

The Offertory collection last weekend amounted to €802.00

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



The Building Funds Collection last weekend amounted to €857.50



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.**



We pray for those recently deceased

- i). Breda Daly, Late of St. Enda's Rd.*
- ii). Maureen Horgan, Late of Spriggs Rd.*

Requiescat in Pace

Mass Intentions this Week

Sat, 4th January, (5:30pm)

- i). Donal McGrath, RIP, (1st Anniv)
- ii). May Twomey, RIP, (1st Anniv)
- iii). Sheila Lynch, RIP, (Anniv)

Sun, 5th January, (9am)

- i). Rachel O'Brien, RIP, (11th Anniv)
- ii). Philip Morrissey, RIP, (Recently Deceased)
- iii). Novena Mass 2.

Sun, 5th January, (11.30am)

- i). Con O'Leary, RIP, (1st Anniv)
- ii). Patrick O'Driscoll, RIP, (1st Anniv)
- iii). Marie O'Callaghan, RIP, (10th Anniv)

Mon, 6th January, (8am)

Mass on this Morning

Mon, 6th January, (10am)

- i). Donal McGrath, (Anniv Mass)
- ii). Franck, Paddy & Paul O'Leary, RIP

Tue, 7th January, (10am)

- i). Joan & Kitty O'Callaghan, RIP, (9th Anniv)
- ii). Ellen Bruton, RIP, (2nd Anniv)
- iii). Holy Souls

Weds, 8th January, (10.00am)

No Mass on this day

Thurs, 9th January (9am)

- i). Sean Dobbyn, RIP, (Recently Deceased)
- ii). Rachel O'Leary, RIP
- iii). Timmy Bullman, RIP, (Anniv)
- iv). Novena Mass 3.

Friday, 10th January, (10am)

No Mass on this day

Sat, 11th January, (10am)

- i). Pro populo

No weekday Masses on Wednesdays and Fridays



Ascension Parish, Gurrabraher
(Part of the family of parishes incorporating Farranree/ Knocknaheeny/ Clogheen/ Kerry Pike)

**6th Sunday – Ordinary Time (C)
Sunday, 5th January 2025**

Priests of the area:

Fr. Tomás Walsh, SMA, PP (walshtomas@hotmail.com)

Fr. Aidan Vaughan, OFM, Cap. (aidan1302@gmail.com) Tel: 021-439 7472.

Fr. Sean O'Sullivan, resident at Farranree, (021 493 2230)

Fr. Cian O'Sullivan, resident at Knocknaheeny, (021 439 2427)

email: ascensionparish123@gmail.com Website: www.gurrabraherparish.ie

OFFICE HOURS: 10:30 – 12:30 MON – FRI

WEDS/THURS/FRI AFTERNOONS 1PM – 4:30PM

If we do not worship God – we worship ourselves

In the scriptures the heavy thread of fidelity versus idolatry runs through it like blood in the veins - from the Fall to the Golden Calf, from Solomon's slide to Daniel's stand, from Peter's denial to Peter's restoration... "The history of Israel shows us the temptation of unbelief to which the people yielded more than once," wrote Pope Francis in *Lumen Fidei*, his encyclical on faith. "Here the opposite of faith is shown to be idolatry." And fidelity (*fidelitas*) is faithful devotion. Fidelity, it can be said, is the living out of faith in a spirit of worship and self-gift, demonstrated by inward disposition and outward moral uprightness.

Technology and modernity have not done away with idols; they may, in fact, have spawned countless new variations on the ancient themes. Idolatry "remains a constant temptation to faith" (CCC 2113), precisely because we are made to worship - that is, to declare, profess, and proclaim that God alone is worthy of our praise and adoration - and we will either worship God or something else. If there is no God, then you are a 'god' with your own law, your own rules, and, essentially, your own religion. And what do these numerous, autonomous little gods do? They use, they abuse, they lie, they indulge, they corrupt, and they destroy.

This deviant dynamic is captured well in *Lumen Fidei*: "Once man has lost the fundamental orientation which unifies his existence, he breaks down into the multiplicity of his desires; in refusing to await the time of promise, his life-story disintegrates into a myriad of unconnected instants. Idolatry, then, is always polytheism, an aimless passing from one lord to another." (par 13).

Adapted from Carl E. Olson's article titled 'Fidelity or Idolatry...' CWR February, 2019.

Priests of the Parish say “Thank You”

The priests of the parish, Fr Aidan Vaughan and Fr Tomás Walsh thank very sincerely Gurrabraher parishioners for their friendship and support during the year 2024. We thank most especially all who generously give of their time and talents to making sure that there is an active Christian presence in Gurrabraher. We wish all parishioners a happy and grace-filled New Year in 2025. 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.

Come and Discover Alpha: Would your Parish or *Family of Parishes* like to find out more about Alpha? We are hosting a ‘Come and Discover Alpha’ day from 10am to 4pm in the **Visitor Centre of the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne on Saturday, January 18th 2025 from 10am to 4pm.** In the morning, you will have the opportunity to experience a full Alpha session, and we will be offering workshops in the afternoon on how to run Alpha.

Registration is essential: <https://tinyurl.com/mission-ministry>

Friendly Call Volunteers Needed

If you can spare a couple of hours a week and would like to tackle loneliness and isolation, please contact Fiona/Jackie at friendlycall@partnershipcork.ie or call to their office in Parochial Hall, 114 Knockfree Avenue, Churchfield, Cork.

Thanks to Eily Morris and supporters

Thank you, once again, to Eily Morris and her supporters for raising the sum of **€500.00** for our ongoing church renovations. We are very grateful for Eily and her supporters for their unwavering commitment. We all thank all who contribute – may they be blessed with health and peace.

Celebrating Altar Servers: Altar servers are a really important ministry in each of our Parishes. Since Covid some Parishes have struggled to reengage Altar Servers. The Office for Mission and Ministry and the Coordinator for Youth Ministry are looking at ways of supporting Parishes to develop or introduce Altar Servers. A first step is to gather with all of our Altar Servers and those priests and adult volunteers who look after them to celebrate Altar Serving in a fun atmosphere and to look at how we can together develop this ministry. We are gathering on **Saturday, January 25th 2025 from 2.30pm to 4.00pm** (venue to be confirmed).

Bingo at Gurrabraher Credit Union/Parochial Hall Arena



Bingo continues every Sunday from 8pm at Parochial Hall. Competitive prizes are available including a ‘must win’ category. Bring friends and family to this great social event at your local amenity and support your local community.

Regarding Infant Baptism

A minimum of one month’s notice is required for ‘infant baptism’. A pre-baptism instruction is mandatory before parents can have their child baptized. Both parents will have to attend a pre-baptism instruction held at Gurrabraher Parish Office on the first Wednesday of each month.

The Irish Cancer Society

The Irish Cancer Society is seeking compassionate volunteer drivers in our community. Your time can help to continue the vital service of providing transport for patients attending cancer treatment appointments. If you have a few hours to spare, a valid driving license, and a safe, reliable vehicle, you're the perfect candidate to make a significant difference. Your generosity can ease the journey for many during a challenging time. For more information and to become a volunteer driver, please contact Monica at volunteer@irishcancer.ie

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

Group Leader: Roger Power

Led by Spiritual Director

4th of June 2025

7 Nights

€899.00 per person sharing a room

For Information Contact a Mr. Roger Power: (087) 6442529

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul wishes to thank you most sincerely for your very generous support at Christmas and throughout the year. The Christmas collection amounted to €786.39.

Your continuing support for our activities is very much appreciated.

Monthly Church Gate Collection for January 2025

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Saturday, 4th January & Sunday, 5th January.