Advent we make a special appeal to parishioners to donate foodstuffs to help the less well-off this Christmas. This food collection is a special feature of preparations for Christmas at Gurrabraher parish going back over many years. Please show your concern for the less well-off in our community.

Calling Young People to a deeper knowledge of their Faith

We invite young people who wish to have a more adult understanding of the faith to make contact with one of the priests of the parish. They will be directed to where they can, along with people of their own age, delve into the mystery - and encounter Jesus, the Risen Lord. Only some kind of encounter with Jesus will sustain us in the years ahead as Ireland turns its back on Christ and believes more and more that it is sufficient on its own.

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 New Year. **Cards are €2 Euro each – and six for €10.**

Mass Cards available for all occasions

Mass Cards are available at the Parish Office for all occasion. The intentions are included in Nine Masses (Novena) celebrated each month in the parish. Card cost €3 each.

Old Clothes Wanted

We continue to look for old clothing. The selling on of this old clothing brings in substantial funds for the Church roof. These 'old clothes' can be left into the Sacristy or at the Parish Office.

Only in God is forgiveness to be found

We are living in extraordinary times. Almost everyone wishes to make a confession. Shameful things are disclosed on 'chat shows' and 'reality programmes' that only weakens and degrades human society. "There is much confession but there is no absolution. Sin confessed but unredeemed either leads to despair or is trivialized. We see that despair in the vast anguish that fuels an enormous therapeutic industry. Our culture does not need to be taught how to confess; ***it needs to discover where forgiveness can be found.*** Our culture does not need to further expose the stain of its sinfulness; ***it needs to discover the only ONE who can wash it away – Jesus Christ.*** May humanity discover again the liberating joy of God's mercy found only in the Sacrament of Confession!