

## 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**

**December 6, 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. 5. November

6pm. Timmy Walsh, RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

### Sun 6.

9am. Collins family – living and deceased

11.30am. Molly O’Riordan, RIP (35<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

### Mon 7.

8am. Margaret & Maura Moynihan, RIP

10am. Deceased members of O’Mahony family

6pm. Mary O’Donovan & Dora O’Connor, RIP

### Tue 8. (Immaculate Conception)

8am. Pat O’Gorman, RIP

10am. Nagle Family’s Intentions.

### Wed 9.

8am. Novena Mass 3.

10am. Paddy O’Carroll, RIP

### Thu 10.

8am. Holy Souls.

10am. Michael Buckley, RIP (43<sup>rd</sup> Anniv)

### Fri 11.

8am. Novena Mass 4.

10am. Eileen O’Brien, RIP (Birth. Remembrance)

### Sat 12.

10am. *Pro Populo.*

---

### **We pray for those recently deceased...**

*Mark Sullivan, Gurrabraher Road,*

*Eileen O’Connell, Ascension Heights,*

***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, December 6, 2020.

**Second Sunday of Advent, (B)**

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

email: [ascensionparish123@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionparish123@gmail.com)

Website: [www.gurrabraherparish.ie](http://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](mailto:aidan1302@gmail.com))

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

### **Christmas is about reawakening human solidarity**

Christmas is a time of peace and joy; a time for connecting with God’s mercy - with family, remembrance, thanksgiving, appreciation, forgiveness, above all, **love**. Sadly, for many it is a time of loneliness and pain. Christmas is robbed of its magic and meaning for those who have no home or have lost the solidarity of family. The fall-out from Covid-19, particularly this year, has put incredible strain on social cohesion – with its collateral damage in unemployment, mental health and other huge deprivations. More than ever before, most of us need extra encouragement this Christmas.



Individuals needs not so much a Christmas present as much as they need Christ’s Christmas presence. They need to be reminded of what this season is all about. It is not about presents. These things have their place, but we need to remember the essential message of Christmas, which is Immanuel – ‘God is with us’.

And for the hurting person, the lonely person, the sorrowing person, this is the time of year to bring the gift of encouragement to them and say, “The message of Christmas is: God is with you. God will help you. God will strengthen you.”

So look for opportunities to share the love of God during this season, because it is a time when we seem to be more open to engaging in conversation with others. Now is a great opportunity for you to bring encouragement to someone who is struggling. Who needs your encouragement today? The early Christians were distinguished from all others by their love and concern for the least among them.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **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 Lock-down 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.

### **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.

### **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 – especially this Advent season!

### **Keep Christ at the Centre of Christmas**

The Irish Bishops have appealed to Catholics throughout Ireland to keep Christ at the center of Christmas this year. They explain that with restrictions in numbers to Churches this year, it is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many different ways. "Our homes can become 'little churches' where we invite the Christ-child in... The age-old tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray will be especially meaningful this year. We also invite families or 'household bubbles' to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days of Christmas to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib - and pray together for all who have been impacted in big and small ways by the pandemic.

### **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection next Sunday**

The Annual Christmas Church door Collection organized by St Vincent de Paul will take place at all Masses next weekend. SVP relates how there is greater demand this year than ever with the terrible fall-out from Covid-19. One very definite way of showing our gratitude to God for his many blessings is to respond to the cry of the poor. Please be generous in next week's collection.

### **Masses over Christmas**

Due to severe restrictions on number attending Christmas Masses this year Ascension Parish will put on an extra Mass on Christmas Eve and an extra Mass on Christmas morning.

**Christmas Eve (Thursday) –** Masses at 4.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm. **(Ticket only)**

**Christmas Day (Friday) –** Masses at 8am, 10am and 12noon.

**St Stephen's Day (Saturday) -** Masses at 10am & 6pm

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup>,** Masses at 9am and 11.30am.

You will notice that attendance to all three Masses on Christmas Eve will be by ticket only. (All over the age of five years will have to have a ticket to gain entry to the Church). These tickets will be available after December 13<sup>th</sup>. We ask our regular parishioners if they would graciously allow the 4.30pm and the 6.30pm Masses on Christmas Eve be for children – with older parishioners coming to the 8.30pm Mass or any of the Masses on Christmas morning. With many smaller Churches not able to cater for their parishioners the bigger churches expect much larger congregations this year. This Christmas will ask a lot from Parishioners. Yet, our people have responded magnificently with all of the demands made on them throughout this pandemic.

### **Gurrabraher Website – [gurrabraherparish.ie](http://gurrabraherparish.ie)**

We remind parishioners once again that our parish has a live website - [gurrabraherparish.ie](http://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.

### **Without Christ Man suffers only an aching hunger**

The world's only hope is Christ, the Infant King, born in Bethlehem... When Bethlehem fades from the 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.

### **Sending Mass Cards**

We wish to encourage parishioners to use the Novena Mass Cards for different occasions. These cards are deeply appreciated by people at times of death - or anniversaries of deaths. We also have Cards for to send at times of sickness, for birthdays, exams or just to say 'Thank You' to those who have been good to us.