

**The Offertory collection at Masses
last weekend amounted to €1,160.**

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

Building Fund Collection – €1,000.00

*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

December 13, 2020.

A priest can be contacted if required
this Sunday at:

Farranree 087 096 71 77

*“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. 12. December

6pm. Margaret & Larry Coade, RIP

Sun 13.

9am. Jimmy & Josie Hussey RIP & Family

11.30am. Richard Mulvihill, RIP

Mon 14.

8am. Novena Mass 5.

10am. Carmel Sheehy, RIP

Tue 15.

8am. Sr Aine Hurley, RIP

10am. Denis & Patrick Ryan, RIP

Wed 16.

8am. Holy Souls

10am. Nancy O’Connell, RIP (25th Anniv)

Thu 17.

8am. Novena Mass 6.

10am. Patrick Aherne, RIP

Fri 18.

8am. Sr Paschal Hegarty, RIP

10am. John O’Regan, RIP (14th Anniv)

Sat 19.

10am. *Pro Populo.*

We pray for those recently deceased...

Daniel Pat O’Connell, Churchfield Avenue,

Noreen Milner, Mt St. Joseph’s Avenue,

Requiescat in Pace.

**Gurranabraher 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

Gurranabraher, Cork.

Sunday, December 13, 2020.

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

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.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Collection this weekend

St Vincent de Paul are holding their Church Door Christmas collection this weekend for the poor and needy. We appeal to parishioners to be generous to this collection. With your help let us make Christmas special for the less fortunate in our community.

Christmas Carol Service @ 7.30pm

A special Christmas Carol Service will take place on-line from the Cathedral of SS Mary & Anne this Sunday beginning at 7.30pm. Different choirs from around the Diocese have come together to sing traditional Carols as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Redeemer of the World as a tiny helpless babe. In the Christmas nativity scene we see the extent that God is prepared to go to get close to us. The Service will have Scripture reflections – and a special Christmas message from Bishop Fintan Gavin. You can access the site at corkcathedral.ie

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**

SMA Calendars for 2021

The SMA Fathers have asked us once again to help the missions by selling their 2021 Calendar. This Calendar is a very good quality production with Public Holidays and Holy Days of Obligation clearly marked out. It is priced at €3 each.

Donations of Food items for the Needy

Gurranabraher 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.

Visit Ascension Parish Website – gurranabraherparish.ie

We invite parishioners to visit our website – gurranabraherparish.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.

A Day of Judgement awaits us all

Advent and Lent are seasons of grace when we are called each year to take some kind of stock-take of our lives – and reflect on where we are in our relationship with God. At the end of our lives the only thing that really matters is whether our orientation is towards God or away from God. The choices we make in this life will determine whether our eternity is spent in Heaven (where God is) or in Hell (where God isn't). Pope Benedict XVI, made numerous appeals to Christians to return to God with renewed hearts. He wrote: "One of the great errors of believers today is to feel at ease with sin. As a result the heart becomes blind, ceases to seek God, does not desire grace, and does not feel any need for repentance." He spoke out forcefully of 'a day of judgement' that awaits all people; where the good are rewarded and the evil are cast forever from God's presence. Pope Benedict said: *"It is not possible to remove God's judgement and punishment from the Christian faith, because to do so would mean that God is indifferent to evil. God combats evil and for this reason, as judge, he must also punish to do justice."*

Visiting the Sick and Housebound in Covid-19 times

Each month the priests of the parish visit the elderly and housebound: many of whom were once active members of this parish community but can no longer now attend weekly Masses. We priests wish to remain close to these parishioners. For these elderly the most important thing in the world is to have continuing access to the Sacraments – and this need should be recognized and facilitated to the greatest degree possible by family members. (Families should be aware that priests have undergone training on administering the Sacraments to the elderly in these Covid-19 times). Thank God, hospitals still recognise the importance of the presence of the priest in the hospital wards despite lock-downs, etc. - Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for our Nursing Homes who continue to deprive their residents of Sacraments. Let us remember those who will not have access to Sacraments this Christmas.

Superficial Christianity is a form of Paganism

Archbishop Charles Chaput, the Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia spoke in 2014 of lukewarm Catholics and superficial Christianity. He said: "lukewarm Christians and superficial Christianity are only a congenial form of paganism... The main crisis of modern Christianity is not one of resources, or personnel, or marketing," Archbishop Chaput asserted. "It is a crisis of faith. Millions of people claim to be Christian, but they don't really believe... They don't study Scripture. They don't love the Church as a mother and teacher. And they settle for an inoffensive, 'vanilla type' of Christianity that amounts only to a system of decent social ethics. "This is self-delusion," he warned, "it is the worst kind of phony Christianity that has no power to create hope out of suffering, no power to resist persecution, or no power to lead anyone else to God."

Holy Hour of Adoration every Thursday

We invite parishioners to join us each Thursday from 7pm to 8pm for a Holy Hour of Adoration. There we pray for the sick, those with great needs – and we pray especially for the vocations to the priesthood. May young men hear and respond to the call of Jesus to 'Follow Him'.