

**The Offertory collection at Masses  
last weekend amounted to €1,230.00**

*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 20, 2020.**

**A priest can be contacted urgently**

**this Sunday at:**

**Gurrabraher 085 804 1951**

*“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. 19. December**

6pm. Maureen Murray, RIP

**Sun 20.**

9am. Deceased members of O'Connor family.

11.30am. Deceased members of Collins family.

**Mon 21.**

8am. Novena Mass 7.

10am. Margaret Buckley, RIP (33<sup>rd</sup> Anniv)

**Tue 22.**

8am. Novena Mass 8.

10am. Michael White, RIP

**Wed 23.**

8am. Novena Mass 9.

10am. Thomas & Ellen Creagh, RIP

**Thu 24.**

8am. Sheila Collins, RIP, (44<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

10am. Michael & Kathleen Collins, RIP

4.30am, 6.30am & 8.30am Triduum Masses

**Fri 25. Christmas Day**

8am, 10am & 12noon. Triduum Mass

**Sat 26.**

10am. Triduum Mass

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

*Abina Falvey, (formerly Orrery Road),*

*Breda Mullins, Gurrabraher Road,*

*Dave Murphy, Bakers Road,*

*Frank Deasy, Churchfield Avenue,*

***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 20, 2020.**

**Fourth 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](mailto:walshtomas@hotmail.com))

Fr. Aidan Vaughan, OFM, Cap. [Tel: 021-439 7472](tel:021-4397472). ([aidan1302@gmail.com](mailto:aidan1302@gmail.com))

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

**‘And man will live forever more because of Christmas day...’**



The birth of the Christ child: "This was the moment that Israel had been awaiting for centuries, through many dark hours and painful trials... the moment that all mankind was somehow awaiting, in terms as yet ill-defined: when God would take care of us, when He would step outside his concealment, when the world would be saved – and when all things would be restored to their original purity.

"Yet when at last he came there is 'no room at the inn'. In some way, humanity 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.*

But for those who did receive Him 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... Yet it also tells us that God does not allow himself to be shut out. He finds a space, even if it means entering by way of a stable.

"Whether we are simple 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. And we worship Him by opening the world to truth, to goodness, to Christ, to the service of those who are marginalized and in whom He awaits us."

### **Collections at Christmas Masses supports Priests of the Parish**

The collections taken up at the Christmas Masses go towards the support of the priests of the parish. That collection along with the one at Easter - plus Christmas and Easter Dues - are the main support of the priests of the parish. From that income the priests must run house/car/health insurance/medical bills/etc. We ask you to please be generous and supportive of your priests.

### **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**

### **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

### **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.

### **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 our 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.

### **Priests of the Parish say “Thank You”**

The priests of the parish, Fr Aidan Vaughan and Fr Tomás Walsh thank very sincerely Gurranabraher parishioners for their friendship and unstinting support during the year 2020 – even when great demands were made upon them. We are indeed privileged to serve this wonderful people in Gurranabraher and Churchfield. We thank most especially all who generously give of their time and talents to making sure that there is a responsive Christian presence in Gurranabraher. We wish all parishioners a happy and grace-filled Christmas 2020. After the past nine months of lock-downs; may this season be for each parishioner a time of celebration and of happy memories – above all, may it be time when each is enraptured and enthralled by the grace of God's nearness in the presence of a little Godchild.

### **Masses over the Christmas period**

**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> December** – Masses at 4.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm. *(Tickets required for admission).*

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> December** – Masses at 8am, 10am and 12noon. *(No tickets needed)*

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup>, December** – Masses at 10am and 6pm (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup>, December** – Masses at 9am & 11.30.

**Monday, 28<sup>th</sup>, December (Public Holiday)** Mass at 10am.

### **New Year's Eve Vigil at Gurranabraher**

A New Year's Eve Vigil (on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December), organised by the Alliance of the Two Hearts will commence at 9pm on New year's Eve and conclude shortly after midnight. We invite parishioners to gather at least for part of the three hour vigil to give God thanks for the blessings of 2020 and to seek divine protection in 2021. Over the three hour period Rosaries will be recited along with the Divine Chaplet. Mass will begin around 11.40 and conclude shortly after midnight. After a year of tumultuous upheaval we have much to thank God for – and much to intercede for in 2021.

### **Jesus has brought God to our world**

Pope Benedict XVI, asked the question that many still ask today “What does Jesus bring to the world? He answered it by saying: “He has brought God - and now we know His face, now we can call upon Him... Now we know the path that we human beings have to take in this world. Jesus has brought God and with God the truth about our origin and destiny... It is only because of our hardness of heart that we think this is too little. Yes indeed, God's power works quietly in this world, but it is the only true and the lasting power. So often God's cause seems to be in its death throes. Yet over and over again it proves to be the thing that truly endures and saves.”

### **Church New Year Raffle**

We invite parishioners to support our church building project by purchasing tickets for our New Year Raffle for a Super Hamper and ten other prizes. Tickets are €2 per line. Tickets can be purchased after each of the parish Masses. We ask parishioners to take a Card and find support from among your own family members. Draw takes place after the 6pm Mass on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

***Con's Shop Christmas Raffle for the Church Renovations was won by Catherine Daly***