

**Collection at Christmas Masses
amounted to €3,450.00
This money is part of the
Priests' income.
Thank you for your generosity**

*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**

**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.**

SUNDAY DUTY ROTA

January 3, 2021.

**A priest can be contacted urgently
this Sunday at:
Knocknaheeny 087 65 44 836**

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

Requiescat in Pace.

Mass Intentions this Week

*Due to further Lock-down Mass will be
said privately each day for the following Intentions*

Sat. 2, January 2021.

- i) John Stewart, RIP (1st Anniv)
- ii) Deirdre Murphy, RIP (11th Anniv)

Sun 3.

- i) For Bridget Iball's Intentions
- ii) Mary & Thomas Daly, RIP
- iii) Kathleen Cronin, RIP (1st Anniv)
- iv) Marie O'Callaghan, RIP (6th Anniv)

Mon 4.

- i) Novena Mass 1.
- ii) Private Intention.
- iii) Patrick Clear, RIP
- iv) Private Intention,

Tue 5.

- i) Private Intention.
- ii) Sheila Lynch, RIP
- iii) Deirdre O'Keeffe, RIP (1st Anniv) & Finbarr
- iv) Holy Souls

Wed 6.

- i) Vickie's Intentions.
- ii) Noreen O'Mahony's Intentions
- iii) Patrick O'Donoghue, RIP (30th Anniv)
- iv) Sheehan Family's Intention (Living & Dead)

Thu 7.

- i) Private Intention
- ii) Patrick clear, RIP
- iii) Paul Wall, RIP (Birthday remembrance)
- iv) Michelle Swaine's Intentions

Fri 8.

- i) Novena Mass 2.
- ii) Special Intention
- iii) Hannah Goulding, RIP
- iv) Buddy Scanlon, RIP

Sat 9.

10am. Pro populo.



**Ascension Parish
Gurrabraher, Cork.
Sunday, January 3, 2021.
2nd Sunday of Christmas (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.

In these Times we need God's Help



As we enter the New Year 2021 - having lived through a most bruising 2020 – we fervently seek God's intervention as we continue to combat Covid-19 and the new strains that will certainly emerge. We pray that 2021 will be a year when we have finally got a handle on Covid-19 without the need for further lock-downs. 2020 has been a year of untold hardship for many due to Covid-19 restriction - and the consequent loss of employment and livelihoods of many people. Our elderly people have suffered hugely - followed by the huge disruption in the normal life-styles of young people. The old must never again be singled out as if they are incapable of minding themselves. Nor should decisions be taken for them - even by family members - that robs them of dignity and human freedom. When this is all over – as some day it must – the human and economic cost is going to be astronomical with many nation states left in penury. Building up again national economies will prove a mammoth task for a Europe already jaded by an overwhelming existential tiredness. In reality, only God can save us. Only God can lift us from our torpor and provide the faith and hope needed for such national rebuilding. Formerly, in times of calamity, the Church was the first place of refuge – there God's intervention was sought and illumination from on high given to a people who cried out to the Lord. Our generation has obstinately refused to seek this intervention. It seems that we would rather perish than to admit that we need God's help. As we enter this New Year in terrible times may God help us to set aside our adolescent defiance and open our hearts to the Lord.

Pope Francis ask us to develop a Culture of Care

In the Annual Papal Message to the world on World Peace Day, Pope Francis, this year, appealed to World Leaders to work together in solidarity for an end to the inequalities in society that threaten world peace. He said: "At the dawn of a new year... my prayers are that humanity... will work together "for the development of a 'Culture of Care' as a way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time." Noting the Covid-19 pandemic and "... other events that marked humanity's path this past year, he said: "... they have taught us how important it is to care for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society."

Francis called on Christians to take as their model Jesus Christ. He wrote: "Jesus' life and ministry represent the supreme revelation of the Father's love for humanity... At the culmination of his mission, Jesus gave the ultimate proof of his care for us by offering himself on the cross to set us free from the slavery of sin and death. By the sacrificial gift of his life, he opened for us the path of love. To each of us he says, "Follow me; go and do likewise".

"At a time dominated by a culture of waste, faced with growing inequalities both within and between nations, I urge government leaders and those of international organizations... to take up these principles as a "compass" capable of pointing out a *common direction* and ensuring "a more humane future" in the process of globalization.

"I ask everyone to take this compass in hand and to become a prophetic witness of the culture of care, working to overcome the many existing social inequalities. This can only come about through a widespread and meaningful involvement on the part of women, in the family and in every social, political and institutional sphere.

The *compass* of these social principles, so essential for the growth of a culture of care, also points to the need for relationships between nations to be inspired by fraternity, mutual respect, solidarity and the observance of international law. In this regard, we must recognize the need to defend and promote fundamental human rights, which are inalienable, universal and indivisible."

New Year Raffle for Church Roof

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. We ask parishioners to please return the cards to Parish Office. The draw scheduled to take place on 2nd January will be deferred by one week, (to 9th January), to allow all cards be returned.

Blarney Street Post Office raise funds for Church roof

Special thanks to Blarney Street Post Office for raising the sum of €420.00 towards Church roof funds. The raffle done in the days before Christmas was greatly supported by Post Officers customers. We are deeply grateful to Staff and customers for their support.

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 different Covid-19 Lockdown – and which need to be rescheduled. Having two intentions for a Mass is normal practice in many churches in the Diocese.

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.

Feast of the Epiphany – Here God reveals himself as a God for all peoples

This Feast, celebrated on January 6th, commemorates the visit of the pagan, wise men to worship the infant Jesus. It is a hugely significant event in that it reveals that this infant King is not only for the Jewish people but a King and Messiah for all nations. Research suggests that they had come from the Arabian Peninsula – and belonged to a pagan sect that longed for a Messiah. Tradition assigns to them the names Caspar, Melchior and Balthassar. The men were astrologers who were searching for the star that would lead them to the promised Messiah. According to the Gospel narratives, the wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and presented them to the infant in the manger. The huge significance in these gifts were i) Gold was a precious and expensive gift traditionally exchanged among royalty – a recognition that Jesus, despite his lowly birth, is King. ii) Frankincense, a sweet perfume which was often burned in the temple to worship God – a recognition that Jesus should be worshipped. iii) Myrrh was used to keep things fresh – and used by the Jews to preserve the body of one who died. It was used by the women to anoint Jesus' body when he died. This My is a recognition that this Messiah would suffer and die.

Another Lock-Down – and Mass Bookings

Once again our churches have been locked-down and we are prohibited from celebrating public Masses. Trying to rearrange Masses that were not said in 2020 has proved chaotic with the different lock-downs upsetting our plans. The only way that we will be able to function in 2021 is to have the Masses booked for a particular day celebrated privately on that day. It means that family members will not be able to be present but the Mass will definitely be for the said intentions.

Very shortly we will have cameras installed in the church so will be able to live-stream our Masses each day. It means that those who have a computer or a smart-phone will be able to click the link on our Webpage (gurranabraherparish.ie), and they will be connected directly to the live-stream. We hope this work will be completed in early January, 2021. In the meantime we ask for the understanding of parishioners in these hugely uncertain times.

Accommodation required for Young People

Accommodation is required for young boys and girls, (13 – 16y), from other European countries, who will be attending the newly created Catholic Secondary School in Cork, situated presently in the Dominican quarters at Pope's Quay. New sets of students would be coming from September to December and from January to May each year. If you are committed to the Catholic faith and have room in your home to house any one of these students please contact Fr Tomás Walsh.

Visit Ascension Parish Website – gurranabraherparish.ie

We invite parishioners to visit our website – gurranabraherparish.ie - regularly.