

The Offertory collection at Masses

last weekend amounted to €

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

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

November 29, 2020.

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. November

6pm.

Sun 29.

9am.

11.30am.

Mon 30.

8am.

10am.

Tue 1, December.

8am. Paddy O'Regan, RIP (21st Anniv)

10am. Georgina Condon, RIP

Wed 2.

8am. Novena Mass I.

10am. Tony Leahy, RIP

Thu 3.

8am. John & Bridget Walsh, RIP

10am. Ellen, Jeremiah and Eleanor Kenefick, RIP

Fri 4.

8am. Novena Mass 2.

10am. Graham O'Connell & Maura O'Sullivan, RIP

Sat 5.

10am. *Pro Populo.*

We pray for those recently deceased...

Requiescat in Pace.

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



Ascension Parish

Gurrabraher, Cork.

Sunday, November 29, 2020.

First Sunday of Advent, (B)

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.

The Season of Advent – a Time to get Ready

Today we begin a New Church Liturgical Year by celebrating the Season of Advent. Advent is a time for getting ready - for making preparations to receive the Christ child when he comes again at Christmas. Without some type of spiritual preparation there is a great danger that we will miss the true significance of this very special and holy season. Christmas will then be reduced to just an occasion used to over-indulge the worst aspects of our nature.



We appeal to families especially to make Advent special by having some form of family prayer in the home each day during Advent.

The Advent liturgy for today directs our minds to the Last Day, to the Second Coming of Christ, to the Day of Judgement. We look at this not as individuals, but as a great gathering of all peoples. The suddenness of the coming of the Lord may make us a little afraid, but we should look forward in joy - rejoice when we hear them say - 'Let us go to God's house'. St Paul tells us how to live in the meantime: be fully awake and cast off the works of darkness.

***May this Advent Season bring us closer to Christ the Lord –
and may each new generation of Christians
treasure the 'specialness' of Christmas.***

Christmas Triduum Mass Cards

Mass Cards that will remember, in a Triduum of Masses, all those whom the Cards will reach this approaching 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.**

Booking of Masses in 2021

From January, 2021, two intentions will be taken for each of the Masses celebrated at Ascension parish. This move has become necessary due to the large amount of Masses not said in 2020 because of the Covid-19 Lockdown – and which need to be rescheduled. Having two intentions for a Mass is normal practice in many churches in the Diocese.

Man is so preoccupied with himself that he has no Room for God

At a Christmas homily, at his midnight Vigil Mass at St Peter's in 2007, Pope Benedict spoke beautifully of the cosmic significance of Christ's coming. Yet, man, so caught up in his own small little world did not recognize him – and still does not recognize him today.

"The Pope lamented, "There is no room at the inn. In some way mankind 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."

Pope Benedict went on: "St. John the Evangelist's phrase, "He came to his own home, and his own people received him not," represents various groups of people... These words refer ultimately to us, to each individual and to society as a whole. Does he find room in us, or have we occupied all the available space in our thoughts, our actions, our lives for ourselves?"

Benedict XVI expressed his gratitude that not everyone rejected Christ. He said: "There were those who did receive him, and thus, beginning with the stable, with the outside, 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, and thereby no doubt illustrates a reality that we see daily... Yet it also tells us that God does not allow himself to be shut out. He finds a space, Even if it means entering through the stable; there are people who see his light and pass it on. Through the word of the Gospel, the angel also speaks to us, and in the sacred liturgy the light of the Redeemer enters our lives. "Whether we are 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. We worship him by opening the world to truth, to good, to Christ, to the service of those who are marginalized and in whom he awaits us."

Visit Ascension Parish Website – gurrabraherparish.ie

We invite parishioners to visit our website – gurrabraherparish.ie - regularly. As well as finding the latest news from the parish there are useful links to other sites. The weekly Newsletter is also available on the site.

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 in front of the main Altar. The Covid-19 Lockdown is having devastating consequences on the economy – with many out of work. Thus, we appeal to parishioners to make a very special effort this Advent Season to be aware of the needs of others. May God bless all generous givers.

Human Ecology demands Purity of Heart

In a message to young people in 2015, Pope Francis spoke powerfully of the need for purity of heart – “it is the essential precondition for any human relationships to flourish”, he said. Francis continued: “Dear young men and women... only Jesus alone can satisfy your deepest longings, which are so often clouded by deceptive worldly promises... While concern for the purity of air and water is laudable, “how much more do we need to protect the purity of what is most precious of all: our heart and our relationships,” the Pope added. This ‘human ecology’ will help us to breathe the pure air that comes from beauty, from true love, and from holiness.” He also discussed the importance of confession, prayer before the tabernacle, the frequent reading of Scripture, encountering Christ in the poor, and vocation. “How beautiful it is to see young people who embrace the call to dedicate themselves fully to Christ and to the service of his Church,” he said. “Challenge yourselves, and with a pure heart do not be afraid of what God is asking of you! From your ‘yes’ to the Lord’s call, you will become new seeds of hope in the Church and in society. Never forget: God’s will is our happiness!” (***Pope Francis – 2015 world Youth Day Message to Youths***)

Kentucky Dioceses keep Masses Open

This week, Kentucky's four Catholic dioceses have decided to keep their churches open despite appeals from the Governor, Andy Beshear, not to open Churches for religious services until December 13th. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville said: “At this time, we will not be suspending public liturgies but will encourage all to act in a responsible way that respects the seriousness of this pandemic and the health and safety of all,” Archbishop Kurtz of Louisville said that his brother bishops in the commonwealth of Kentucky – the Dioceses of Owensboro, Covington, and Lexington – would not be suspending public Masses at this time either. All four bishops reiterated that: “Catholics do not have to attend Mass on Sunday if they think it is imprudent or unsafe to do so. “Our commitment to providing the opportunity to participate in the Church’s liturgies remotely will continue, as will the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass.

Morning Offering

Father, I offer you all the prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, in union with the offering that Jesus made, and continues to make, in the Holy Mass. I offer them with all who are alive in you, whether they are living or dead. May I draw strength from those who have already proved their faith and become the instrument of giving strength to those who have not. Amen.