

The Offertory collection at Masses last weekend amounted to €980.00

This collection is for the ordinary day-to-day running and maintenance of the parish.

The Christmas Mass collections amounted to €3,225.00

End of Month Building Fund Collection at Masses this weekend

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 29, 2019.

A priest can be contacted if required this Sunday at:

Cathedral 087 238 11 87

*“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. 28, December

6pm. Paddy O'Connor, RIP (23rd Anniv)

Sun 29.

9am. Kathleen & Michael Collins, RIP

11.30am. Christiana Goulding, RIP

Mon 30.

10am. Thomas & Ellen Creagh, RIP.

Tue 31.

10am. Collins & O'Connor families.

Wed 1, January, 2020

10am. Special Intention.

Thu 2.

8am. Holy Souls

10am. Donal Hanover & Hanover family, RIP

Fri 3.

8am. God's blessings on Sheehan family in 2020

10am. Stephen Connolly, RIP (Anniv)

Sat 4.

10am. Pro Populo.

We pray for those recently deceased...

***Philomena O'Callaghan, Baker's Road
Joan Skillington, Mt Saint Joseph's***

Requiescat in Pace.

Gurrabraher 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

Gurrabraher, Cork.

Sunday, December 29, 2019.

Feast of Holy Family, (A)

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

email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com

Website: www.gurrabraherparish.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.

Feast of Holy Family

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. It was in the home of Mary and Joseph that Jesus was formed and shaped into the 'Man for Others' he was to become.



There in that lowly home he knew what it was to be loved, the cost of sacrifice and - what it is to grow in human wisdom.

The feast of the Holy Family reminds us of the sacredness of the institution of the family itself. The family is the most important cell of human society - and essential for human flourishing. It should be obvious that much of the dysfunction that occurs in people's lives or in the life of society has its roots in the dysfunction of the family.

The family then – founded on the marriage of a man and a woman – is the path where children can best encounter and know God; it is a school of faith and of values; it is where the mutual self-giving and faithfulness of husband and wife provides a secure and protected home for children to best grow in virtue and to assume their own responsibilities as members of society and as citizens of a country.

Church Building Fund collection this weekend – 29th December

The end of the month Building Fund collection to reduce Church debt will take place at all Masses this weekend, 29th December. As well as clearing the roof debt this monthly collection will also enable us to carry out other essential work such as Church painting, repairing pathways around church and renovation of Church window frames. All of these projects need to be addressed urgently to prevent further deterioration with escalating costs. We have already accomplished much over the past year thanks to your generosity. We ask you to be as generous during the coming year.

Gala Bingo for Church Roof – this Sunday December 29th

A Gala Bingo Game will take place at Gurrabraher Parochial Hall on this Sunday, December 29th @ 8pm. All proceeds on the night will go towards Church roof debt repayment.

The pay-outs on the night are: **All lines - all games - €100. Full house x 8 games - €250. Full House X 2 Games - €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. The initiative, led 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 a distinct cultural identity - and the Credit Union in that it provided the wherewithal to help many to achieve some kind of financial independence.

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.

Blarney Street Post Office raises funds for Church

Recently Blarney Street Post Office raffled a Hamper to raise funds for Ascension Church, Gurrabraher. The sum realized from the raffle amounted to €535.00. We are deeply grateful to Ms Madeline O'Riordan and her staff for raising that sum for the Church. We are grateful too to the customers of the Post Office for supporting the initiative. May all know God's blessings in 2020.

**“[The Church] is no longer, as she once was, a Church composed of pagans who have become Christians, but is now a Church of pagans, who still call themselves Christians.”
(Joseph Ratzinger, [Pope Benedict] 1958)**

New year's Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve: Tuesday – Morning Mass at 10am.

A special Hour of Thanksgiving for God's blessings in 2019 will take place from 11pm to 12midnight. It will include Mass beginning at 11.40pm.

New Year's Day: (Feast of Mary, Mother of God) - Wednesday – Mass at 10am.

Parishioners of Gurrabraher make gallant efforts for their parish in 2019

As we come to the end of the year 2019 we wish to thank all parishioners for their gallant efforts in the rehabilitation of Ascension Church, Gurrabraher over the past two years. The amount of work done in Gurrabraher church is truly remarkable – roof replacement, interior painting and new lighting as well as other work in the compound itself. Much of this work was performed by volunteers. The parish owes a very deep debt of gratitude to these volunteers and others who week in and week out perform the hidden, menial tasks of church maintenance, cleaning flower arranging, Choir, Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristan, those who open up early each morning. Altar Servers, etc, etc. These are the true heroes who keep Ascension parish open. We ask God's blessing on all of them – may 2020 bring all parishioners joy, health and peace.

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. What a pity - for the true Hero is so close - awaiting them in the unimposing face of a Divine Child. Christmas imposes upon every Catholic a solemn obligation: to tell the world that our joy, our answer, our peace and our rescue lay in the humility of Bethlehem.

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.

Gurrabraher Website – gurrabraherparish.ie

We remind parishioners once again that our parish has a live website - gurrabraherparish.ie We invite parishioners to visit our site. It will keep you informed and up-to-date on parish activities. Visit the Gallery page and see plenty of photos of former parish events. Find the daily readings and visit the links provided for sound Catholic faith formation.

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.