

The Offertory collection last weekend  
amounted to €1,005.00

*This collection is for the ordinary day-to-day  
running of the Church at Gurrabraher.*



*Donations for Church Renovations gratefully  
accepted at Parish Office -  
or it can be lodged directly into:*

**Ascension Church Building Fund A/c**  
**at any AIB Bank**  
**IE65 AIBK 934194 32642064**

Or

*To our Local Credit Union*

**Gurrabraher Credit Union Account**

**Church of the Ascension Renovation Fund –**  
**A/c No. 02255200.**



**SUNDAY DUTY ROTA**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

***A priest can be contacted urgently  
this Sunday at Gurrabraher  
085 804 1951***



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

***Requiescat in Pace.***

### Mass Intentions this Week

#### Sat 11, December (5.30pm)

- i) Margaret & Larry Coade, RIP
- ii) Noreen O'Leary RIP (Birth Rem)
- iii) Rene Murphy, RIP (Month's Mind)

#### Sun 12, (9am)

- i) Rita O'Neill RIP
- ii) Margaret & John O'Halloran, RIP

#### Sun 12, (11.30am).

- i) Richard Mulvihill, RIP
- ii) Nancy O'Connell RIP (26<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

#### Mon 13, (10am).

- i) Thomas & Ellen Creagh RIP
- ii) Denis & Kathleen O'Mahoney RIP (Anniv)
- iii) David Murphy & Mary, Frances & David Buckley

#### Tue 14, (10am).

- i) Maura & Margaret Moynihan RIP (Anniv)
- ii) Jamie Hourigan RIP (Month's Mind)
- iii) Special Intention

#### Wed 15. (10am)

- i) Michael O'Driscoll RIP (11<sup>th</sup> Anniv)
- ii) Brendan O'Connor RIP (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv)
- iii) Cian's Intentions

#### Thu 16, (10am).

- i) Rita Coughlan RIP
- ii) Ann O'Connell RIP
- iii) Miah McSweeney RIP

#### Fri 17, (10am).

- i) Margaret Buckley RIP (33<sup>rd</sup> Anniv)
- ii) Bina Falvey RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)
- iii) Kathleen Hegarty RIP (21<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

#### Sat 18, (10am).

- i) Pro Pop



## Ascension Parish

**Gurrabraher, Cork.**

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Third Sunday of Advent (C)**

**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. ([aidan1302@gmail.com](mailto:aidan1302@gmail.com))

**Weekend Masses – Saturday 5.30pm (Vigil) & Sundays – 9am & 11.30am.**



#### The Season of Advent

In Advent "... We should not limit our understanding of Jesus to only this specific date [Christmas], for doing so reduces Jesus to only a historical figure, whose life, death, and resurrection are merely anecdotes of history which slip ever further away from us with the progression of time. Rather, we should remember that Jesus, indeed the entirety of the triune God is ever with us, through times of joy and

sadness, virtue and sin..."

"For while the physical birth of Jesus might be tied to a particular place and time, the Holy Spirit dwells among us in perpetuity and always will. We should therefore use Advent as a time not only to celebrate the physical incarnation, but likewise reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, how it has helped us through the year as well as the ways in which we have failed to act justly. We should consider the sins we have committed in the Lord's omniscient presence, and seek to make amends in time to celebrate our memorial of the Incarnation.

Lastly, the Advent season is not only a time to look forward to the physical birth of Jesus, as well as to contemplate the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, but to consider the distant future and the final judgement. At the end of days, it will be our Savior who passes judgement upon us, deciding who pursued righteousness and who wallowed in the darkness of sin. But at the moment of Christ's return, those who have led fruitful and faithful lives will behold him in his full glory while those who have squandered their lives shall face only darkness... (Seán Sullivan – Catholic Digest)

### **Christmas Raffle to Raise Funds for Church**

The annual Christmas raffle to raise funds for Ascension Church will take place again this year. These tickets are now available. Three Prizes consisting of quality Hampers will be drawn after the 5.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve. One strip for €2 and Three strips for €5. We ask your support for this raffle as declining numbers - and falling income - makes it difficult for the Church to meet its needs.

### **Booking of Masses**

The Mass book for 2022 is now open. We advise those who wish to book Masses, especially First Anniversaries to book immediately so that they are not disappointed when they come later.

### **Christmas Triduum Mass Cards**

Mass Cards that will remember in a Triduum of Masses, all those whom the Cards will reach this approaching Christmas now available in Parish Office (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 & home over the Christmas period.

### **The Masses over the Christmas period are as follows:**

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve:** 5.30pm (Children's Mass) & 7.30pm (Solemn Mass)

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day:** 9.00am & 11.30am.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> -** Masses at 9am & 11.30am

### **Holy Hour of Adoration**

Each Thursday, parishioners gather from 7pm – 8pm to pray (mostly in silence) to the Lord for the needs of the world. During this Holy Hour we pray especially for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life. We bring before the Lord the names of those who are sick and in need of healing. We pray too for stable and happy marriages. Join with us in praying for the needs of the world.

### **SMA Calendars for 2022 @ €3 each**

The SMA Fathers have asked us once again to help the missionary work of the Church by selling their 2022 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. It is a gift much appreciated by family members.

### **Phone line for Senior Citizens this Christmas**

Seniorline is a national confidential listening service for older people provided by trained older volunteers. This phoneline is open every day of the year from 10am to 10pm, including Christmas Day, St Stephen's Day and New Year's Day. Christmas can be a sad time for many people; and some can feel very alone. Help Line volunteers are trained older people who understand the ups and downs of life, and are happy to listen, to keep company and to support you if you feel the need. LoCall 1850 440 444. All calls completely confidential.

**Mass Live each day at [www.gurranabraherparish.ie](http://www.gurranabraherparish.ie)**

### **Donations of Food items for the Needy**

Gurranabraher parish is one of the few parishes in the city that 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 just off the sanctuary. May God bless all generous givers. Also, if you know families that could benefit from some extra food this Christmas, please let us know.

### **Calling Young People to a deeper knowledge of their Faith**

We invite young people who wish to have a more adult understanding of the faith to make contact with the priests of the parish. They will be directed to where they can, along with people of their own age, delve into the mystery - and encounter Jesus, the Risen Lord. Only some kind of encounter with Jesus will sustain us in the years ahead as Ireland turns its back on Christ and believes more and more that it is sufficient on its own.

### **Democracy is endangered when People's identities are Squelched**

A European Commission's 32 page handbook which instructed that words like 'Christmas' and 'Christian' should not be used in official EU communications for fear that it may offend non-Christians has met a torrent of opposition from 'Conservative Groups' who believed that once again Christianity was being unfairly singled out as if it represented some ominous force lingering over the landscape of Europe.

This week Pope Francis waded into the debate and indicated that the exclusion of words like 'Christianity' and 'Christmas' was part of a 'watered-down secularism' that was taking hold in Europe. Francis said: "Brussels must be careful not to take the path of ideological colonization, which could end up dividing countries and [causing] the European Union to fail." He pleaded with the EU to hold fast to the high ideals of the Founding Fathers of the European Union who were profound Christian Thinkers who envisioned a Europe united by solidarity and respect. He suggested the European leaders should learn the lessons of history that enforced uniformity only divided people: "In history many, many dictatorships have tried to do this kind of thing. Think of Napoleon ... think of the Nazi dictatorship, the communist one ... It is something that throughout history hasn't worked."

A day later, Pope Francis entered the controversy again warning that any attempt to try and drown people's identities presents great dangers to democracy. He said: "The danger is when a superpower dictates economic, cultural and social behavior to the other countries ... Democracy is weakened when national values are sacrificed, are watered down toward an empire, a kind of supranational government," he added.

### **Parochial Hall Bingo – Sunday night at 8pm**

We hope to see everyone again at Bingo again coming Sunday at 8pm. With one of the biggest halls in the city you can be assured that it is one of the safest environments available at this time. For a good night's entertainment.