

**The Offertory collection at Masses last weekend amounted to €1,210.00**

*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**

**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**

**December 27, 2020.**

**A priest can be contacted urgently**

**this Sunday at:**

**Gurrabraher 085 804 1951**

**Mass Intentions this Week**

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

**Sat. 26. December**

- i) Donal O'Connor, RIP
- ii) Victoria Ticao RIP & Pio Carreon RIP.

**Sun 27.**

- i) Seán Burns & Twomey & Burns family.
- ii) Paddy O'Connor, RIP (27<sup>th</sup> Anniv).

**Mon 28.**

- i) Private Intentions.
- ii) Private Intrention.

**Tue 29.**

- i) Swaine & O'Brien family.
- ii) John O'Sullivan, RIP (27<sup>th</sup> Anniv)
- iii) Rita Casey, RIP

**Wed 30.**

- i) Nell Bowen, RIP
- ii) Mary Swaine, RIP

**Thu 31.**

- i) Paddy O'Connor, RIP
- ii) Derry (Diarmuid) Kelleher, RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

**Fri 1. New Year's Day 2021.**

- i) Private Intentions
- ii) Private Intentions

**Sat 2.**

10am. Pro populo.

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

*Breda Mullins, Gurrabraher Road,*

*Bina Falvey, formerly Orrery Road*

***Requiescat in Pace.***



**Ascension Parish  
Gurrabraher, Cork.  
Sunday, December 27, 2020.  
Feast of Holy Family (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.**

**In these Times we need God's Help**



As we enter the New Year 2021 on this coming Friday. We fervently seek God's intervention as we battle 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.

### **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 ([gurranaברהparish.ie](http://gurranaברהparish.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.

### **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 Lockdowns – and which needed to be rescheduled. Having two intentions for a Mass is normal practice in many churches in the Diocese.

### **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. 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 on Saturday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> January; and winners will be immediately notified by phone.

### **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.

### **Thanks to Parishioners for food items**

We thank our many parishioners who left in food items for distribution to the less well-off. Once again your generosity has been outstanding. We ask Almighty God to shower his blessings on all those who contributed to this appeal – and have done so for many years. Jesus reminds us: “As long as you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me”.

### **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 will 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.

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

The priests of the parish, Fr Aidan Vaughan and Fr Tomás Walsh thank very sincerely Gurranaברה 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 Gurranaברה and Churchfield. We thank most especially all who generously give of their time and talents to making sure that there is an active Christian presence in Gurranaברה. 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 happiness – 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.

### **Visit Ascension Parish Website – [gurranaברהparish.ie](http://gurranaברהparish.ie)**

We invite parishioners to visit our website – [gurranaברהparish.ie](http://gurranaברהparish.ie) - regularly. As well as finding the latest news from the parish there are useful links to other sites including the Sunday Readings - (go to ‘About Us’ then go to ‘Links’). The weekly Newsletter is also available on the website.

### **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 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 all believers who will not have access to Sacraments this Christmas.

### **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.”

### **Con’s Shop Christmas Raffle**

We thank Con’s Shop very sincerely for one again for raising funds for Church renovations. In recent weeks a Christmas Raffle was organized for the Church which raised the sum €457.00. Catherine Daly was the happy winner of the Hamper.