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Thursday, March 10, 2022

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Ukrainians in Ireland 'overwhelmed' by show of support from Irish parishes

Jason Osborne

Heartbroken Ukrainians living in Ireland have said they are overwhelmed by the support they are receiving from parishes all across Ireland as the brutal Russian invasion of their homeland intensifies.

It comes as desperate efforts are being made to accommodate up to 100,000 mostly women and children who are fleeing the onslaught in what is the largest movement of people in Europe since World War II.

Fr Vasyl Kornitsky who leads the Ukrainian Catholic community in Dublin told *The Irish Catholic* that the support has been "just overwhelming". He said that the community has been inundated with prayers, donations and offers of support which he described as "constant".

"We've received support from everywhere - from individuals, from businesses, from churches, from parishes, from other faith communities," Fr Kornitsky said.

This comes as the Church in Ireland's aid agency Trócaire has embarked on an unprecedented humanitarian mission to welcome Ukrainian refugees to neighbouring countries as part of the Catholic Caritas network (see page 3).

» Continued on Page 2

Carrying the Cross in Ukraine...



Ukrainian men carefully carry a statue of Jesus taken down from the Armenian Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary in Lviv to be stored in a bunker for protection. The last time the statue was taken down was during World War II. Photo: CNS

ANDY WARHOL

American maverick's Christ-haunted art

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JASON OSBORNE

Poland offers aid in Ukraine's time of need PAGE 18



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Annual Subscription Rates: Ireland €165. Airmail €250. Six months €85. ISSN 1393 - 6832 - Published by The Irish Catholic Unit 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, D18 K277 Printed by Webprint, Cork

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Ukrainians in Ireland 'overwhelmed' by support of Irish parishes

» Continued from Page 1 Fr Kornitsky revealed that Ukrainians across the country who are anxious about the fate of loved ones in their homeland have been heartened by the spontaneous support and solidarity they have experienced from Irish people.

Bishop Phonsie Cullinan of Waterford and Lismore said he had experienced calls from parishioners all over the diocese wanting to help. "As Christians we have the duty to do all that we can for refugees coming here. We must help.

"I would be happy to take refugees even in my house if the need arises. The love of Christ compels us," he told The Irish Catholic.

Fr Kornitsky said Irish parishioners been taking up collections in their families and have been inviting him to come to their homes and offer Masses in the house, while priests have invited him to concelebrate and speak at Mass, gifting the collection for Ukraine.

"I drive through the streets of Dublin and I see Ukrainian flags everywhere. This is what I'm talking about," he said.

Fr Kornitsky said the support is "soothing" for the suffering Ukrainian community in Dublin, with many families directly affected by the ongoing war against Russia.

"It's been very soothing for us because the Ukrainians who live here, far from our families, there is a lot of what is a basic right everywhere else? s I write, a piece of legislation is making its way through the northern assembly. If passed, the

legislation will seriously disadvan-

tage Catholic schools by prioritising

scarce resources towards what are commonly called 'integrated' schools. Catholic schools along with 'controlled' schools (in effect, Protestant schools) will be in second-place when it comes to applying for funding and the integrated sector will be offered the biggest slice of the cake rather than the parity that exists at the moment and is the bedrock of the political settlement in the North.

Legislation

It's ironic that the legislation is being championed by the Alliance Party – a unionist bloc which styles itself as crosscommunity - given the historic discrimination in funding of Catholic education that was long part of the sectarian make-up of Northern Ireland.

Catholic schools with their own distinct identity and ethos educate young people to be discerning and think for themselves"

At the same time, the British government has announced that it is to engage in an aggressive campaign to prioritise integrated schools to the detriment of other sectors. Equality, it seems, is something that can be set aside when the 'betters' decide that they know best and that the rights of families should be trampled upon to engi-

pain in people's hearts and as a priest I can see that," he said.

Revealing the impact the conflict has had on his own congregation of Byzantine Catholics in Dublin, the chaplain said that: "Last Sunday, our Mass attendance was already doubled because there is so much pain, there is so much anxiety in people's hearts. My job as their priest is to stay very close to the people, to listen to their stories, their pain, their anxiety and

"There are people whose husbands left for Ukraine

to fight, so we had people crying on Sunday. There are people whose family members cannot leave Ukraine and they are also crying about that," Fr Kornitsky said, adding that he is gratified to see people turning to God in this catastrophic time.

"I'm very happy to see in these times of anxiety and stress and devastation people turn to God. People truly turn to God, and they ask God's protection. Our Mass, our liturgy on Sunday is an essential part of their coping with this anxiety and stress," he said.



neer some sort of utopia.

Just seven percent of

families in the North opt to

send their children to what

the Department of Education

terms as integrated schools.

Of course, the term is delib-

erately loaded. And people

– even President Michael D.

Higgins - can't resist slurring

Diversity is, and should

other schools by describing

be seen as, a strength in a

where a lack of parity of

schools are an important

part of a diverse educa-

tional offering and the

place like Northern Ireland

esteem has been at the root

of so much pain. Integrated

rights of parents who want

tion must be respected. But

who want to exercise their

right to have their children

educated in the Catholic

sector. Why can't freedom

to choose in education run

British government and its

acolytes so intent on ham-

round holes in a drab one-

There is also a factor that

talk about. Many schools

that luxuriate in the term

integrated are really just

middle-class bastions with

few children from traveller.

And, some of the schools

ethnic minority or special

with the most integrated

communities are Catholic

schools that are proud of

their identity as Catholic

needs backgrounds.

schools.

no-one really likes to

mering square pegs into

size-fits all mould?

both ways? Why is the

to choose such an educa-

the same respect should

be afforded to parents

them as 'segregated'.

who should know better

Why should families in the North be denied

Newcomer

Some 52% of so-called 'newcomer children' have opted for a Catholic school. Catholic schools have shown that they are leading contributors to a more integrated educational provision. Likewise, at the height of the civil conflict in the North, Catholic schools were at the forefront of diverting students away from the madness of paramilitarism.

Just seven percent of families in the North opt to send their children to what the Department of **Education terms** as integrated schools"

At a pragmatic level, Catholic schools in the North have also shown a particular genius at tackling educational disadvantage. Catholic schools, despite historic and institutionalised discrimination, have long out-performed other sectors. Despite the fact that many Catholic schools are in the most disadvantaged communities, they send more school-leavers to third-level than the other sectors. This one factor alone should be enough for the crusaders to pause for thought, never mind the much more important issue of parental choice. Why is the British government working with vested interests to deny parents a right that is taken for granted in every other free country in the world? Why too are Sinn Féin and the SDLP - the parties that claim to speak for the

broader Catholic community - on the fence on this issue? It might be a good question on the doorstep as they come canvassing for votes ahead of elections in May.

Prioritising

Editor's Comment

Michael Kelly

Britain's secretary of state for the North is very 'motherhood and apple pie' when it comes to prioritising integrated education at the expense of a more diverse offering. He boasts that he will use funding as part of campaign of "nudging and cajoling" to push the one-size-fits-all model. It doesn't seem much like a level playing field. And, for all of Mr Lewis' pieties, Britain is on a cost-saving drive and sees diversity as too expensive. He should be honest about this.

One would also be naïve not to see a bigger agenda at work. Catholic schools with their own distinct identity and ethos educate young people to be discerning and think for themselves. Bishop Donal McKeown was perceptive in his observation last week that "schools and groups that do not bend the knee to the blinkered agenda of the powerful will always be damned for other reasons.

"Sometimes, however, it is just because they dare to speak uncomfortable truths," he said. Long may our Catholic schools speak such uncomfortable

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Trócaire offering aid on the ground amid Ukraine crisis

Jason Osborne

Trócaire has seen "the compassion of the Irish people coming to the fore" which has allowed them to offer aid on the ground in Poland and Ukraine amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland, Trócaire is working with Caritas Poland and Caritas Ukraine to aid the upwards of two million refugees fleeing the war.

Dignity

Speaking to The Irish Catholic, CEO of Trócaire Caoimhe de Barra said Trocaire is working with Caritas Poland to provide food, dignity kits "for people who have fled with literally just the clothes on their back," and phones with credit so as to enable refugees to contact relatives and loved ones in Ukraine.

"We're providing access to shelter, access to medical support and psychosocial support as well, which is incredibly important, especially for children because the levels of trauma that are being seen amongst children are very high as will always happen in any conflict," Ms de Barra said.

Trócaire is working with **Caritas Poland** to provide food, dignity kits 'for people who have fled with literally just the clothes on their back"

"You've children who have been stuck in basements, hearing bombardments happening, moving across the country in a state of very, very high tension and trying to get across the border," she said, adding that dealing with the immediate psychological effects is "really important".

In partnership with Caritas Ukraine, Ms de Barra said the aid being offered depends on the part of Ukraine.

Medical support

"In eastern Ukraine, they are trying to provide immediate food, clean water and medical support to people who are not able to move from the location that they're in," she said.

"In western Ukraine, in the main, they're providing support to people to continue on their journey over the border."

Ms de Barra said that the Irish public have been "very, very generous" in their offers of help so far, and that they "really want to support the people of

"People are responding with a full heart, as much as they can to the Ukrainian crisis," she said.

Knights to the rescue

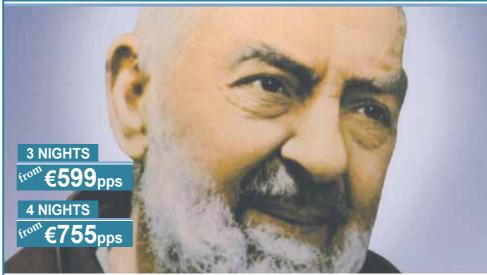


Volunteers from the Knights of St Columbanus in Queen's University Belfast (CK19) helped sort and load humanitarian aid collected from all over Ireland for Ukraine. CK19 partnered with the Consulate of Poland and the Cooltura Organisation, and were assisted by members of Blest QUB and QUB Erasmus students, March 7.

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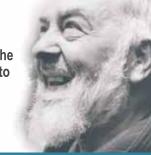
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'Bizarre' call to end non-existent army induction Masses criticised

Chai Brady

A Government report which made inaccurate recommendations regarding the chaplaincy and its work in the Defence Forces has been described as "bizarre".

The 'Report of the Commission on the Defence Forces' stated that a number of "outdated practices" should be discontinued such as "the convening of a Roman Catholic Mass associated with an induction ceremony".

Former Minister for Defence Willie O'Dea TD said the report's remarks were "unusual", considering the Defence Forces do not hold Masses in association with induction ceremonies.

Mr O'Dea told The Irish

Catholic that "it is unusual for the report to make a recommendation to prevent a practice that doesn't actually occur".

Aontú leader Peadar Tóibín TD said the report's conclusion on the issue was "bizarre, considering that their recommendation is based on an inaccuracy"

"Their language around this as well, whether or not a religious service is in date or out of date is a little bit discriminatory, religious practice in a pluralist society is one of those civil liberties that we're all entitled to and you have the State making judgements on whether it's in or out of date, it's ridiculous," Mr Toíbín added.

Asked about the report's recommendation regarding convening Masses for induc-

tion ceremonies, the Defence Forces press office stated: "No convening of a Roman Catholic Mass associated with an induction ceremony takes place in the Defence Forces.

"However a Mass can take place on the request of a group of soldiers i.e. Cadets/Recruits prior to a commissioning ceremony or a passing out parade, subject to approval."

The 219-page report, which took 13 months to create, also stated in the same paragraph that the Defence Forces chaplaincy service "needs to be adjusted in line with international best practice to better reflect the religious/non-religious affiliations of younger Irish people today".

Asked whether following this recommendation

would change how the chaplaincy works, the chaplaincy stated: "The chaplaincy service will continue to provide pastoral care and spiritual support to all members of the Defence Forces (Permanent, Reserve, Serving and Retired) and their families. The service will continue to engage at all levels of faith and none and honour all who died while in service, or retired.

"The service will continue to assist those in command in their responsibility for the spiritual welfare of all personnel under their authority, inclusive of all faiths and none and remain a core part of the welfare structure for Defence Forces personnel."

Mr Tóibín praised the chaplaincy service saying it plays "a really important role in the support of soldiers" and "it's really important that remains in place".

He called for the Commission on the Defence Forces, whose report was published early last month, to clarify why a recommendation was made based on an inaccuracy.

"There are many good

recommendations from the report, indeed it has been welcomed in many sections of the political sphere, but the welfare of the Defence Forces, which is what we're talking about here, is a very, very important element, and there's no room for inaccuracy so I would ask for the issue to be clarified," Mr Toíbín said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Augustinian church and school site in New Ross for sale at €150,000

The Augustinian Church, priory, old Good Counsel school, dorm, and adjoining buildings on a 1.4acre New Ross site are up for sale at €150,000.

The site was offered to Wexford County Council for housing, but the offer was rejected, *The New Ross Standard* reports.

Outlining the building's history, Augustinian Friar, Fr Michael Collender OSA, said: "The Augustinian church and school have a long history where they are currently located in the town of New Ross. Historical sources state that the church opened in 1835."

Auctioneer John Radford is selling the property, and said it would be ideal for a developer looking to build apartments.

NI exclusion zones legislation dubbed attack on free speech

Staff reporter

The Aontú representative for East Derry has criticised exclusion zone legislation which aims to ban protests or vigils outside abortion facilities as an "attack on free speech".

Aontú's Gemma Brolly said

that the legislation, introduced by Clare Bailey of the Green Party and supported by the UUP, Sinn Féin and the SDLP, also sets a "worrying precedent".

Ms Brolly said: "The language from the debate around this legislation is disturbing. The implication is that prolife, human rights campaigners are dangerous people and represent a threat to women.

"This is an extraordinary accusation to level against the many people throughout the six counties who believe in the right to life of the unborn child. It is truly shocking to think that the assembly and

most political parties now support abortion up to birth in cases where a baby has Down's Syndrome," she said.

Ms Brolly added that there are many pro-life people who want to provide practical supports to women who are experiencing unplanned pregnancies. "These activ-

ists would be prevented from doing so under this legislation," she said.

"Aontú believes that all human life has value, and that we should be working to ensure that no woman feels pressured by society or by her economic situation into having an abortion."

Have your say synod soapbox

The Church in Ireland is moving towards holding a national synod in the next five years. It is part of the vision of Pope Francis of laypeople, religious, priests and bishops working together to discern where God is leading the Church and charting a future vision for Irish Catholicism.

As part of the process, The Irish Catholic wants to give a space for readers to share hopes and dreams for the future of the Church and what they would like to see as part of the synod process. The 'synod soapbox' will appear regularly in the paper as a space for dialogue and discernment.

If you would like to be part of the conversation, please send a submission of no more than 300 words to editor@irishcatholic.ie

The Irish Catholic

Lay-led parent-baby prayer group kicks off in Laois

Jason Osborne

A parent-baby prayer group centred around adoration, Scripture and prayer has begun in Portlaoise parish, Co. Laois, which seeks to allow couples and their children to pray in a safe, relaxed environment.

Michelle Ward, one of the event's organisers, told this paper it's a "parent"-baby group, as it's "very important" that the husbands are "very, very much invited as well".

"It's a place for parents to come together with their children to pray," Mrs Ward said, adding that it's "very easy-going". Led by spiritual director Fr David Vard, the group invites couples and their children to Portlaoise parish centre for adoration, praise and worship music, Scripture and prayer.

"We want it to be open to new couples and families who wouldn't necessarily be used to coming to something like this, who might go to Mass on Sunday or might not, but would be interested in exploring their faith and exploring prayer together," Mrs Ward said.

"The children are very safe to roam and play, and yet we can pray there together," Mrs Ward said, adding, "Jesus said, 'Bring the children to me"."

Bishop blesses new Knock mural



Archbishop of Tuam Francis Duffy blesses a new mural of the Last Supper in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Knock International Marian Shrine, March 6. Dr Duffy also celebrated Mass for peace in Ukraine. Photo: Sinead Mallee

Muggeridge recalled the Ukraine famine...

he terrible events in Ukraine are evok-ing memories of the great famine of 1932-33, when up to three million Ukrainians were starved to death by Joseph Stalin's deliberate policies.

Ukrainians have a special word for that genocidal event - the Holdomor, or 'terror famine' - which bears some comparison to the Nazis' Holocaust.

The Fabian **Beatrice Webb** engineered a letter from the Soviet Ambassador, Maisky, claiming it was all false"

I had the privilege of meeting Malcolm Muggeridge, in the 1980s, and he told me how he had reported the Holdomor - the only Western journalist to do so. He and his wife Kitty had

Dr Dermot Kearney, an Irish doctor in England, has been helping women reverse abortion decisions when they sought his

Women who had taken the first abortion pill (of two) sent by post - had a pang of doubt, and located Dr Kearney via the internet. He provided them with a natural hormone that can help to reverse the abortion pill's effect – and earned their gratitude when he saved their babies.

Then Marie Stopes International issued a complaint, and he was investigated by

Mary Kenny



A man carries humanitarian assistance to be sent to Ukraine at the Basilica of St Sophia, the church of the Ukrainians in Rome. The crisis has echoes from a previous catastrophic episode in Ukrainian history. Photo: CNS

gone to live in Moscow in 1930. as starry-eyed young socialists who believed the Soviet Union was the way of the future. They were soon disillusioned.

Rumours

When Malcolm heard rumours about Ukraine's famine - "I just went down to the railway station and

the General Medical Council, a serious charge for a medic. But the GMC has exonerated him completely - none of the women he had treated complained. He has received scores of letters from women he has helped, and has been pictured with some of the 32 babies he saved.

Some abortion advocates in Ireland are campaigning to remove the brief 'reflection period' in Irish abortion law. Dr Kearney, who treats patients for free, has shown that a quick decision can be a regretted one.

bought a ticket to go there." His reports revealed how this country, rich in wheat and agriculture, was starving to death, with skeletal remains evident, and even accounts of cannibalism.

Ukrainians have a special word for that genocidal

His shocking reports appeared in the then Manchester Guardian. But the Fabian Beatrice Webb engineered a letter from the Soviet Ambassador, Maisky, claiming it was all false. The Guardian let Muggeridge go after that. Meanwhile, as he recalled with irony, Walter Dulanty, a communist fellow-traveller, wrote glowing reports for *The New York* Times about the wonderful food production in the USSR - and won a Pulitzer Prize for his endeavours.

Sceptical

Small wonder Malcom Muggeridge - sometimes dubbed St Mugg after he became a Catholic - was famously sceptical about the world's

However, I believe that the Irish Messenger of the Sacred Heart, although they didn't have the resources to despatch a reporter to Ukraine, did highlight the Ukrainian man-made famine, which would touch a nerve of memory with Irish people.

My Lenten reading has begun with a paperback by the English novelist Francis Spufford, with the self-explanatory title: Unapologetic: Why Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense.

The author is a defender of the emotion of guilt it's an instrument of self-discovery.
 He tells the story of Field-Marshall Montgomery,

who, not long before he died in 1976, awoke from a troubled sleep. When asked what ailed him, he replied: "I've got to go to meet God, and explain all those men I killed at Alemein." Monty - son of a Church of Ireland minister from Moville, Co. Donegal - was regarded as a military commander who was sparing with men's lives. And yet, he had a conscience about those lives he was responsible for: human lives individually significant, not just a

Christianity's idealism means we all fail, Mr Spufford writes. A human being is "an ambassador sent forth by an unstable coalition" – our flawed nature. A good read, written in a hipsterish, informal way.

Bearing witness

Was Fr Fergal MacDonagh justified in throwing red paint at the gates of the Russian Embassy – on live radio - after learning they had bombed a maternity unit?

A friend of mine, Paul Ryan of Tallow in Co. Waterford, passionately backs Fr MacDonagh, and has sent him a strong letter of support. He has also written to Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin, saying: "I was a bit disheartened this morning to hear vou criticise Fr McDonagh's throwing of paint on the gates of the Russian Embassy. I wholeheartedly applaud his actions. I have personal experience of Russian brutality to friends in Estonia during the Stalinist period when their relatives were deported to Siberia and suffered greatly. What is happening now in Ukraine is a whole lot worse.

"I can understand your difficult position in not condoning violence but surely throwing paint hardly consists of violence in the face of what is being done by the tyrant Putin! Also, the Church should bear witness to oppression. To do otherwise is the real crime." Bravo to Paul for bearing witness to his own convictions.

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Well-known movie producer to make film about 'hero' Frank Duff

Ruadhán Jones

A London-based author and producer who grew up in Regina Coeli has announced he is making a short film to pay homage to "Irish hero" Frank Duff.

Gordon Lewis, author of the bestselling memoir *The* Secret Child and a music producer who worked with

David Bowie. Queen and others, is set to film The Maverick. a biopic about Duff, this year.

Mr Lewis credits Duff's work in housing homeless mothers, including Lewis' mother, in the Regina Coeli hostel in Dublin with his success today.

"I grew up as one of those almost 10,000 children and mothers who went through this hostel on the northside of Dublin, Frank Duff made it all possible... [without himl chances are I would be in America, chances are we wouldn't be having this phone call," Mr Lewis told The Irish Catholic.

"He gave up all he had and started to devote himself to more Christian values," he continued. "His life was all

about doing good works."

Mr Lewis said that he wants to pay Duff back for what he gave him by using his "very privileged position to be able to do something positive about Frank Duff".

He and filmmaker Yewweng Ho visited Ireland last week, and announced on Monday that they had permission to film in Duff's

house and in the oratory of the Regina Coeli.

Mary Murphy, the president of the Legion of Mary, said that they have given permission and "wish him [Mr Lewis] all the best and hope now that the project will bring Duff to the world".

Mr Lewis is confident the film will "go global", saying he has already had expressions of interest from Brazil and other parts of the world.

"It will make people realise, a vounger generation, that Frank Duff was one of those Irish heroes who did things for people," Mr Lewis said.

Mr Lewis is interested in hearing any stories you may have about Frank Duff. To send them to him, visit secretchild.com.

Carmelite friar who advocated peace, dialogue to be canonised

Chai Brady

A Carmelite friar who visited Ireland in 1935, was killed during the Second World War in a concentration camp and who promoted peace and dialogue, will be canonised on May 15.

Fr Dave Twohig of the Carmelite Order in Ireland said that Titus Brandsma is "very relevant" at a time when there is war in Europe again.

"Fundamentally, his thing was not violence and war, but to try to find a peaceful reso-

from Bethlehem

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at the foot.

lution. To hear that, coming from somebody who was in a concentration camp, it shows the depth of it, it was not just a nice thing to say, he sincerely believed it," Fr Twohig said.

"When he was in Dacau he told other prisoners to pray for the guards. I think he is a very important figure in Europe, and as a saint in Europe, he is so recent, he is very relevant because of that alone: he is a part of modern Europe."

The Dutch friar had been noticed by Nazi authorities

before their occupation of Holland in 1940. He had spoken and written critically of national socialism.

During the occupation he actively opposed the publication of Nazi propaganda in Catholic newspapers and in the press generally. He was especially critical of anti-Semitism.

After much courage and Nazi opposition, he was captured by the Gestapo at a Carmelite priory in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and was killed aged 61 in Dacau by lethal injection.

Seanad told girl full of anxiety after being bullied for her Catholic faith

Staff reporter

Senator Eugene Murphy told the Seanad that parents had contacted him saying their daughter was "full of anxiety" due to being bullied for practising her Catholic faith.

Mental health

Speaking in the Seanad during a debate on mental health and child and adolescent mental health services. Mr Murphy said that the parents contacted him about an "unusual situation"

They told him their daughter "was being made a skit of because she was practising religion", explaining that she is a Catholic.

"That does not matter. It could have been any religion," Mr Murphy said. "This girl had got into an extremely agitated state, full of anxiety and heading for mental health difficulties because some of her female friends were telling her she had a screw loose to be practising religion."

The Fianna Fáil senator said that "such situations need to be taken into account as well" adding that "there are many areas in society that we do not look at when it comes to mental health".



The Irish Catholic

TODAY

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Beginning our days in the desert



Fr Maurice Colgan OP, prior of St Mary's Dominican priory, Cork, administers ashes on the foreheads of the lay Faithful on Ash Wednesday in St Mary's Church in Cork, March 2. Photo: CNS

EWS IN BRIEF

Former NI PM's handwritten letter found hidden behind sacred heart picture

A former Prime Minister of Northern Ireland's personal handwritten letter has been found behind a picture of the Sacred Heart.

The letter written by James Craig, which has been dated between 1922 and 1924, has been described as being of "great historical interest" by political historian Eamon

The framed picture of the Sacred Heart had been gifted to Mr Laurence Kennedy's grandmother when she lived in Catherine Street in the Market area of Belfast city centre.

Craig writes that he wants it placed "on record my high appreciation" of the "officers and men of the different branches of the Constabulary whom I have had the honour to inspect".

It was addressed to "All members of the Royal Ulster and Special Constabulary."

Breda O'Brien

The View

Expressing our faith by welcoming refugees

t Mass on Sunday, the priest mentioned that we should be praying for Ukrainians but also for the Russian people. A young boy reacted immediately, asking his mother and grandmother in a loud whisper, "why should we pray for the Russians?"

What a great question. Given the ongoing murderous assault on Ukraine, which this young boy was obviously aware of, his shock highlighted how counterintuitive the Christian way of life is. Even when there is a clear aggressor, we pray for the aggressor.

As it says in the Gospel of Luke: "But I tell you who hear me: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

We are not being mistreated in the same way as Ukrainians, although this war will have immense repercussions, including the possibility of triggering a worldwide recession.

It is unclear how much grassroots support Vladimir Putin has in Russia. Russia's elections are so rigged it was hard to know the extent of opposition to Mr Putin before this latest outrage, much less now.

Since the poisoning and arrest of Alexey Navalny, a crucial figure of opposition to Mr Putin, oppression in Russia has increased greatly. Mr Navalny is currently undergoing yet another trial, accused of massive embezzlement. If he is found guilty, he could be imprisoned for decades.

Punishment

Russia also recently initiated a law that could see punishment of up to 15 years in prison for spreading what it terms as disinformation - such as referring to the invasion of Ukraine as a war instead of a 'special operation'.

According to Reuters news agency about a week ago, Russia's Interior Ministry had said that 1,700 people had been detained in Moscow, 750 in St Petersburg and 1,061 in other cities for protesting against the war. Whether or not those figures are accurate, it is a drop in the ocean of a population of 145.5 million.

Nonetheless, we have to ask ourselves how open would we be about protesting if we lived in an authoritarian society where people are under constant surveillance?

Western sanctions aimed at halting Mr Putin will hit ordinary Russians hard, as the prices of staples like bread go through the roof.

This conflict has the potential to create havoc both in Ukraine and Russia and damage to many, many other countries. Russia and Ukraine are massive producers of wheat and other grains. Some believe that Mr Putin's invasion of Ukraine had much to do with food security for Russia, as with any tsarist ambitions.

Meanwhile, Western companies are pulling out of Russia, causing unemployment at a time of already great inflation. Some have said, like Volkswagen and Ikea, that they will continue to support their workers, but how long will that go on for?

The price of oil and petrol has a huge influence on food prices internationally, even for those countries that are not direct importers of Ukrainian or Russian products.

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you"

These are scary times. It is heartening to see so many Irish people willing both to pray and to give aid to Ukraine. As Ukrainian refugees begin to come to Ireland, the first ones will be coming to friends and family but already, there are people with no particular connection to Ireland who are seeking safety away from Ukraine.

Kindness to and welcome for refugees is a core Catholic value. The UNHCR has a fantastic video on its website that is like an advertisement for active Catholicism, profiling Nola Leonard from Dunshaughlin and what is called 'community sponsorship'. UNHCR states: "Through her faith, she was inspired to make a difference in her small town of Dunshaughlin, north of Dublin, by a global call from the Pope."

Nola Leonard was responding to the plight of



Syrian refugees. Since then, the Government has instituted a formal programme in conjunction with organisations like the Red Cross and Nasc. Community sponsorship is a programme where a group of no less than five members, all legally resident in Ireland, are willing to raise a minimum of €10,000 to support a sponsored refugee family, of which a maximum of €2,000 may be in-kind contributions. This group commits to ongoing support of a family.

Personal response

Community sponsorship is a much more personal response than Ireland's existing refugee resettlement programme, which has often led to (in my view, unnecessarily) negative reactions from communities.

Obviously, this kind of community support cannot solve all the problems of refugees but it is a real way of expressing our faith through concrete action.

Many Russians are also attempting to leave their oppressive country but will they be greeted with the open arms that Ukrainians are currently receiving? We can only hope that the answer is yes.

As the little boy discov-

As the little boy discovered to his shock last Sunday, the Christian message sets very demanding standards for us.

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Today I walk to remember you.





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Sligo Rovers delete reference Field in Donegal where monks to ban on 'religious' conduct

Chai Brady

The CEO of Sligo Rovers FC has said they mistakenly listed 'religious' conduct as being unacceptable at their games.

The football club issued a notice to their supporters on their website last week listing match night guidelines following antisocial behaviour at their home and away games.

It stated "Unacceptable conduct covers conduct which is violent and/or disorderly", and went on to list several examples which included sectarian, homophobic, racist or sexist behaviour as well as "religious"

CEO Colin Feehily told *The Irish*

Catholic: "It's our fault for putting that word in there, the club and the media is run by volunteers, it's not run by media professionals, if that's something that we've put in there than we shouldn't have.'

He said the point they were trying to make was to do with sectarianism.

"It's not like we don't want people coming in praying, it's sectarian abuse from supporters to players, or supporters to other supporters that is what the club meant by that." The reference to 'religious' conduct has since been removed from their website post.

The message to fans from Sligo Rovers, entitled 'Notice to supporters: Pyrotechnics and match night guidelines', aimed to remind "a small minority of fans that antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated by the club. These incidents have put players, officials, stewards, and other fans at risk and have resulted in heavy fines being issued to the

Sligo Rovers said that a supporter had been issued with a ban from their matches following the February 25 game between the club and St Patrick's Athletic, and that "the club will continue to investigate all incidents and issue bans to those who can't behave responsibly. It is a last resort to issue any supporter with any ban. However we must act on unsatisfactory behaviour".



hid from British invaders being raffled

Ruadhán Jones

A field in which monks from Tory Island monastery hid from British invaders in 1595 is being raffled to raise funds for a Derry city hurling and camogie club.

The development officer for Namagha GAA, who hope to raise funds for a new pitch, Ger Roarty said that the field has a historic connection with one of Ireland's three patron saints, St Colmcille.

"In 1595, Sir George Pelham sailed into Sligo to go out and destroy St Colmcille's monastery, Tory Island. He destroyed everything except the bell tower," Mr Roarty told The Irish Catholic.

The monks took shelter in the field and they preached Mass in the townland next to it. Just down the road from it is Gartan, where Colmcille was born."

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased at namagha.ie, with all funds going towards a new pitch to "give hope to a disadvantaged community". Mr Roarty said.

Dublin priest laments city's decline in safety

Jason Osborne

A priest based in Dublin city centre said he's seen "the character of the city" change during lockdown, and that there's an increased sense of danger or lack of safety.

Speaking to The Irish Catholic

priest of Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Dublin city centre said the issue has affected his own congregation.

'We have homeless people, but we also witnessed, in the last two years, some quite aggressive begging, so I managed to get the community guards in to get some advice about

that, that's one thing," Fr Maslen said. Fr Maslen said it's an active issue,

and that he's received complaints from members of his congregation about it, with some saying they won't return to the chapel as a result.

"I also actually listen to what the locals say. One of the volunteers here says that Dublin has become very

one, he's a member of staff who lives out in Maynooth, he says with some sadness that Dublin is not the city it was," Fr Maslen said, continuing, "It's not safe and he wouldn't go out at night in Dublin.

'The locals corroborate with my own perceptions.'

New shoots for the Church



Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Farrell is pictured with the 14 catechumens and their godparents after the rite of election ceremony, March 6. The rite is for those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. They were formally called by the archbishop to complete their initiation this Easter. Photo: John McElroy



A desperate humanitarian crisis is growing in Ukraine as millions attempt to escape the conflict. GOAL have deployed emergency staff to the region to respond.

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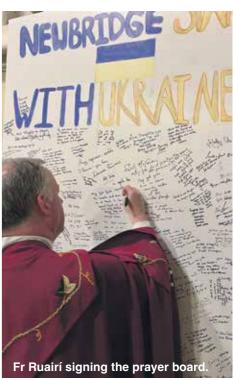
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The Irish Catholic, March 10, 2022 **10** | **News**

Newbridge prays for peace in Ukraine









Conleth's Parish church to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine.



Parishioners in Newbridge in Co. Kildare hosted an all-night vigil on Friday night in St



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Relics come to rest in Kilkenny



Jason Osborne

ishop of Kildare and Leighlin and Apostolic Administrator of Ossory Diocese Denis Nulty recently presided over the deposition of relics in the sanctuary at St Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny.

A new altar is currently being installed in the cathedral, with work due to be completed in March.

The relics of St Oliver Plunkett, Nano Nagle and Blessed Edmund Rice were placed in a silver pyx which was presented to Bishop Nulty by Sr Ena Kennedy of the Convent of Mercy, Callan.

Fr Richard Scriven also presented Bishop Nulty with the memorial card of Fr Ragheed Ganni, martyred in June 2007. Fr Ragheed was a regular visitor to Kilkenny from the Irish College in Rome and visited the cathedral many times.



Sr Nuala Horan, Presentation Sister, Kilkenny, presents a relic of Nano Nagle to Bishop Nulty.



Bishop Nulty with students from Scoil Iognaid de Rís Kilkenny and principal Mr Niall Bergin.





Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny, Fr Richard Scriven, with Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Denis Nulty and Fr Dan Carroll, Chaplain to Presentation Secondary School.



Sr Ena Kennedy and Sr Maria Comerford of Callan Sisters of Mercy, Sr Kathleen Lawlor of Presentation Convent Kilkenny, and Rita Neary, Secretary at St Mary's Cathedral.



Members of the congregation who gathered with Bishop Nulty, Sr Ena, Sr Maria Comerford, Sr Kathleen Lawlor, Michal and Agneza Mokrzycki with baby Francis, Br Christy O'Carroll, Christian Brothers Callan.

12 | Spirituality | The Irish Catholic, March 10, 2022

We need to learn how to listen to God



ast Sunday we were with Jesus on the Mount of Temptation. Today we see him on the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36). It's such a contrast of experiences, from temptation to the vision of divine glory He took with him Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. Climbing the mountain is a struggle, but when the summit is reached it's worth it. One now gets a panoramic view of the winding of rivers, the meeting of roads, the outline of fields and coastline. It's an experience that opens up the mind. The poet, William Blake, described it admirably.

"Great things happen when men and mountain meet.

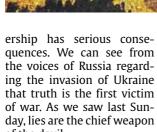
This is not done while jostling in the street."

Holy Mountains

It is not surprising that, in the Bible, mountains are associated with divine encounters. It was on a mountain that Moses received the commandments, Elijah experienced a mystical meeting with God, and Jesus delivered the great sermon which is the charter of Christian living. The three apostles were granted a tiny glimpse of divine glory, something they would never forget. Moses and Elijah, although clothed in glory, were talking about the passing of Jesus which would happen in Jerusalem. Peter would have stayed there forever but it wasn't to be. They had to come down to jostling in the street of stern reality. However, memory kept the experience alive. The same three apostles witnessed the dreadful agony of Jesus in Gethsemane. Later, as pillars of the early Church, they experienced many dif-ficult times. The Second Letter of Peter lets us know how they tapped into this special bank of memory. "We were with him on the holy mountain" (II Peter 1:18). The voice from above which the apostles heard affirmed the identity of Jesus and the importance of listening to his teaching. "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him."

Listen to me

In this technological age there are many voices competing for our attention. Remember that Jesus warned us that when the blind lead the blind, both fall into the pit. Some of this false lead-



We need to learn how to listen to God, to listen attentively to other people and even learn how to listen to our own inner feelings"

Lent is a good time for asking ourselves who directs our lives. The shepherd psalm reminds us that the voice of the Lord guides us along the right path. But are we listening to the Lord? We are quite aware nowadays how much our physical diet affects our state of health. But are we equally sensitive to the effect of our mental diet on our spiritual health? Anybody who feeds the mind with a diet of pornography or noisy, violent films or games is asking for trouble. A serious Lent may mean cutting back on the time we give to compulsive

radio, obsessive television and internet addiction. Some people recommend a 'digital detox day' once a week. Even a digital detox hour each day might be a good start. We need to learn how to listen to God, to listen attentively to other people and even learn how to listen to our own inner feelings. To listen with attention is the first step in loving.

Mother Teresa

When St Teresa of Kolkata became internationally known she met with many world leaders. She was handed many business cards with the promise of financial help if she needed cash for any project. In return, she would give her own business card, five short lines. "The fruit of silence is prayer: the fruit of prayer is faith: the fruit of faith is love: the fruit of love is service: and the fruit of service is peace". Everybody seeks inner peace. It cannot be bought. It's like trying in vain to grab hold of a butterfly. One must be still and let it land on the hand. This stillness creates the space for prayer...which develops faith...which enkindles the fire of love...which reaches out in service.

Pray for the gift of silent listening to the Lord. In our busy, noisy world today it is difficult to listen attentively. People flee from silence by turning up the volume or inserting earphones. Many years ago the poet, T.S.Eliot, wrote that people have "Knowledge of speech, but not of silence/ Knowledge of words, and ignorance of the Word." His observation is far truer today.

Heart of prayer

The apostles Peter, John and James remained steadfast through the dark days by remembering that day of vision when, as Peter recalled, "We were with him on the mountain."

One of the most helpful books I ever read was called One Thousand Gifts by Ann Voskamp. She is married to a pig farmer, mother of a young family while working as a journalist, but at the end of each day she reflected and made a note of one gift of God or blessing she received that day. It inspired me to do the same. I miss an odd day. I used to note it in my diary but rarely do it now. This Lent I have resolved to use the diary again. One blessing is enough to record each day as

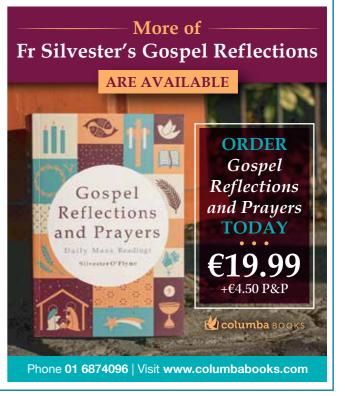
you might need any other gift for tomorrow's gratitude. This quiet moment of gratitude at the end of the day will greatly increase your awareness of God's presence in your life.

One final thought. If you think you are a million miles from God, guess who moved! During Lent, come back to God. "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him".

Prayer of the day

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.





Bringing truth to our uncertain future





In our current age of increasing political polarisation it is increasingly difficult to argue fruitfully, writes **Dr Philip Gonzales**

f it is our conviction that Christianity - rooted in Christ the enfleshed Word of the Father — is true, and that this truth of love must be carried forward in service to our hazy, nebulous, and uncertain future the question becomes how is this to be done. And how are Christian intellectuals to cooperate in this urgent and daunting task? In our current age of increasing political polarisation and a new dawning of an ideological bent of mind where often one can no longer fruitfully argue, disagree, and converse a conference to be held next month is an attempt to allow for constructive disagreement offering a dialogical and polyphonic space where differing philosophical and theological points of view can be heard, discussed and argued for.

Philosophy

At the end of April, the Faculty of Philosophy at St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth is hosting a dynamically illustrious conference on, 'The Future of Christian Thinking'. It is far from hyperbole to say that many of the world's leading Christian thinkers, in both philosophy and theology, will be descending upon the historic and imposing Maynooth campus. Leading figurers include Rowan Williams (the former Archbishop of Canterbury), John Milbank (the founding figure of Radical Orthodoxy), David Bentley Hart (the public voice of Eastern Orthodoxy in North America), Judith Wolfe (a leading figure in Philosophical Theology and recipient of a £2 million Templeton research grant anchored in St Andrews), Eleonore Stump (arguably the leading female Catholic philosopher writing today), and William Desmond (arguably Ireland's greatest living philosopher). This is to name just six of the event's 21 prestigious speakers.

The theme of the conference is broad, complex, and urgent. It is the attempt to think the future of Christian thinking amidst and within the multifaceted, protean, and unprecedented challenges of our 21st Century. And it looks to do so from within an ecumenical Christian perspective. The conference seeks to challenge the artificial lines often drawn between philosophy and theology thereby recognising that the most interesting and fruitful work being done today in Christian thought occurs at the porous boundaries between philosophy and theology.

What needs to be noted is that the fundamentally Christian nature of the event is what makes it a deeply human event"

Topics at the conference are both diverse and vast and here I give but a little taste. Themes will range from robust metaphysical and theological issues, Christology, drama and tragedy Christianly understood, technology, the sexualised West, the end of human life, along with the ever-pressing ques-

tions of freedom and desire. Everything was on the table for our invited speakers as we sought to offer a forum or space wherein their straining attempt to intellectually think what might lie ahead is heard and responded to.

Perhaps then the most fitting way to describe the importance of the conference's theme is Christian hope. Yet Christian hope is never a naive optimism, a superficial and Enlightenment belief that history is progressing towards perfection. Christian hope is trustful, serene, and confident yet it is also ready, watchful, and seriously realistic towards the trials and violent horrors of human history, cognisant of our own fragility and sinfulness.

Threefold

The hope of the conference is threefold. First, it seeks to be a dialogical space wherein committed Christian intellectuals and conference attendees are able to come together in communion in order to raise and discuss the most pertinent issues facing Christian thought today. What needs to noted is that the fundamentally Christian nature of the event is what makes it a deeply human event. In the words of Henri de Lubac: "By revealing the Father and by being revealed by him, Christ

For if we lose the fundamentally human and communal nature of the event — which the Christian evangel always takes us deeper into — then the event becomes an abstract skeleton of itself"

completes the revelation of man to himself." This intellectual event - rooted in the Word made flesh - offers a human site of community and embodied thought. A place of fellowship where the depths and meaning of our humanity and human community is seen for what it is, namely, a radical gift. This event will be a success if an excess overflows itself in the gatherings and fellowship outside its formal setting. One would be remiss to not mention this as one of the central aims of the conference. For if we lose the fundamentally human and communal nature of the event - which the Christian evangel always takes us deeper into — then the event becomes an abstract skeleton of itself.

Second, the hope is that this conference will begin the urgent conversation of how Christianity is to truly move forward on an intellectual front. For this to happen there will need to be a collective sense and experience amongst the speakers and attendees that this is not a mere academic affair but rather that it genuinely concerns the very future of Christian intellectual life in the academy and beyond.

Third, it is hoped that this event launches a new chapter in the life of the Faculty of Philosophy at St Patrick's Pontifical University where within Ireland and beyond this faculty is seen as a vital centre of Christian thought that is seeking to carry further the Christian intellectual tradition into the future with a faithful and dynamic orthodoxy.

All are truly welcome to this event, and we look forward to greeting you in joy and overflowing hospitality.

(1) Dr Philip Gonzales is a lecturer in philosophy at St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth. Further information on the conference can be found at www.maynoothcollege.ie

14 | Feature | The Irish Catholic, March 10, 2022

Andy Warhol's complicated Catholicism



American pop-artist Andy Warhol led a life beyond the bounds of Church teaching, but his art was Christ haunted, writes **Ruadhán Jones**

ow do you reconcile two seemingly incompatible parts of the same person? Andy Warhol is arguably the most famous American artist of the 1960s and 70s. He was openly gay, unashamed to be so while many of his friends kept quiet. He also embraced some of the seedier elements of the 60s revolutionary spirit in both his works and his life.

However, he was also born and raised a Ruthenian (more commonly called Byzantine) Catholic, and retained a heartfelt practice in his own manner throughout his life. His diaries are reportedly strewn with references of his attendance either at Mass or going to a church. At a memorial service a year after Warhol died, art historian Sir John Richardson praised Warhol's "spiritual side", arguing that it was of vital significance to his art:

"The knowledge of this secret piety inevitably changes our perception of an artist who fooled the world into believing that his only obsessions were money, fame, glamour, and that he could be cool to the point of callousness. Never take Andy at face value," Sir Richardson said.

It's hard to assess how true this claim is, but much of Warhol's later career was dedicated to reimagining religious artworks, as his Eastern Catholic upbringing found expression in unusual iconographic images. Many of these paintings and prints are on display in the Brooklyn Museum, where an exhibition entitled "Andy Warhol: Revelation" explores the

religious element in his art. While it doesn't provide conclusive answers to the conundrum set by Warhol's life, it does at least provide a window into his beliefs and shows to what degree his faith was essential to his art.

"They asked me my goal in life. I said, to forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race... and see if it could be mass-produced in plastic." This quote comes from the mouth of American comedian Woody Allen, paraphrasing *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* – what he expressed in words, Warhol put into practice.

Work

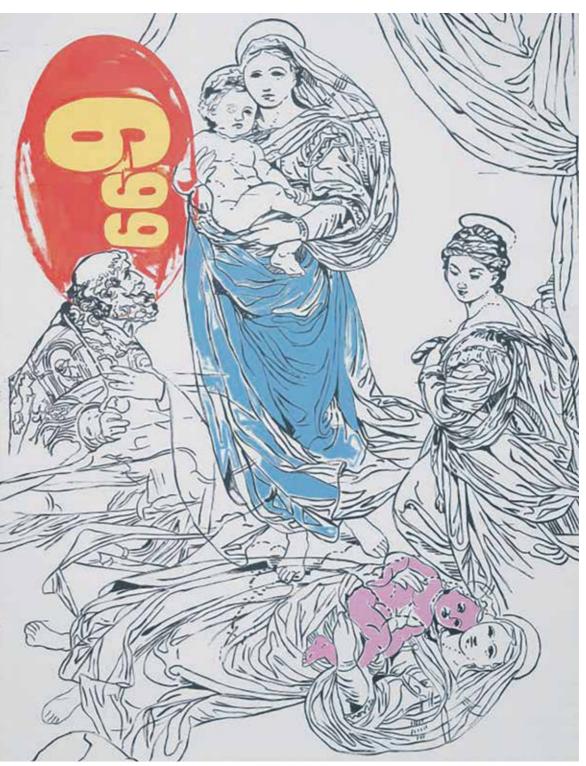
Andy Warhol produced an enormous body of work – paintings, movies and prints – in his relatively short life (1928-1987). He was profoundly influential not only in art, but also in entertainment, fashion, graphic design and marketing.

His pop-art recreations of everyday items, such as a Campbell's soup tin, or his collages of significant figures of the day, like Marilyn Monroe, are now treated as masterpieces. His style has shaped the look of European and American culture ever since. However, in addition to this, the seedier element of his life came through in pornographic films and exploitative imagery.

It is only in the last few years that his Catholic faith has been more widely attended to. The youngest of three sons, Andrew Warhola was born to working-class parents in 1928. He was



Living Room, 1948. Watercolour on paper, 38.1x50.8cm. The Paul Warhola Family Collection. Copyright 2021 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc./Licensed by Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.



Raphael Madonna-\$6.99, 1985. Acrylic and screenprint on linen, 396.9X294.6cm. The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Founding Collection, contribution The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., 1998.1.358. Copyright 2021 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc./ Licensed by Artists Rights society (ARS), New York

Baptised and grew up attending the liturgies at St John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittsburgh.

His mother Julia had a particularly deep faith, decorating their home with icons and holy cards. It was the children's custom to drop to their knees and pray with their mother before they left the house each day. On the weekend, Julia might take Warhol to three different liturgies.

Icons

The church he attended was decorated in the Greek style, with a parular emphasis on icons of God and the saints through an iconostasis – a screen around the sanctuary decorated with icons – which would have been ever before young Warhol's eyes. Some credit his immersion in this tradition with Warhol's later interest in creating icons of his age.

A precocious talent, Warhol studied art in Pittsburgh, before moving to New York with the hope of becoming a commercial artist. He dropped the "a" from the end of his surname, an attempt to break from his past, but then invited his mother to stay with him as soon as he could.

She lived with him from 1951 to 1971. She attended Mass daily and by all accounts, Warhol accompanied her regularly. In this time, his reputation grew exponentially, beginning first with his work in advertising, where he was much in demand.

A precocious talent, Warhol studied art in Pittsburgh, before moving to New York with the hope of becoming a commercial artist"

In the early 50s, he made his first, unsuccessful foray into fine art. However, by 1956, his works were sufficiently well regarded to be put on display in the Museum of Modern Art. Taking his place within the burgeoning Pop Art movement, Warhol applied techniques he had developed in his marketing work to the field of painting.

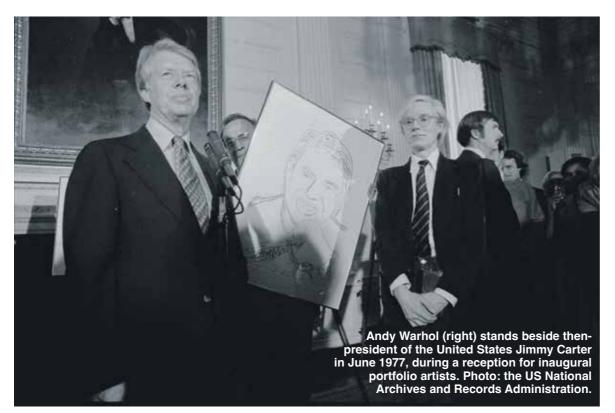
It was in the 1960s that he truly came to fame, most notably with a

series of paintings depicting Campbells soup cans, 32 paintings for the 32 varieties then available. *Time* featured Warhol and his soup cans in a 1962 issue that cemented the burgeoning artist's popularity, and established the soup can as his most sustained motif. It was also in the 60s that Warhol designed his famous icons of contemporary popular culture figures.

The Factory

By the mid-60s, he had established The Factory, effectively his production studio and label, and began branching out into different art forms. He created some 400 films in a five-year period, many of which were explicit and pornographic in nature. The Factory gained a reputation for drug use and free sex.

At the same time, Warhol privately maintained a variety of the ritual practices of his rearing. He frequented Mass, stopped in churches to pray, financed his nephew's seminary education and volunteered regularly at a Episcopalian-sponsored community soup kitchen on Manhattan's Upper East Side.



66 By 1956, his works were sufficiently well regarded to be put on display in the Museum of Modern Art"

According to American Catholic journalist and author Mike Aquilina, Warhol craved fame and was drawn to Catholic figures, including Jackie Onassis Kennedy, Martin Scorsese and Bianca Jagger.

"He held Catholics to a higher moral standard," Mr Aquilina writes. "In his diary he records severe judgments of Scorsese for his divorce and remarriage. Another Catholic he scolds for making anti-Semitic remarks."

The exhibition of Warhol's religious art in Brooklyn museum displays common devotional items Warhol and his family owned, including a scapular, holy cards, hand-painted statues, wall crosses and prayer books. These bear signs of use, perhaps an indication that they served as visual reminders of the sacred for Warhol and his family.

Shot

However serious Warhol was about his faith in this time, after he was shot in 1968 it took on a more central role in his life. As he spent two months recovering, he made a vow to God that we would go to church regularly. In the years that followed he kept the vow, in his way.

When interviewed by Warhol's biographers, the priest of Warhol's local church – St Vincent Ferrer – recalled that the artist would come almost daily. Often, he would avoid Mass entirely and come when the Church was quiet. When he did attend Mass, he typically left before the sign of peace and didn't receive Communion. Warhol's parish priest added when interviewed that the artist's lifestyle was "absolutely irreconcilable" with Catholic moral doctrine.

Warhol's faith, according to Mr Aquilina, prompted him to take up charitable works. He volunteered at the soup kitchen run by the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest and spent his holidays, Christmas and Thanksgiving there with New York's homeless.

"He poured coffee and sat to talk with the clients," Mr Aquinlina writes. "Sometimes he brought friends to serve with him. When one friend had an emotional tirade at the soup kitchen, Warhol reminded him, 'Victor, we're here because we want to be here'."

As his personal devotion apparently grew, the rest of Warhol's life was left largely untouched by the rest of the Church's teachings. He didn't advocate for the Church to change to accept him, but he did live well beyond the bounds of its morality. In his art as well as in his life, he was exploitative and voyeuristic, encouraging his friends and models in a way of life that led many of them to destruction.

But his near-death experience apparently left its mark and in the 1980s he was drawn more and more to religious art. According to Paul Elie, author of a book on religious art in the 1980s, Warhol made religiousthemed art of all kinds, from canvases of skulls and large semi-abstract crosses to dressing dolls as priests and nuns, and photographing them.

However serious Warhol was about his faith in this time, after he was shot in 1968 it took on a more central role in his life"

"He engaged new mothers to sit for photographs while they nursed their babies, and from one set of photographs he produced drawings called the 'Modern Madonna' series. The drawings evoke Christian imagery directly and without parody or irony," Mr Elie wrote in *The New Yorker*.

One such modern Madonna, Raphael Madonna-\$6.99 (1985) is on display in Brooklyn's museum. A reproduction of Raphael's Sistine Madonna, it shows the Virgin and child in black and white outline, with

\$6.99 stamped in the top left corner. Typical of Warhol's style, it is presumably intended to critique the commercialisation of religion. Though it is hard to tell from this painting who Warhol blames – religion or commerce – it is largely an unironic depiction of the Virgin.

Pope

In 1980, Warhol went to Rome, where he briefly met Pope John Paul II and was besieged by nuns to give them his autograph. After returning to the US, he reimagined a number of Renaissance paintings centring on religious themes. This culminated in *The Last Supper* series, where Warhol applied his style to the famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci. It would prove to be the final series he produced and Warhol attacked the subject with vigour.

The series came about when, in 1984, Warhol was offered a million dollars to make new work to be shown in Milan, in a building near the Santa Maria delle Grazie, where Leonardo's *The Last Supper* was on view.

He gathered low-quality reproductions of the famous painting and set about reimagining them. Including related works that arose from the project, Warhol produced more than 100 paintings and prints in all.

A number of these reproductions are on display in Brooklyn museum. The display ends with two almost lifesize reproductions of *The Last Supper*, set up at eye level. They stand end-to-end, one in pink, one in yellow.

A number of critics have suggested that the overt religious tone of the painting is significant. The painting relates to Christ's institution of the Eucharist, his foreshadowing of his own death and his call to remember him through the sacramental breaking of bread together. Is it possible that this was Warhol's way of remembering or memorialising Christ's sacramental action? Perhaps, perhaps not.



Andy Warhol's (1928-1987) *Christ-\$9.98*, 1985-86. Acrylic and screenprint on linen, 50.8x40.6cm. The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Founding Collection, contribution The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., 1998.1.317. Copyright 2021 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc./ Licensed by Artists Rights society (ARS), New York.



The Last Supper (Detail), 1986. Screenprint and coloured graphic art paper collage on HMP paper 80.3x60.3cm. The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Founding Collection, contribution The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., 1998.1.2125. Copyright 2021 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc./ Licensed by Artists Rights society (ARS), New York.

Another possible reason Warhol turned to *The Last Supper* was that it reminded him of his mother Julia. Mrs Warhola had a prayer card with an image of the Last Supper that she kept in her Bible. After her death, Warhol kept this card as a reminder of his mother's faith.

It was while accompanying this work around Europe in 1987 that Warhol fell ill, and died suddenly during surgery at the age of 58. He was

buried in Pittsburgh after funeral rites at his childhood church.

Where does that leave us in reconciling Andy Warhol's faith with his lifestyle? Little closer to a solution, it has to be said. It would seem that Church teaching came out second best in his life, but as Mike Aquilina puts it, his art work became "Christ haunted". And while his faith made no appreciable difference to his lifestyle, he kept returning. There is some hope in that.

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Out&About

Limerick's first rodeo



LIMERICK: The equine group of Corpus Christi School, Moyross, had a visit from a horse racing simulator in the school, brought all the way from RACE training academy in Kildare, February 22.



KERRY: Shrove Tuesday, better known as Pancake Tuesday is always a big hit in Caherleaheen National School. Parents, pupils and staff put in hard work for a great day, March 1.



ARMAGH: Archbishop of Armagh Eamon Martin dedicates and blesses a new School Oratory in St Catherine's College, February 28. Archbishop Martin said it will be the heartbeat of the college.



LAOIS: Members of the Mountmellick Pioneers Total Abstinence Association are pictured after receiving their golden emblems and certificates from Assoc. President Matt Boylan on Thursday, February 24, marking their 50 years of commitment to the movement.

INSHORT

Pray, fast for peace this Lent, Archbishop Martin urges

Archbishop Eamon Martin is urging families to pray together and fast for peace this Lent, saying "we can never take peace for granted".

Speaking ahead of Ash Wednesday, the archbishop of Armagh reflected that "our Lenten journey this year begins as we watch the distressing and frightening scenes from Ukraine.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to the

people of Ukraine. We can never take peace for granted," Archbishop Martin said.

He continued, saying that we all "have the capacity to build peace by our words, our actions and our attitudes to others".

He asked the Irish Faithful to let "our acts of fasting, prayer and charity... keep in mind the people of Ukraine and all those in areas of conflict on our world".

Archbishop Martin launched the #LivingLent social media initiative for Lent 2022, which invites the Faithful to use social media to grow closer to God during Lent so as to prepare for the joy and hope of the Easter season.

The initiative includes short daily suggestions on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram which provide suggestions for how the Faithful can follow the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

St Patrick's day event to carry Christ's light

The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal are holding their seventh annual "Light the fire" event on St Patrick's Day in Slane, Co. Meath.

Bishop of Meath Tom Deenihan will celebrate Mass at 5pm in St Patrick's Church, Slane. The event will begin at 4pm with vespers on the hill of Slane, followed by a procession to the church, weather permitting.

The evening closes with adoration of the most Blessed Sacrament after Mass.

The theme for the gathering is "let us carry the light of Christ into the next generation" and it is open to all comers.

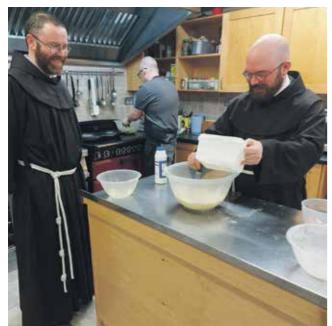
For more information contact the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal on 041 983 0441 or visit https://www.franciscansisterscfr.com/st-anthony.

The Drogheda-based order of nuns live in St Mary's Parish, having come to Ireland in 2013.

Edited by Ruadhán Jones Ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie



Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



KERRY: Bro. Antony Jukes OFM, novice master for the Killarney Franciscans oversees Austrian novice Bro. Leopold Freitag and Belgian novice Bro. Steven Cauchie as they prepare the pancake batter for pancake Tuesday, March 1



DUBLIN: Sr Magdalena of the Redemptoristine Nuns prepares some carnival style dessert before lent begins, while Sr Helen offers to taste test, February 28.



of the Mid-Ulster district council Paul McLean is pictured with Fr Eamon Graham and members of Lavey Parish Church Committee, and Cllr Sean McPeake at a civic reception to award the parish the Restoration Project of the Year award, February 28.

■ DERRY: Chair

▼ ROSCOMMON:

Bishops attend the graduation of those taking part in the incoming pastoral workers orientation course, which was hosted by the Spiritans, February 25.





LIMERICK: Assumpta Lynch (nee Howard) and Frank Lynch celebrated 50 years of marriage at the Holy Rosary Church, Ennis Road, with Fr Des McAuliffe PP as celebrant, February 26. Frank and Assumpta were married in St Peter and Paul's Cathedral, Ennis, Co. Clare February 26, 1972.



SOUTH SUDAN: Sr Orla Treacy welcomes Ireland's ambassador to Ethiopia, South Sudan and Djibouti Nicola Brennan to Loreto school in Rumbek, March 1.



DOWN: The Catholic chaplaincy in Queen's University Belfast celebrate pancake Tuesday together, with chaplain Fr Dominic McGrattan leading the way, March 1.

Events

• In the current Covid-19 crisis, it is clear that most (and perhaps all) Church events, other than some Masses, are suspended. Consequently, we are withholding the popular Events Listing column until normal activities can resume in our parishes. However, please do email us if you know of any parish event planned and we will publish details. 18 Analysis The Irish Catholic, March 10, 2022

Poland steps up to aid Ukraine in time of need



The aid Poland has offered refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine is being hailed as a model of charity, writes **Jason Osborne**

ust over one week since the Russian invasion of Ukraine was launched, the calculus of war already appears stark. As of the time of writing, roughly 9,000 deaths are estimated to have been caused by the conflict, along with nearly 2,000 non-fatal injuries. Over one million Ukrainians are believed to have fled their homeland, the vast majority of them heading for Poland.

Few countries have stepped up to the humanitarian mark as Poland has. One of Ukraine's immediate neighbours, with a vast, western border shared by the two countries, it has been the destination of choice for the vast majority of Ukrainians fleeing the war zone. Again, at the time of writing, more than one million refugees have entered the country from Ukraine.

The Polish government has set up an official state website to direct those in Poland who wish to respond"

Pope Francis in a recent address acknowledged Poland's charitable effort as being above and beyond the usual:

"You were the first to support Ukraine by opening your borders, your hearts and the doors of your homes to Ukrainians fleeing the war. You give them generously everything they need to enable them to live with dignity despite the tragedy of the present moment.

"I am deeply grateful to you and bless you with all my heart," the Holy Father said.

Bordo

Up and down the border, an efficient humanitarian response awaits those flooding into the country, mainly women and children, as governmental orders in Ukraine prevent men aged between 18 and 60 from leaving. Border crossing points, particularly at the Medyka crossing, have seen hordes of Poles bearing aid descend to meet their fleeing neighbours.

Warehouses, homes and parish centres in the border region have become storehouses for vast quan-



tities of essential aid, such as food, water, basic medicines, hygiene products and toys. In the Polish capital of Warsaw, social media amplified reports that outdoor chain Decathalon was selling out of sleeping bags as Poles bought them up, to be sent on to the border.

Residents

In the early moments and days of the war, residents living by the border turned out to offer their hospitality in the form of a warm meal and bed for the night before a more sustainable arrangement could be reached. Hostels and hotels did the same, and continue to do so. Since then, Poles all over the country have opened their homes to Ukrainians, with the state and various organisations taking steps to facilitate this.

The Polish government has set up an official state website to direct those in Poland who wish to respond, whether by offering financial or humanitarian aid, psychological or legal assistance or otherwise. Schools are being prepared to take in an influx of Ukrainian students, while a TV channel is coming on air specifically to broadcast in Ukrainian.

The response isn't limited to ordinary citizens, either, with Poland's commissioner to the EU Janusz Wojciechowski saying he's willing to host a family of refugees in his own home in the country's

capital. In an interview with *Politico*, Mr Wojciechowski said he'd already offered a family a place of refuge, but that they had found an alternative place to stay in the meantime.

Such has the response been that despite taking in the largest, rapid increase in refugees Europe has seen in decades, Poland has not yet had to establish a single refugee camp for those fleeing from Ukraine. Free rail travel for those with a Ukrainian passport, alongside organised shuttles from the border, have ensured that Ukrainians have been distributed around the country to pre-arranged accommodation.

Aid

Poland's aid to and in Ukraine continues to be extensive, as well. Poland's ambassador to Ukraine, Bartosz Cichocki, is the last EU ambassador in Kyiv, according to *The Guardian*, with the Polish Embassy remaining in place to ensure that those in need can find safe refuge in Poland should they require it.

The President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, has recently asked people to refrain from making their own journeys down to the border, as recent days have seen people driving their own cars and vans to the area to bring refugees back to their homes

or to rail stations with nationwide connections, such as Kraków or Warsaw.

However, the volume of people offering assistance resulted in clogged roads and streams of traffic, hindering the current operation.

Much of the outpouring and sentiment is motivated by the history of mass suffering in the wake of conflict in central and eastern Europe, common to both Poland and Ukraine.

The President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, has recently asked people to refrain from making their own journeys down to the border"

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that older Poles and Poles with older family members are in part motivated by the memory of the chaos and displacement Poland endured in the wake of the Second World War.

In the eastern Polish city of Lublin, in a Red Cross warehouse, the UNHCR reports manager Kinga Zielnicka as busy finding room for donations that have poured in in recent days. She says her own great-uncle was separated from his Polish family in the wake of World War II.

"He grew up in Ukraine, we grew up in Poland, so I have family over there," [Ms] Kinga explains, adding that her relatives in Ukraine have also fled their home. "We talk on the phone all the time. Soon they [will] be here.", the UNHCR reported.

Memory

It is this memory, and Poland's geographic location, that has also allowed it to become the main staging area for a more deadly form of aid – anti-tank and anti-aircraft rockets, rifles, ammunition, weapons, armour and other war supplies, courtesy of Ukraine's western allies. Having suffered decades of Russian aggression, Poland has fully allowed itself to become one of the main supply routes for such items into Ukraine, as it continues to hold out against the Russian assault.

The Church continues to exhort the Faithful in Poland to donate to, and open up their homes to, Ukrainians affected by the conflict. Specific donation baskets and boxes for Ukraine stand in most churches, while the bishops and priests preach of how to be a good neighbour to the besieged country next door.

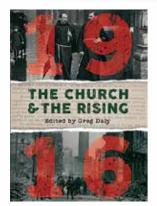
With nearly 700,000 Ukrainians having crossed safely into Poland after just one week of war, worst case estimates of between two to five million refugees look likely to be met. However, if the charitable Polish response continues, it's a warm welcome they can expect.

66 Up and down the border, an efficient humanitarian response awaits those flooding into the country, mainly women and children"

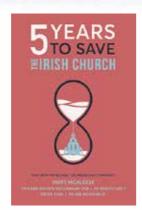


COLUMBA SUPER SALE

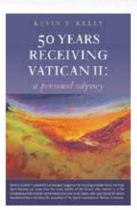




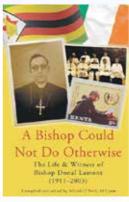
1916 The Church and the Rising Ed Greg Daly



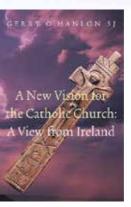
5 Years to Save the Irish Church Ed Mags Gargan



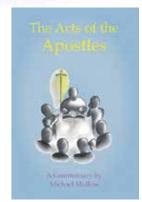
50 Years Receiving Vatican II Kevin T. Kelly



A Bishop Could Do Not Otherwise Ed Míceál O'Neill



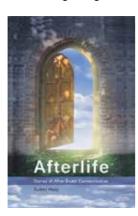
A New Vision for the Catholic Church Gerry O'Hanlon SJ



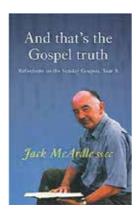
Acts of the Apostles Michael Mullins



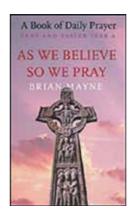
Adventures of a Book Collector Philip Murray



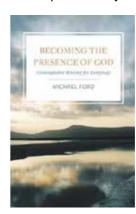
Afterlife Audrey Healy



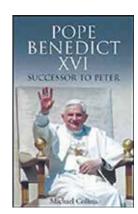
And that's the Gospel Truth Year A Jack McArdle ss cc



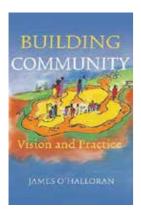
As We Believe so We Pray: Year A Brian Mayne



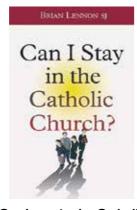
Becoming the Presence of God Michael Ford



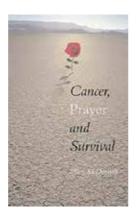
Pope Benedict XVI: Successor to Peter Michael Collins



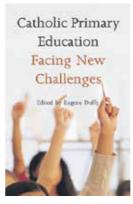
Building Community, Vision and Practice James O'Halloran



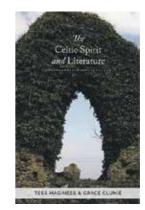
Can I stay in the Catholic Church Brian Lennon SJ



Cancer Prayer & Survival
Mary McDonnell



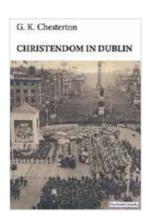
Catholic Primary Education Ed Eugene Duffy



Celtic Spirit and Literature Grace Clunie and Tess Maginess



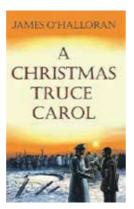
The Celtic Songlines
David Forsythe



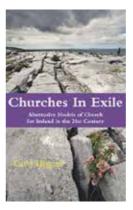
Christendom in Dublin G.K. Chesterton



Christianity in Ireland Eds Brendan Bradshaw and Dáire Keogh



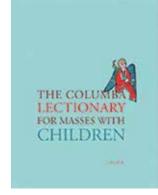
Christmas Truce Carol James O'Halloran



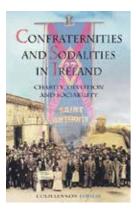
Churches in Exile Cathy Higgins



Clare's Wild Atlantic Way Patrick G. Ryan



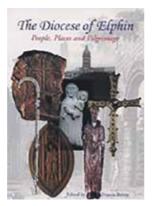
Columba Lectionary Masses with Children Year B Eds Sean McEntee and Michael Breen



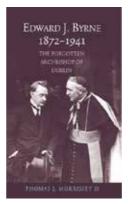
Confraternities and Sodalities Ed Colm Lennon



A Day at a Time Mary Kenny



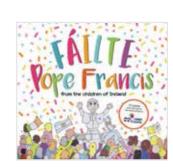
The Diocese of Elphin Francis M. Beirne



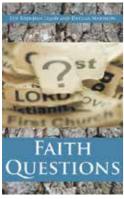
Edward J Byrne Thomas J. Morrissey SJ



An Endangered Species
Fr Jerry Daly



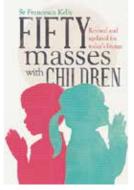
Fáilte Pope Francis Children of Ireland



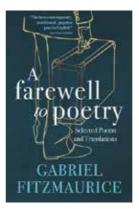
Faith Questions
Eds Brendan Leahy and Declan
Marimion



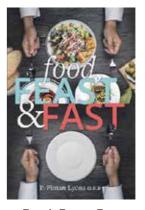
Father Browne's Trains and Railways E. E. O'Donnell



Fifty Masses with Children Sr Francesca Kelly



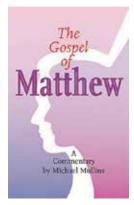
A Farewell to Poetry Gabriel Fitzmaurice



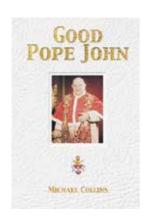
Food, Feast, Fast P. Fintan Lyons OSB



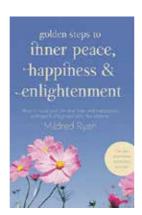
Funeral Homilies Liam Swords



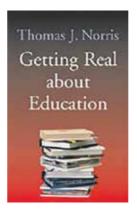
The Gospel of Matthew:
A Commentary
Michael Mullins



Good Pope John Michael Collins



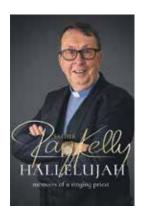
Golden Steps to Inner Peace & Enlightenment Mildred Ryan



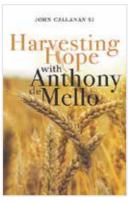
Getting Real about Education Thomas J. Norris



The Francis Effect DVD
Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation



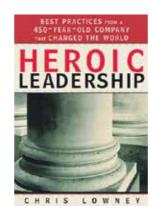
Hallelujah: Memoirs of a Singing Priest Fr Ray Kelly



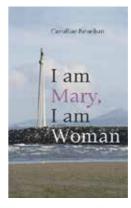
Harvesting Hope with Anthony de Mello John Callanan SJ



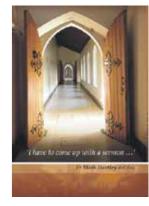
Heartbeat of the Seasons Kathleen Glennon



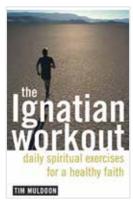
Heroic Leadership Chris Lowney



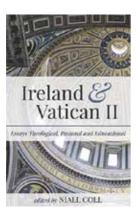
I am Mary, I am Woman Caroline Renehan



I have got to come up with a sermon Year A Fr Mark Hartley OCSO

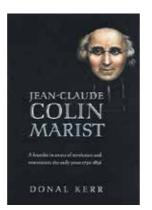


The Ignatian Workout
Tim Muldoon

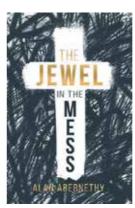


Ireland and Vatican II

Ed Niall Coll



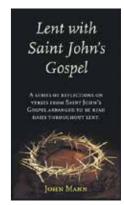
Jean Claude Colin Marist Donal Kerr



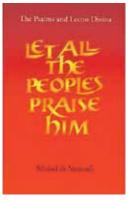
The Jewel in the Mess Alan Abernethy



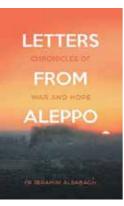
Joyce County Ray Burke



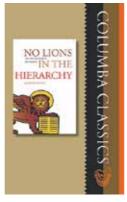
Lent with St John's Gospel John Mann



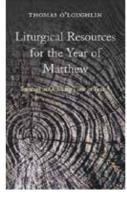
Let All the People Praise Him Michel de Verteuil



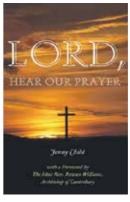
Letters from AleppoFr Ibrahim Alsabagh



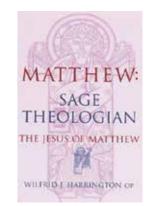
No Lions in the Hierarchy Joseph Dunn



Liturgical Resources Matthew's Year Thomas O'Loughlin



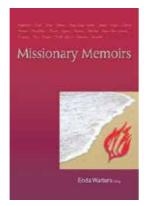
Lord, Hear Our Prayer Jenny Child



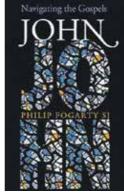
Matthew Sage Theologian Wilfrid Harrington OP



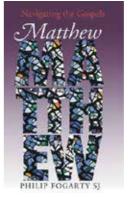
Sr Maureen's Selection of Irish Art Maureen MacMahon OP



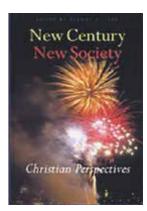
Missionary Memoirs Enda Watters CSSp



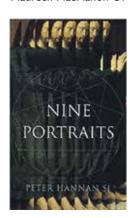
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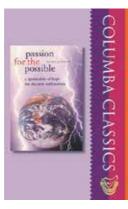
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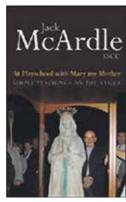
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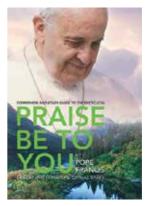
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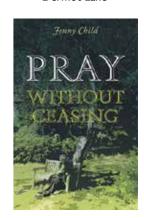
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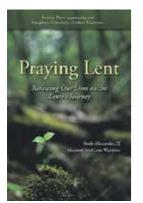
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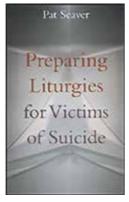
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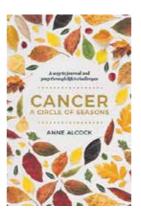
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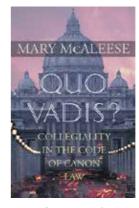
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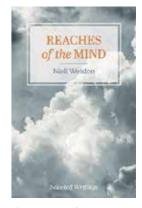
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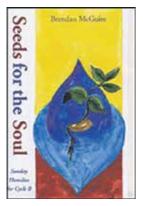
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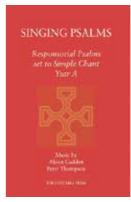
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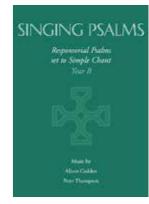
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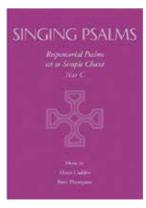
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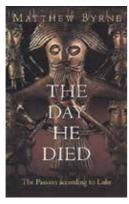
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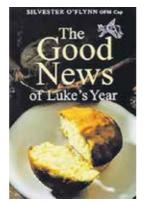
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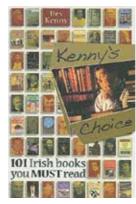
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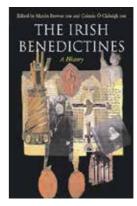
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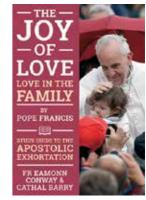
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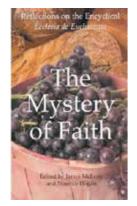
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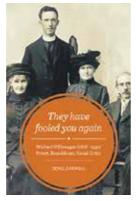
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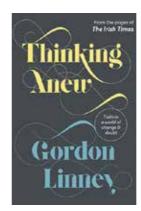
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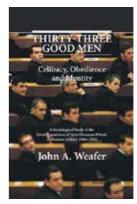
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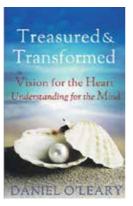
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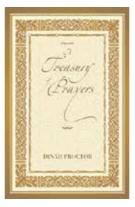
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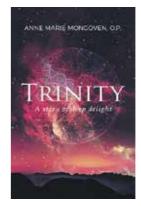
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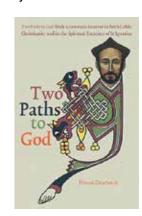
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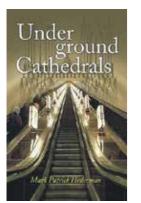
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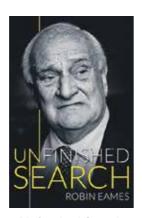
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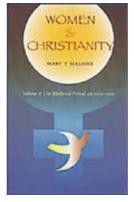
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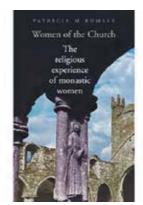
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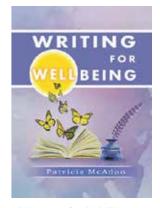
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IN BRIEF

Cardinal Bo fears 'nightmare scenario' of nuclear holocaust

 Cardinal Charles Maung Bo said on Friday that the "nightmare scenario" of a global nuclear holocaust was "becoming a possibility" following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The leader of the Catholic Church in strife-torn Burma said in a March 4 message that the world was on the brink of "selfannihilation"

"The world stands at an existential crossroads. The nightmare scenario of a global nuclear holocaust is frighteningly becoming a possibility," wrote the president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC).

"The massive attacks on Ukraine and the impending threat of use of Weapons of Mass Destruction have brought the world to the threshold of self-annihilation.

Advocates call for EU common 'day of rest'

 A network of civil and religious organisations are hoping that European leaders will follow God's lead in the Book of Genesis and declare a weekly day of rest.

In a statement published March 3, the European Sunday Alliance network called on political leaders to establish a "European weekly common day of rest," preferably on Sunday, since that traditionally was the common day off in Europe.

"In order to prevent a work environment that compromises the health and well-being of workers, it is crucial to ensure a right to disconnect, during the week but also during the weekend, with a work-free day," the network said.

Catholics invited to pray in St Peter's Basilica in Lent

• The Vatican is inviting Catholics to pray the Stations of the Cross in St Peter's Basilica every Friday during Lent.

Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, who is in charge of liturgies and maintenance of the Vatican basilica, said that the prayer, held at 4pm local time, will be accompanied by paintings of the Passion of Christ by the Italian artist Gaetano Previati (1852-1920)

The pieces, created in 1901-1902, depict the stages of Christ's Passion and death, which are the focus of the popular Lenten devotion known as the Way of the Cross, or Via Crucis.

Calls for consecration of Ukraine and Russia to Immaculate Heart of Mary

Ukraine's Latin Rite Catholic bishops have asked Pope Francis to consecrate Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In a letter to the Pope, the Ukrainian bishops said that they were writing "in these hours of immeasurable pain and terrible ordeal for our people" in response to many requests for the consecration.

"Responding to this prayer, we humbly ask Your Holiness to publicly perform the act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Ukraine and Russia, as requested by the Blessed Virgin in Fatima," said the letter, published on the bishops' website on Ash Wednesday, March 2.

Christians decry insecurity as threat to Nigerian elections

 Representatives of Christian leaders in Nigeria have expressed concern about persistent insecurity in the West African nation saying it constitutes the "biggest threat" to general elections scheduled to take place next year.

Addressing himself to members a delegation of the European Union (EU) led by Chief Election Observer, Maria Arena, the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev. Samson Ayokunle decried "security challenges, occasioned by the criminal activities of terrorists, bandits and kidnappers in the country"

Pope says 'rivers of blood and tears' flowing in Ukraine

"is ready to do everything to put itself at the service of peace" in Ukraine.

"Rivers of blood and tears are flowing in Ukraine," the Pope said March 6 as he led thousands of people in St Peter's Square in praying for peace after reciting the Ange-

Pope Francis said he was sending two cardinals to Ukraine: Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, who runs the office of papal charities, and Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny, interim president of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

"The presence of the two cardinals there is the presence not only of the Pope, but of all the Christian people who want to get closer and say: 'War is madness! Stop, please! Look at this cruelty!' the Pope said.

Moments after the Pope spoke, Cardinal Krajewski told Vatican News that he was about to leave Rome for Poland "because from Poland I am sure I will be able to enter Ukraine. Then we'll see how far I can get to reach the people and show them the closeness of the Pope, tell them he loves them, prays for them and wants to encourage

The cardinal also will bring rosaries from Pope Francis "because with prayer we can move mountains and even



People hold Ukraine's flag in St Peter's Square as Pope Francis leads the Angelus from the window of his studio overlooking the square at the Vatican March 6. Photo: CNS

stop the war," he said.

Cardinal Czerny told Catholic News Service that he would be heading to Hungary's border with Ukraine and would see what could be done from there.

Even if the cardinals cannot get into Ukraine, the Polish and Hungarian borders are the top two destinations of Ukrainians – mainly the elderly, women and children - fleeing the war.

The UN Refugee Agency said that as of March 5 more than 1.3 million Ukrainians

had fled the country since the Russian invasion began February 24; more than 750,000 of them had crossed into Poland and almost 170,000 had crossed into Hungary.

In his appeal, Pope Francis again praised the nations, charitable organisations and individuals helping the refu-

The need for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, "that tormented country, is growing dramatically by the hour," the Pope said.

"I make a heartfelt appeal

for humanitarian corridors to be genuinely secured, and for aid access to the besieged areas to be guaranteed and facilitated in order to provide vital relief to our brothers and sisters oppressed by bombs and fear," Pope Francis added.

He also thanked the journalists "who put their lives at risk to provide information. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for this service, a service that allows us to be close to the tragedy of that population and helps us assess the cruelty of a war."

Florida bishops applaud 15-week abortion ban

The Catholic bishops of Florida praised the state Legislature for passing a measure to prohibit most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

H.B. 5 also includes provisions to improve infant health and analyse and reduce foetal and infant mortality.

While we continue to look forward to the day when the full protection of unborn life is recognised in law, we are encouraged that H.B. 5 further limits the grave harm that abortion inflicts upon women and children," said Christie Arnold, associate for social concerns and respect life at the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The conference, which is the public policy arm of the Catholic Church in Florida, said in a March 3 news release that Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has expressed support for this legislation and is expected to sign it into law.

"In an incremental, yet important, step, the bill provides at least eight additional weeks of protection for children in the womb. Current Florida law prohibits abortion when a child is viable, or able to survive outside the womb - currently closer to 24 weeks." the release said.

H.B. 5 "closely tracks" the Mississippi law at issue in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organisation case pending at the US Supreme Court, which could reverse "the unjust ruling" in Roe v. Wade, the conference noted.

"If the Supreme Court upholds Mississippi's law, Florida's legislation will likely be upheld."

Charity's new report highlights atrocities in Tigray

As Catholic officials in Tigray continue to call for meaningful peace talks and an end to atrocities and the humanitarian aid blockade, an international refugee organisation is warning that Eritrean refugees in the northern region have nowhere to run.

Refugees International, a

global organisation advocating for displaced and stateless people, said in a report released March 3 that the humanitarian situation in Tigray was abysmal, with atrocities similar to war crimes displacing at least 2.5 million people inside and out of the country.

"The Ethiopian government has blocked virtually all food and medical shipments into Tigray, using food as a weapon of war," Sarah Miller, a senior fellow with Refugees International, said in the report. Nowhere to Run: Eritrean Refugees in Tigray.

With starvation deaths mounting each day and nearly 900,000 people in famine conditions, there are fears that the current situation in Ethiopia will mirror the Great Famine of the 1980s, when more than 1 million people died of starvation.



Edited by Jason Osborne jason@irishcatholic.ie

Lights in Darkness



A girl with Ukrainian heritage lights a candle during Mass at a Ukrainian Orthodox church in Canoas, Brazil, March 3. Photo: CNS

Argentine Bishop Zanchetta convicted of sexually abusing seminarians

Bishop Gustavo Zanchetta was sentenced to four and a half years in prison on Friday, March 4, after an Argentine court found him guilty of sexually abusing seminarians.

Bishop Zanchetta, 58, pleaded not guilty to the charge of "aggravated continued simple sexual abuse committed by a recognised minister of religion" on February 21. He was accused of abusing two seminarians, who were identified by the acronyms "G.G.F.L." and "C.M."

The two victims said that Bishop Zanchetta had made "amorous proposals" and had requested "massages" from the two

Journalist Silvia Noviatsky posted a photo on Twitter commenting that "relatives and friends of seminarians are crying outside" the court because the sentence against Bishop Zanchetta "was very little for the damage he did".

Bishop Zanchetta led the Diocese of Orán, located in northern Argentina, from 2013 until 2017. His episcopal appointment was one of the first done by Pope Francis in his native Argentina.

He stepped down in 2017, claiming "health reasons," and was subsequently appointed as an assessor at

the Vatican's Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See (APSA), a specially created position. The APSA oversees the Vatican's real estate holdings and other sovereign assets.

As of June 2021, he was no longer with the APSA. He previously had been suspended, then reinstated, from the role amid a canonical investigation into his conduct.

Bishop Zanchetta's trial, which was initially set to begin in October, was delayed four months at the request of his attorney. The defence attorney had asked the judges to wait for the files

of the canonical process that Bishop Zanchetta is undergoing at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The Vatican has not yet publicised any information regarding the canonical process and any determinations that have been reached regarding Bishop Zanchetta.

After the bishop's conviction on Friday, the magistrates ordered the immediate arrest of the bishop and that, as the sentence has been determined, that he be registered "in the Genetic Data Bank."

German Catholic bishops' leader seeks Church change on sexuality

The chairman of the German Catholic bishops' conference has called for changes to Church teaching on sex outside of marriage and homosexuality.

In an interview with the German magazine Bunte published on March 4, Bishop Georg Bätzing agreed with the journalist's assertion that "no one" adhered to the Church's teaching that sexuality should only be practiced within marriage, saying: "That's true. And we have to somewhat change the Catechism on this matter. Sexuality is a gift from

God. And not a sin."

Asked if same-sex relationships were permissible, the German prelate replied: "Yes, it's OK if it's done in fidelity and responsibility. It doesn't affect the relationship with God."

Bishop Bätzing, the bishop of Limburg, western Germany, added: "How someone lives their personal intimacy is none of my business."

No one employed by the Church should be afraid of losing their job because of this he said The German theologian Martin Brüske sharply criticised Bishop Bätzing's comments in an interview with CNA Deutsch.

"Bishop Georg Bätzing's argument here is tricky," he said. "He is implying that the Catechism and thus the tradition of the Church are somehow saying that sexuality is sin. What I would like to know from him is this: Where does he find such a statement in the Catechism or in Church tradition?"



Pope Francis to visit Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan

 Pope Francis will visit the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan in July, the Vatican has annunced

The Holy See press office said March 3 that the Pope would visit the African nations July 2-7, "at the invitation of their respective heads of state and bishops".

He will spend July 2-5 in the Congolese cities of Kinshasa and Goma, and July 5-7 in the South Sudanese capital Juha

"The programme and further details of the journey will be announced in due course," the press office said.

Pope Francis will become the first pope to visit South Sudan, which became the world's newest country when it declared independence from the Republic of the Sudan on July 9, 2011. The nation in east-central Africa has a population of 11 million people, around 37% of whom are Catholic.

In 2019, Pope Francis brought South Sudanese leaders together at the Vatican for a "spiritual retreat" aimed at resolving their differences.

The archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is expected to join the Pope in Juba, along with the moderator of the Church of Scotland, Jim Wallace.

Pope talks to cancer league about power of redemptive suffering

• Pope Francis met with a cancer association at the Vatican on Friday and shared a reflection on how there is power and meaning in human suffering when it is united to Christ.

"If one becomes a sharer in the sufferings of Christ, this happens because Christ has opened his suffering to man, because he himself in his redemptive suffering has become, in a certain sense, a sharer in all human sufferings," Pope Francis said, quoting St John Paul II.

"Man, discovering through faith the redemptive suffering of Christ, also discovers in it his own sufferings; he rediscovers them, through faith, enriched with a new content and new meaning."

The Pope met with members of the Italian League for the Fight against Cancer on March 4 and pointed the group to St John Paul II's apostolic letter on redemptive suffering, Salvifici doloris.

Redemptive suffering, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, means that "by his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering".

Suffering "can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion," it says in paragraph 1505.

Belarusian Bishops express solidarity with Ukraine

• The Belarusian Catholic Church stands in solidarity with Ukraine while pleading for Belarus not to take an active part in the aggression waged by Russia against its neighbour.

Belarusian President, Aleksandr Lukashenko, is a close ally of Vladimir Putin and since the outbreak of the war, on 24 February, Russian troops in Belarus have been allowed passage into Ukraine by Belarusian border guards.

Belarus's air defence and traffic control systems, along with the country's fuelling stations, have also been made available to Moscow.

In a statement released on 3 March, Belarusian Bishops expressed their full support to Pope Francis's and the Holy See's ongoing appeals for peace and to the tentative negotiations taking place in Belarus to end hostilities and find ways of reconciliation.

"But in order for the parties to listen to each other, weapons must be silenced," they said.

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LetterfromRome



John L. Allen Jr

ver the weekend, I spent some time with a group of journalists visiting Rome from the States, part of a special events unit within their news agency trying to get ready for whenever the next papal conclave occurs – or, as I call it, the "Big Show".

We were standing outside a Roman landmark when one of the journos turned to me, more or less out of the blue, and said: "Everything in the world has become so surreal ... first the Trump presidency, then Covid, and now Russia in Ukraine starting World War III. Really, the only word is 'surreal'."

To which I replied, "Yeah, it's like we went to bed one night in a Grant Wood painting and woke up in something by Salvador Dali."

It was really just a cheap one-liner, but the more I think about it, the more I suspect Dali might actually be a good point of reference for the Catholic Church in a world that looks increasingly like the melted clocks in *The Persistence of Memory*.

Born in Catalonia in 1904, Dali's family was headed by a fiercely anti-clerical father, and he definitely inherited the gene. In early 20th Century Europe, after the thick blanket of centuries-old clerical control was finally ripped away, it was almost as if there was an arms race to see who could vent their spleen about the Church in the most outrageous fashion.

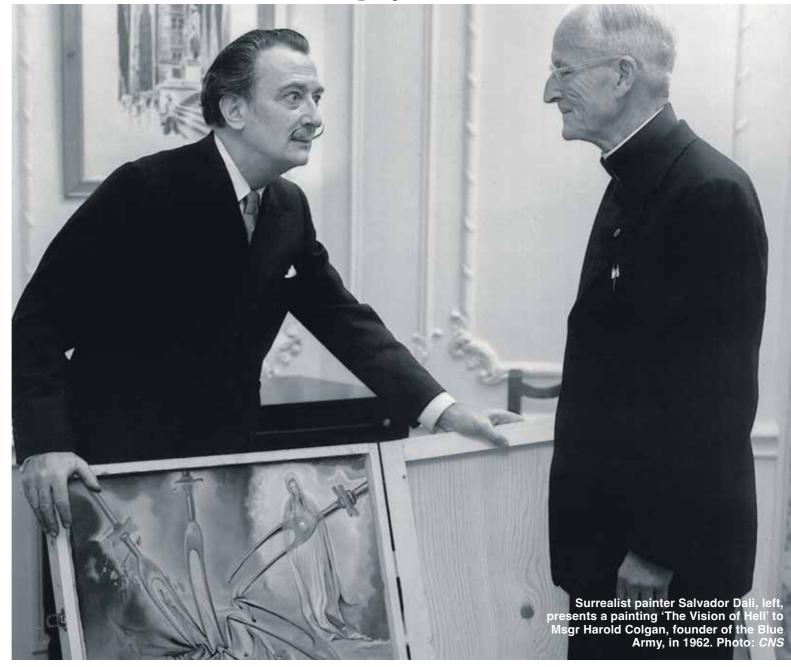
Honestly, if anti-clericalism were an Olympic event, the young Dali probably would have been in contention for the gold medal.

He achieved his greatest commercial success in the United States in the 1940s and then returned home, where he promptly declared himself a Spanish Nationalist"

In 1928, Dali collaborated on a movie by Germaine Dulac called *The Seashell and the Clergyman*, considered one of the first surrealist films and pivoting on the erotic hallucinations of a priest who lusts after a general's wife. The film conveys just about every lurid prejudice against Catholic clergy imaginable, but that was just a prelude to the storm that broke over Dali's painting *The Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ*, which contains the deliberately provocative expression, "Sometimes, I spit for fun on my mother's picture."

Even Dali's dad drew the line at that, demanding that he apologise,

Is Salvador Dali an apt 'patron saint' for an increasingly surreal world?



and, when he didn't, violently kicking him out of the family home. (The father was also upset that Dali was romantically involved with a sexually adventurous Russian emigree named Gala, who would later become Dali's wife and lifelong muse.)

Trade

Outrageousness was more or less Dali's stock in trade, both in life and art. He achieved his greatest commercial success in the United States in the 1940s and then returned home, where he promptly declared himself a Spanish Nationalist and supporter of the regime of Francisco Franco. His love affair with *El Caudillo* cost him much affection within the surrealist movement – Pablo Picasso, for one, never mentioned his name again for the rest of his life.

At around the same time, Dali also began his celebrated "return", after a fashion, to the Catholic faith. In 1949, he created a study of what would eventually become his *Madonna*

of Port Lligat and presented it to Pope Pius XII in a private Vatican audience. (Among other things, Dali needed the pontiff to grant Gala an annulment so the couple could be married in a Catholic ceremony. She'd been married before in the Russian Orthodox Church, whose sacraments are considered valid by Catholic teaching.)

Dali would also be received by Pope John XXIII in 1959 to present "Good Pope John" with a study for his 1960 painting *The Ecumenical Council*, celebrating the summit of bishops announced by John XIII that would run from 1962 to 1965 and become known as "Vatican II".

Mysticism

Dali went on to enter a period in his work he called "Nuclear Mysticism", which was, as he described it anyway, an attempt to blend the insights of Einsteinian physics with classicism and Christian mysticism.

However, it was often difficult to know how serious Dali was about anything – other, that is, than promoting Salvador Dali. Bear in mind that the aged Dali once said of himself, "When you are a genius, you do not have the right to die, because we are necessary for the progress of humanity."

When Dali was dying in 1989 at the age of 84, he asked for a Catholic priest and received the last rites"

He seemed to genuinely love and cherish his wife but had no problem sharing her sexually with others. (He was said to be a practitioner of Candaulism, which, to be honest, I didn't even know was a thing, but apparently it has to do with sharing sexual images of your partner with a third party for voyeuristic delight.)

His ambiguity certainly extended to Catholicism. Famously, he defined

himself as a "Catholic with no faith", and his private life would appear to demonstrate that he wasn't big in the Catholic morals department either. As for Catholic social teaching, do remember that Dali once supported Franco's execution of three Basque terrorists by declaring, "Personally, I'm against freedom; I'm for the Holy Inquisition."

Still, when Dali was dying in 1989 at the age of 84, he asked for a Catholic priest and received the last rites.

That, I suppose is what makes the Salvador Dali story such an apt metaphor for our times. His own life was as messy, incoherent and jumbled as the entire world seems right now. However, when the end came, his internal compass pointed due north and he went to his rest reconciled with God and the Church.

In other words, if Salvador Dali could find his way home out of chaos (most of it, admittedly, selfinflicted), then maybe there's hope for us all.

Church leaders urge Russian patriarch to speak with Putin



Junno Arocho Esteves

atholic and Orthodox leaders in Europe have appealed to Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, urging him to convince Russian President Vladimir Putin to put an end to the bloodshed in Ukraine.

In an open letter published March 2, Romanian Orthodox Father Ioan Sauca, acting general secretary of the World Council of Churches, told Patriarch Kirill that he received numerous letters asking him to "approach Patriarch Kirill to mediate so that the war can be stopped and the suffering ended".

"In these times of hopelessness, many look to you as the one who could bring a sign of hope for a peaceful solution," Fr Sauca wrote.

"I write to Your Holiness as acting general secretary of the WCC but also as an Orthodox priest," he said. "Please, raise up your voice and speak on behalf of the suffering brothers and sisters, most of whom are also faithful members of our Orthodox Church."

Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki of Poznan, president of the Polish bishops' conference, echoed Fr Sauca's sentiments, calling on the Russian patriarch "to appeal to Vladimir Putin to stop the senseless warfare against the Ukrainian people".

In the letter published by the Polish bishops' conference March 2, Archbishop Gadecki also called on Patriarch Kirill to urge Russian soldiers "not to take part in this unjust war, to refuse to carry out orders which, as we have already seen, lead to many war crimes"

'I implore the patriarch of Moscow to exert his influence on this president so that the war can be ended, so that the weapons can be laid down,' Cardinal Marx said"

"Refusing to follow orders in such a situation is a moral obligation," the Polish archbishop wrote.

Appealed

German Cardinal Reinhard Marx of Munich and Freising had appealed publicly to Patriarch Kirill during a February 27 liturgy at the Ukrainian Catholic cathedral in Munich.

"I implore the patriarch of Moscow to exert his influence on this president so that the war can be ended, so that the weapons can be laid down," Cardinal Marx said.



Bishops, he added, are not politicians, "but we have the mission and the duty to proclaim the Gospel of peace, especially to those who think they can use violence and terror to achieve political goals."

achieve political goals."
Although he has prayed for the safety of civilians and a quick end to the fighting, Patriarch Kirill has been criticised for his close relationship with President Putin and his lack of support for Ukrainian independence and territorial integrity.

Liturgy

At a divine liturgy in Moscow February 27, three days after Russia launched its invasion, Patriarch Kirill said, "We must not let dark and hostile external forces laugh at us; we must do everything to maintain peace between our peoples and at the same time protect our common historical fatherland from all

outside actions that can destroy this unity."

The statement prompted an immediate response from Orthodox Metropolitan Epiphanius of Kyiv, head of the independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine, who said the Russian patriarch seemed more concerned with "keeping Putin and the Russian leadership engaged" than taking care of the Ukrainian people, "some of whom considered you their shepherd before the war".

Effective

"Therefore, it makes no sense to ask you to do anything effective to make Russia's aggression against Ukraine stop immediately," he wrote.

Nevertheless, Epiphanius wrote that if the Russian patriarch could not speak out against the invasion, he should at least help facilitate the return of the bodies of "more than 3,000" Russian soldiers who "paid for the ideas of the 'Great Russia' with their lives"

"May the Lord give you spiritual strength at least for this, especially today, Sunday, when we remember the Last Judgment!" he wrote February 27.

'It makes no sense to ask you to do anything effective to make Russia's aggression against Ukraine stop immediately'"

The bishops' synod of Ukraine's other Orthodox church, which is in full communion with Patriarch Kirill and the Russian Orthodox Church,

also pleaded with the patriarch to "call on the leadership of the Russian Federation to immediately stop hostilities that are already threatening to turn into a world war," according to the website of Ukraine's Union of Orthodox Journalists.

Presidents

Addressing both President Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the synod asked them to "do everything possible to put an end to the sin of armed confrontation between our two fraternal peoples and start the negotiation process."

"This terrible war has already dealt a heavy blow to relations between the Ukrainian and Russian peoples. If the bloodshed is not stopped, the gap between our peoples may remain forever," the statement said.

The bishops' synod encouraged the people of Ukraine to remain united in the hope that "common sense will prevail and this war will end soon".

"Only in unity is our strength," the statement said. "We pray the Lord to enlighten the rulers with the light of his grace. We believe that the merciful Lord will accept our prayer work and forgive us our sins. And in the near future, the peace of God will once again reign in our blessed Ukrainian land!"

66'May the Lord give you spiritual strength at least for this, especially today, Sunday, when we remember the Last Judgment!"

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Post to: Letters to the Editor, The Irish Catholic, Unit 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, D18 K277 or email: letters@irishcatholic.ie

Letter of the week

Stopping handshake as sign of peace

Dear Editor, A few weeks ago, the bishops' conference recommended the continuation of a number of protective measures to ensure the safety and well-being of the vulnerable or anxious members of the congregation. This included the suspension of a handshake as the sign of peace. At a recent meeting in my diocese, it was discussed that more than likely, the handshaking will stop indefinitely, as even before the pandemic, many people were uncomfortable shaking hands with people around them.

What concerns me is that there appears to be an understanding that the sign of peace is now being omitted from the Mass, which should not be the case, and will lead to confusion across parishes and dioceses.

What we have implemented into the five local churches in my two parishes, is to maintain the sign of peace but to refrain from shaking hands at this time. I have suggested to use the custom of bowing to the other person, hold up your hand and nod saying "peace be with you" or to simply pause and pray for peace. I am happy to report - this is working well here and is well received by many people who celebrate Mass online and on RTÉ News, particularly giving a sign of peace to those who celebrate and watch alone at home or in hospital. It always warms my hearts

when I see one man who always sits by himself in a corner at Mass, look up, wave, and smile to everyone in the church, so no one is left out and feels included in the Mass.

So, while I have discontinued exchanging peace by the shaking of hands at Mass, I have not omitted it from the Mass, as I feel I cannot do this. I would hope that the bishops could recommend a new local custom for Ireland across all dioceses and parishes be implemented.

> Fr Michael Toomey Ardfinnan & Newcastle/ Fourmilewater Parishes. Co. Tipperary

Significant sensitivities in area of abortion

Dear Editor, The pro-life campaign have described Sinn Fein's exclusion bill as a "smear" against the pro-life movement and have claimed that it would curtail the fundamental rights of pro-life supporters to exercise their democratic right to assemble in public [The Irish Catholic - February 17, 2022). While accepting that people have such rights, I consider nevertheless that it needs to be borne in mind that there are significant sensitivities in this area.

A woman minded to seek an abortion might well be in a fragile state and experiencing difficulties in her personal life. In such a situation she might see an abortion as the only possible way of resolving her problems. She might therefore feel intimidated by people assembling in close proximity to the entrances to hospitals and GP practices.

Yours etc., Michael Walsh Clontarf, Dublin



The proper use of the gift of speech

Dear Editor, The article by Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap. 'Your words flow out of what fills your heart' is such living water, [The Irish Catholic

- February 24, 2022],it is a deeply reflective and beautifully crafted piece of writing on the proper use of the gift of speech, something we all

need to be reminded of regularly. Fr O'Flynn very helpfully grounds his insights in biblical and scriptural references including Luke 6:39-45; Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7 and James 3:6 so that one can go and read these original sources to deepen one's own appreciation for the power

of words and our obligation to use them well in our discourse with others. His suggestion that we make a Lenten resolution about the proper use of the gift of speech is very welcome, and if taken seriously, likely to have a profound effect. The prayer on the gift of speech

provided at the end of the article is very helpful in this regard. Thank you Fr O'Flynn. This week's edition of The Irish Catholic is worth its weight in gold because of your article.

> Yours etc. Dr Noreen O'Carroll Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Damaging the unity of the Church and her mission

Dear Editor. In Letters [The Irish Catholic – March 3, 2022], Sean O'Conaill claims that the concept of a 'hierarchy of truths', as set forth in Vatican II, helps justify and guide his approach to synodality.

Unfortunately for him, and for the many others who present this same 'argument' and reference to the council, this claim overlooks the rather blatant fact that every item in a hierarchy of truths is a truth.

The items do not vary in their truth but in their relation to the central teachings of the faith, with some truths less central than others. Mr O'Conaill would like to treat only those articles of faith at the top (or centre) of the hierarchy as true or significant, but this is not what the council taught at all.

He would do well to read and take to heart the teaching of the council on the teaching authority (and responsibility!) of the Church in chapter 3 of Lumen Gentium, The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. This is a chapter often conveniently and completely ignored by 'progressive' Catholics claiming that several Catholic teachings may be reversed even whilst being faithful to the council and to the Faith. They often give attention only to the first two chapters of this document, and cherry

pick the parts they like. I'm afraid that we are going to hear a lot of nonsense spoken and written in this synodal process, trying to shanghai 'Vatican II' or 'the council' to the cause of questioning, discussing, throwing doubt on, and ultimately tearing down important truths and practices of the Faith. All this damages the unity of the Church and her mission to evangelise and sanctify. None of it expresses genuine love of God, Christ, and the Church. It is destructive: it does not build up.

Yours etc. Dr John Murray School of Theology, Dublin City University

acebook community

Each week we publish a selection of comments from The Irish Catholic Facebook page

Ireland's neutrality dubbed 'morally disgusting' as Ukraine wracked by war

I find Fr Murphy's views "morally disgusting" as Irish neutrality does not prevent Irish people and Government from providing everything other than military aid. I respect the beliefs of my many friends in Pax Christi and their support of conscientious objectors. Having said that I have no personal fixed view on Irish neutrality. - Alan Whelan

He needs to revise history, war creates irrational beliefs whereas neutral parties can bring stability. - Maire Cassells

Since Ireland has no army, I mean strong army, it is probably a wise decision. However Ireland is part of EU since the beginning which makes her neutral position a bit obsolete. - Guillaume Rouy

I think that's an overreaction to the policy, but neutrality is a moral cop-out. It wouldn't protect us if someone really wanted to invade and we could be part of NATO instead of relying on the charity of the UK or US for national defence.

What do you think? Join in the conversation on The Irish Catholic Facebook page

Catholic schools blamed for sectarianism

Dear Editor, There is presently a debate in the northern assembly regarding integrated education. Debate is always welcome and healthy. However, there are many of us who will object that Catholic schools are being blamed for sectarianism in our society. In recent days we have heard from senior political figures on the island of Ireland using terms such as "shamefully segregated".

Teachers and school boards are very worried and angered by the language used as they work conscientiously and tirelessly to promote a shared educational landscape. Teachers who worked in these schools (and those who have taken their place) have no need to feel guilty about sectarianism – because they have played no part in any form of sectarianism. Sectarianism has never played a part in the Catholic schools' focus on holistic education of the whole child – socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, and culturally. All - important is preparation for life, and a life of worth, - not merely a life of work.

Every school's vision is to enable all young people to meet their full potential, through access to a high-quality education irrespective of location, socio-economic background, ability, or gender. Parents want their children to receive the best education possible, and many want that education to have a religious focus. For Catholic parents, enrolment in a Catholic school is an important decision that impacts their children's education, but also for some, it will be through integrated education, or controlled sector, but for many others it will be faith-based, that is how it should be.

Yours etc.

Former SDLP assembly member and Mayor of Derry Derry City

Letters to the Editor

All letters should include the writer's full name, postal address and telephone numbers (day and evening). Letter writers may receive a subsequent telephone call from The Irish Catholic as part of our authentication process which does not amount to a commitment to publish.

We regret that we cannot give prior notice of a letter's publication date, acknowledge unpublished letters or discuss the

merits of letters. We do not publish pseudonyms or other formulae to conceal the writer's identity, such as "name and address with editor". We do not print letters addressed to someone else, open letters, or verse. Letters to the Editor should only be sent to The Irish Catholic, and not other publications. Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be shortened for space requirements.

nd the world





▲ ITALY: Humanitarian goods are staged for loading onto trucks as first aid transport to Ukraine at the Basilica of Santa Sofia, a religious and cultural centre for Ukrainian expatriates in Rome, March 3. Photos: CNS

■ UKRAINE: Workers from a local construction company carry anti-tank obstacles to be placed on roads around Kyiv as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, March 3.





VATICAN: People prepare donations from Vatican employees for Ukraine outside the Governatorato, a building housing the Vatican's governing offices



POLAND: Yulia Tankano is pictured with her two children, Maksim and Victoria, and the children's grandmother, Valya, at a "refugee hub" at a former supermarket in Przemysl, near the Ukrainian border.



RUSSIA: A Russian law enforcement officer in St Petersburg detains demonstrators during an anti-war protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

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n his farewell speech in John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he is going away but that he will leave us a parting gift, the gift of his peace, and that we will experience this gift in the spirit he leaves behind.

How does this work? How do we leave peace and a spirit behind us as we go?

This is not something abstract, but something we experience (perhaps only unconsciously) all the time in all our relationships. It works this way. Each of us brings a certain energy into every relationship we have, and when we walk into a room, that energy in some way affects what everyone else in the room is feeling. Moreover, it will stay with them after we leave. We leave a spirit behind us.

Each of us brings a certain energy into every relationship we have"

For example, if I enter a room and my person and presence radiate positive energy: trust, stability, gratitude, concern for others, joy in living, wit, and humor, that energy will affect everyone in the room and will remain with them after I have left the room, as the spirit that I leave behind. Conversely, even though my words might try to say the contrary, if my person and presence radiate negative energy: anger, jeal-

ousy, bitterness, lying, or chaos, everyone will sense that, and that negative energy will remain with them after I leave, colouring everything I have left behind.

Broken

Sigmund Freud once suggested that we understand things the clearest when we see them broken, and that is true here. We see this writ large, for instance, in the case of how a long-term alcoholic parent affects his children. Despite trying not to do so, he will invariably bring a certain instability, distrust, and chaos into his family, and it will stay there after he is gone, as the spirit he leaves behind, short-term and long-term. His person and his presence will trigger a feeling of distrust and chaos, and the memory of him will do the same.

The same is true in reverse vis-à-vis those who bring positive energy, stability and trust, into a room. Unfortunately, often at the time, we do not sense the real gift that these persons bring and what that gift does for us. Mostly it is felt as an unspoken energy, not consciously perceived, and only later in our lives (often long after the persons who did that for us are gone) do we recognise and consciously appreciate what their presence did for us. This is true for me when I think back on the safety and stability of the home that my parents provided for me. As a child. I sometimes longed for more exciting parents and naively felt safety and stability more as boredom than as a gift. Years later, long after I had left home and learned from others how starved they were as kids for

Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com

safety and stability, I recognised the great gift my parents had given me. Whatever their human shortcomings, they provided my siblings and me with a stable and safe place within which to grow up. They died while we were still young, but they left us the gift of peace. I suspect the same is true for many of you.

As a child, I sometimes longed for more exciting parents and naively felt safety and stability more as boredom than as a gift"

This dynamic (wherein we bring either stability or chaos into a room) is something which daily colours every relationship we have, and is particularly true regarding the spirit we will leave behind us when we die. Death clarifies things, washes things clean, especially regarding how we are remembered and how our legacy affects our loved ones.

When someone close to us dies, our relationship to him or her will eventually wash clean and we will know exactly the gift or burden that he or she was in our lives. It may take some time, perhaps months, perhaps years, but we will eventually receive the spirit he or she left behind with clarity and know it as gift or burden.

And so, we need to take seriously the fact that our lives belong not just to us but also to others. Likewise our deaths do not belong only to us, but also to our families, our loved ones, and the world. We are meant to give both our lives and our deaths to others as gift. If this is true, then our dying is something that will impart either a gift or a burden to those who know us.

Bitterness

To paraphrase Henri Nouwen, if we die with guilt, shame, anger, or bitterness, all of that becomes part of the spirit we leave behind, binding and burdening the lives of our family and friends. Conversely, our dying can be our final gift to them. If we die without anger, reconciled, thankful for those around us, at peace with things, without recrimination and making others feel guilty, our going away will be a sadness but not a binding and a burdening. Then the spirit we leave behind, our real legacy, will continue to nourish others with the same warm energy we used to bring

66 Sigmund Freud once suggested that we understand things the clearest when we see them broken, and that is true here"

Family& Lifestyle The Irish Catholic, March 10, 2022

Personal Profile

Encountering God's loving presence in relationships

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ever this year. The great season of repentance and refocus comes as war erupts closer to home for us in Europe than it has in a long time. With reports of such threatening events arriving immediately in the wake of constant coverage of a major pandemic, the wave of anxiety and fear seems all but overwhelming. During Lent, we're supposed to recommit to God and enter into Christ's 40 days in the desert, but how is that possible when the apocalypse looms, as so many reports seem to insist?

These days are not heavy for us alone, but for children, too. Bad things were certainly happening during my childhood - 9/11, the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the 2004 Indian ocean tsunami rush to mind - but the heaviness of it didn't seem to press in upon me in the way it does children today. That's no doubt due in part to my parents' excellent curating of my childhood years, but it's also due to the wider availability of news and information now through smartphones and the

There's growing evidence that over-exposure to negative news affects mental health, notably in the form of increased anxiety,

depression and stress. I'd go further and say that it can affect our spiritual health, threatening our priorities and inducing a sense of hopelessness and lethargy if it's not carefully managed.

doom and gloom than ever,

and it's important to figure

out how to deal with it,

writes Jason Osborne

So how do you and your children go about Lent while bad news looms? How do we salvage Lent from the clutches of despair? While we'll turn to ways and means shortly, famed Christian author C.S. Lewis offered some thoughts on this in a lecture to Oxford students

War II threatened to burst forth.

Spiritual wisdom

In his lecture, Lewis addresses young people studying to become philosophers, scientists, scholars, critics, historians and more, saying:

"At first sight, this seems to be an odd thing to do during a great war. What is the use of beginning a task which we have so little chance of finishing? Or, even if we ourselves should happen not to be interrupted by death or military service, why should we - indeed how can we continue to take an interest in these placid occupations when the lives of our friends and the liberties of Europe are in the balance? Is it not like fiddling while Rome burns?

important to see the present calamity in a true perspective, which is to say, that the war doesn't present humanity with any "absolutely new situation: it simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it.

"If men had postponed the search for knowledge and beauty until they were secure, the search would never have begun," he says.

The basic idea is that crises don't really add anything new to the human picture. Every moment of every day, we either lean more towards heaven or towards hell than we had previously. With that being the case, war and the threat of war are

» Continued on Page 33

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AND EVENTS

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN TO KICK OFF IN APRIL

Registrations are now open for National Spring Clean 2022, which is calling all communities around Ireland to register for Ireland's largest and longest anti-litter campaign.

The National Spring Clean traditionally takes part in the month of April. For the past 23 years 85,000 clean-ups have been organised with volunteers dedicating a total of 12 million hours to remove around 42,000 tonnes of litter across the country.

National Spring Clean 2021 was the biggest and the longest campaign so far, taking place between March and August, and despite the current situation and restrictions at the start of the year, 5,543 groups registered to carry out clean-ups throughout the country and collected an estimated 3,000 tonnes of litter around Ireland

This year, building on the success of previous years, the hope is to make the National Spring Clean campaign the biggest yet.

The National Spring Clean programme is inviting people to visit the website at www. nationalspringclean.org to request a free clean-up kit.

SCIENTISTS PROPOSE TYRANNOSAURUS HAD THREE SPECIES

A group of researchers is proposing that Tyrannosaurus, the most famous of all dinosaurs and the ultimate apex predator, actually includes three species and not just the single T-Rex, based on thighbone and tooth variations among dozens of its fossils.

T-Rex, meaning "tyrant lizard king," has been the sole species of the genus Tyrannosaurus recognised since the dinosaur was first described in 1905.

A genus is a broader grouping of related organisms than a species.

A team of three researchers led by Baltimore-based independent paleontologist and paleoartist Gregory Paul said that variations they spotted in an examination of about three dozen Tyrannosaurus fossils warranted the recognition of two additional species: T-Imperator, meaning "tyrant lizard emperor," and T-Regina, meaning "tyrant lizard queen."

SHIP CARRYING LUXURY CARS TO US SINKS AFTER FIRE

A burnt-out cargo ship carrying thousands of luxury cars, including Porsches and Bentleys, has sank off the Portuguese Azores archipelago nearly two weeks after it caught fire, a port official said.

Joao Mendes Cabecas, the captain of the nearest port on the island of Faial, told Reuters the Panama-flagged Felicity Ace had sunk as efforts to tow it began due to structural problems caused by the fire and rough seas.

"When the towing started... water started to come in," he said. "The ship lost its stability and sank"

The blaze on the ship carrying around 4,000 vehicles made by Volkswagen Group from Germany to the United States, broke out on 16 February.

The 22 crew members were evacuated on the same day.



ope Francis' Lenten message to get off our smartphones and do good for others face-to-face is more relevant than ever. Sitting in our homes glued to the unfolding horror in Ukraine, or checking the constant updates on our phones can almost make us feel like we're really there. We post up Ukrainian flags and yellow and blue hearts, symbols of our solidarity, but wonder what we can really do to help.

Unlike wars years ago, our devices and technology allow us to see the reality of war on the 24/7 livestream from the streets of Kyiv. I spotted one man on a YouTube discussion wondering when the action would be beginning, as if we were just talking about some fantasy war game instead of the desperate reality. It becomes all too clear when we see distressing scenes of burnt-out tanks, bombed buildings and crying mothers cradling their tiny infants wondering what the future holds. Many must be wondering if they'll even have a future.

Overcome

When Pope Francis urged us to overcome our addiction to digital media, his aim was to encourage us to engage in a more integral form of human communication which he described as "the patient perseverance of the farmer" doing good one step at a time understanding that "the soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity".

This Lent, more than many others, there is an urgent need for fasting, prayer and charity. Ash Wednesday was an international day of prayer and fasting for Ukraine with Pope Francis appealing to people all over the world to join in prayer and penance. As we move on through Lent we can extend our fasting and maybe do a bit more than usual, offering it up for our suffering brothers



funny how intermittent fasting has become a bit of a health trend but it's something that Catholics are very familiar with. It's easier to unite ourselves with those who are hungry, suffering and scared when we are doing something that we find difficult or hard to bear.

This Lent, more than many others, there is an urgent need for fasting, prayer and charity"

Our neighbouring parish in Newbridge responded to the call to action by organising an allnight vigil of prayer for peace. Fr Ruairí O'Domhnaill PP invited people to come to the church saying that the people of the Ukraine wouldn't be sleeping that night so neither would we. What a great way to respond to Pope Francis' plea to do good in the world and to radiate the light of Christ to the world.

I've heard many parents wondering how to respond to their children's questions about the invasion and the fear of war and how they'll calm their worries and fears. Even with our best efforts, children are going to hear discussion about fighting and bombing and many will have seen news reports and debates on the topic. If they don't tune in to the political discussions, they can't fail to be moved by images in the media of so many thousands

having to leave their homeland with little more than a few precious belongings bundled into small cases or bags. Some children will have friends in school who are from Ukraine or surrounding areas and will be worried and concerned for their friends. My own son and daughter-in-law are making



room in their home for friends who are moving from a country not far from the conflict. concerned for their young son and month-old baby. It's easy to like a post on Facebook or Instagram saying 'No more war!' but what's really needed is those who are willing to go the extra mile in offering practical help, friendship and support. For children something as simple as making a card or donating a toy to a child who arrives on our shores gives the feeling that their efforts make a difference.

Peace altar

During Lent, it would be great to have a small peace altar in the house where the family can gather to pray. An ideal prayer in these troubled times is the beautiful 'Prayer for Peace' by St Francis of Assisi where we pray that we can sow love, pardon, faith and hope instead of hatred, injury, doubt and despair. When the whole world is talking of the darkness of war and hostilities, Christians continue to have a message of love. Pope St John Paul II said "war is always a defeat for humanity".

During Lent, it would be great to have a small peace altar in the house where the family can gather to pray"

While others discuss weapons and fighting, we can give our children a great example by talking of peace and how our greatest weapon is prayer. Saint Oscar Romero said that peace was not the product of terror or fear or the silence of cemeteries. It's not the silent result of violent repression. He said that peace is "the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all". Joined in prayer, especially at the celebration of the Eucharist, we pray for all the peoples of the world and for an end to violence and war. Another great prayer is the rosary which we could say as a family during Lent praying for all those affected by war. The calming words of this traditional prayer are the very opposite of the guns of war. Bishop Romero said that "Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty". Words to sustain us as we struggle to be bearers of the good news that love, not hate will save our world.

» Continued from Page 31



just a change of setting, making our dramatic situation more obvious.

How does this tie into the 'problem' of overwhelmingly negative and apocalyptic news? It puts it in perspective, and Lent is the perfect time for that. "You are dust, and to dust you shall return," the book of Genesis tells us, and Lent reminds us. Whether it happens to be peacetime or a time of pandemic and war, our mortality is never far from us. To obsess over our security and prosperity upon hearing doomsday news implies we've forgotten our fleeting nature, and our total dependence on God at all times, in sickness and in health, in peace and during unrest.

It's important to engage with a child at their level of development, and with care for their temperament"

It's one thing to realise this, though, and another thing to put it into practice and allow our trust in God and his plan for our life to inform our Lenten days and those of our families. So how do we protect ourselves and our families from the corrosive effects of too much negative news? As follows.

For children

Parents have a duty to shelter their children according to their age and their capacity. As mentioned above, my parents did a great job at ensuring myself and my brother were never exposed to content that increased anxiety or otherwise affected our wellbeing, and that's informed my own understanding of a parent's role going forward.

Dr Colman Noctor writing for the *Irish Examiner* says that when developing a socially conscious child without having them lie awake at night worrying about Covid-19 or World War III, it's important to work with the child's temperament.

He writes that with temperament being an essential feature of personality, it's important parents learn to work with their child's temperament, rather than trying to change it. Rather than trying to make a meek child bold or a bold child meek, it's better to teach the meek child to be less meek, and the bold child to be less bold. As such, when considering how to share or curate the news with your child, their temperament and their capacity must be taken into account.

It's important to engage with a child at their level of development, and with care for their temperament. Few children can handle the complexity of the world and its issues, requiring simpler narratives and explanations than adults. This is ok, as long as the child comes away with an appreciation for balanced understanding rather than a polarised worldview.

Encouraging safe, independent thought

Books and documentaries (parent vetted, of course, depending on the child's age and abilities) strike me as a better way for a child to engage with current affairs or the ways of the world than pure, unfiltered social media.

Social media rarely allows for nuance or depth, more likely offering a polarised, one sided narrative, depending on where you're



looking. Rather, off-line discussion about issues, far from out of context clips, soundbites and overwhelming 'takes' are what to aim for when it comes to helping a child engage with the topical issues of the day.

For adults

Engaging with the news as an adult requires discipline and balance, both of which require effort in all walks of life. Lent offers the perfect opportunity to adopt these traits, so here are a couple of suggestions that might help you to tidy up and manage your engagement with the news this Lent.

 Read print editions where possible, giving both your eyes and mind a rest from the speedy, bright world of the internet.

Social media rarely allows for nuance or depth, more likely offering a polarised, one sided narrative, depending on where you're looking"

• Have dedicated times for checking or reading the news, whether that's once a day in the morning, or at a couple of dedicated times throughout the day. Anything works so long as it isn't an overbearing presence that begins to cause you anxiety.

• Remember it's ok not to have an opinion on everything you read. Oftentimes, people rush to express their opinion based on very little news or information. Remember that not all issues require a heartfelt opinion, and that it's ok to be aware of an issue without committing to it deeply.

Even these few simple tips should help you and your children to remain engaged and informed, while keeping a necessary distance between you and the prophecies of doomsday that seem to ring out all about us.

Dad's Diary

Rory Fitzgerald

ur house is now in its

third week of quarantine, as one Covid case led inexorably to another and another, until the entire family had been infected. Last week, it was my turn to come down with Covid. I had spent the previous week looking after my wife and sick kids as they isolated upstairs. The main reason for them isolating was so that we had at least one functioning adult in the house, able to look after the kids, at all times. Thankfully, this strategy worked. My wife recovered, just as I succumbed. Yet because one of the kids still hadn't had the illness, it was then my turn to isolate, in the hope they might

At first, all seemed well. Despite a few headaches and minor symptoms, I was able to continue working online. Indeed, isolation was pleasant enough initially. I enjoyed taking my turn to be served meals in bed, while watching Netflix in the evenings. Yet I was anxious too, with the same virus which killed my mother coursing in my veins – just a week after the first anniversary of her death. Although triple vaccinated. I still couldn't be sure how it would progress.

Bathroom

As the days wore on, the bathroom began to seem further and further away. Getting there seemed increasingly like climbing a mountain. I became weighed down under a leaden weight of fatigue, as my body fought the virus and my temperature rose. The mere act of getting out of bed was something I had to plan for in advance, steeling myself for the challenge. I avoided most of the respiratory symptoms, but not the terrible fatigue and brain fog that so often comes with Covid.

Soon, I wasn't quite sure what day of the week it was. Nor did I particularly care. My world shrunk to my little room. All that was important was to be able to reach for the glass of water, and to be able to message my wife for food or medicine. Those were the logistical achievements needed for survival. Other than that, I simply stared at the wall, or at a screen, often quite uncomprehendingly.

The worst stage of the illness coincided with two severe storms. My mind swam, floating in and out of consciousness, as the wind howled outside and trees



crashed down. I didn't care, and nor was I altogether sure that it was all real anyhow, since the world seemed very strange and dreamlike. I looked out the window to see that an enormous 150-year-old beech tree in our garden had crashed down. It made no odds to me though, since it hadn't crashed into my room. That was all I cared about



 the little womb of a room that kept me warm. To add to this strange and vaguely nightmarish scene, news filtered through of the impending invasion of Ukraine, and of Putin's sinister threats of nuclear devastation.

Those kids who had already had the virus could come to visit me in my sickbed, and chat for a while. Each visit lifted my heart. Even the smallest took pride in bringing me fruit and little cards she had made. Every day, she came up with a new card behind her back as a big surprise. The older kids were amazing, taking on real responsibilities on those days when my wife had to work. Aged 11 and 12, they cooked hearty full meals for me and the other kids, and even baked bread and tidied the house.

The effects of the virus slowly began to retreat as the days wore on in a haze. Soon, it became possible to venture into the garden and before long I could manage the outside world at large. Yet the strange after effects of the virus still linger in the background. Of course, just as I began to recover the final child in the house also tested positive. Well, now at least now all six of us have had the virus. As restrictions ease, the reality is that most of the population is going to get covid in the coming weeks and months. Thankfully, though, the lesser severity of Omicron means that it is less dangerous than before, but it is certainly no picnic either. Yet, with the illness almost behind us, our beleaguered household can now, at last, begin to look forward to a brighter spring.

Encountering God's loving presence in relationships



Jason Osborne

ichelle Ward's faith wasn't always as strong as it is now, but God has always spoken to her through the relationships in her life.

Speaking to The Irish Catholic newspaper, Mrs Ward says that she grew up with a mother who was very strong in her faith, and it was how this faith sustained her in hardship that spoke to her as a teenager.

"When I was around 16-17, our family experienced, I suppose, my parents' relationship broke up for a while. At the time, it was a huge deal and at that time in particular my mam was extremely hurt. I saw her turn to prayer during that time and that was a huge witness to me," Mrs Ward explains.

"I saw how my mother really clung to faith and the rosary. I was really struck by that because I couldn't understand it. I was full of anger, why would God allow such a thing to happen if there was a God? And yes, there was my mother clinging to faith...I saw how it gave her so much strength, but after a year, I saw huge healing take place in my family and really with my father in particular, it was almost like a miracle happened before my eyes.

True miracle

She says it really was like experiencing a "true miracle" as her father became a "totally different man" to the one she'd known.



Michelle Ward with her husband, Joe

"I was 17 and he was so much more available. He was extremely remorseful as well, and my mother was so forgiving of him. That for me had to have been her faith in God. I really felt that God had played a huge part in my dad changing and in his healing. They got back together and we had a totally different family unit from then on," she says.

lt's an amazing way to grow closer to God in the busyness of my day. and in how I love my husband and my child"

It wasn't a hop, skip and a jump back into the depths of a relation-ship with God, though, as anyone with any relationship with God knows. However, Mrs Ward became "intrigued" by God as a result of this episode, and one way or another. it would keep her pursuing him until

she reached the security in faith she's achieved today.

Experiences

Mrs Ward enjoyed powerful experiences of God with a friend through a charismatic prayer group, in which the Holy Spirit truly spoke to them both. A move to Dublin, though, sepa rated her from this community, and the anonymous, party-based lifestyle of the city for a young person thrust her into a dark place.

"I just cried out to God and he really answered me. The next day, I heard from this one Christian that I knew, really, and out of the blue, I hadn't heard from her in two years, she invited me to go on a pilgrimage. It was so, so random that I knew God was answering my prayer," Mrs Ward

"I went, over to Poland. I was volunteering with other young Christians and we were helping out at an orphanage and then at an old folks home with survivors of the Holocaust. It was only for a short while, but it really took me out of myself. I wasn't so inward looking anymore.

"I was here putting smiles on these old folks' and kids' faces and I started to get meaning and purpose back myself, my heart started to soften up. Then again by providence, very shortly after I came back from Poland, about a week later, I ended up going to Medjugorje for the first time.

The trip to Medjugorje was to prove utterly transformative, with Mrs Ward's mother's words ringing in her ears about its life-changing

"I went anyway to Medjugorje, I was out there for a couple of days. I went to Confession and I met the most amazing priest out there who's still my spiritual director,' she says.

"At the time, the Holy Spirit spoke through him, and I just gave a full-hearted confession and talked to a priest in a way that I'd never talked to one before. Afterwards I was so free. I had such a lift off my shoulders. I felt my eyes had opened up on so many different levels. I had such an experience of God's love for me, and it was so personal, and everything changed then for me."

I went anyway to Medjugorje, I was out there for a couple of days. I went to Confession and I met the most amazing priest"

She came away from Medjugorje "a different person", and travelled to Los Angeles not long after this. However, Medjugorje wasn't done with her, and she returned for a second trip, during which she had a pivotal encounter with the youth group, Pure in Heart. On her first trip to Medjugorje, the priest she confessed to spoke beautifully of the Church's

teachings on sexuality, focusing on the "beauty and truth of it", rather than approaching it in a "fire and brimstone" manner. It was enough to convict Mrs Ward of the importance of this charism.

"That's when I met members of Pure in Heart out there in Mediugorie and met that community. I started to go to Pure in Heart. and that's when I decided to work with them. I actually worked with the Pure in Heart mission team as well for about 15 months, giving retreats."

Mission

That wouldn't be the end of her mission life, though. Studying English and Theology in Maynooth, she became a teacher, but left to commit herself fully to evangelisation-based work. It was while working with the Dublin Diocese that she settled fully into God's plan for her life as a wife and a mother, a calling she says she always knew she had.

The marriage vocation is "huge", she says, and is an "amazing way" to grow closer to God.

'It's an amazing way to grow closer to God in the busyness of my day, and in how I love my husband and my child," she says.

"Also in receiving their love for me, allowing myself to be loved by God as well through them. Having to juggle and make my own separate time for the Lord as well, that's really important. Keeping community alive through my friendships as well, with other mothers in particular who would be in their faith. That's very important to me too, that we help each other.'

A profound journey with and trust in God have lead Mrs Ward to the fulfilment of her vocation in marriage to her husband, Joe, and daughter, Isabella. Speaking to her, there can be no doubt it'll continue to carry them on from here to

Do you know someone who we should profile? Send an email to ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie

Children's

Corner

Chai Brady

Creating good vibrations with musical glasses

usic is an extremely powerful force in the world. It has the power to make us laugh, crv. become nostalgic, fearful and every emotion under the sun. Very often it is used in film, theatre and more to create a certain mood whether that be tension or levity. National anthems are created to give people a sense of pride and identity.

Music has such a huge variety of uses - as well as being an artform in and of itself it is certainly something everyone should have some knowledge about at the least and as they say, the best way to learn is through doing it yourself!

Have you ever tried making music with glasses or bottles filled with water? Musicians are always trying to create new sounds and often try a variety of tools to make their musical ideas a reality. Experiment with your own special sounds by

turning glasses of water into instruments, make some music and find out how it works.

Five or more glasses or glass bottles

Water

Wooden stick such as a pencil

Method:

Line the glasses up next to each other and fill them with different amounts of water. The first should have just a little water while the last should be almost full. the ones in between should have slightly more than the last.

 Hit the glass with the least amount of water and observe the sound, then hit the glass with the most water, which makes the higher

 Hit the other glasses and see what noise they make, see if you can get a tune going by hitting the glasses in a certain order.

Each of the glasses will have a different tone when hit with the pencil, the glass with the most water will have the lowest tone while the glass with the least water will have the highest. Small vibrations are made when you hit the glass, this creates sound waves which travel through the water. More water means slower vibrations and a deeper tone.

We hear sounds because the air around us vibrates, carrying the sound to our ears. For instance, in space, which is a vacuum because there is nothing for soundwaves to vibrate against, there is no sound.

Hitting the glass causes it to vibrate and make a sound that we can hear. When a glass has little or no water in it, is has lots of air in it. Hitting this glass makes a higher pitch sound than the glass with lots of water. This is because the empty glass only has air around it, so the glass vibrates quickly when it is hit, causing the high pitch sound. The glass full of water causes the glass to vibrate slower, and the sound you hear is at a

© TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



'The truth is mightier than tanks'

nd so, we got another week of intense coverage of the war in Ukraine - absorbing, disturbing and frequently heart-breaking.

On The Hard Shoulder (Newstalk, Thursday) we heard the latest fighting words from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy – he said the Russians may bomb their cathedrals but they won't make Ukrainians give up their country or their faith. Earlier reports had indicated that indeed bombs were falling on churches, but the exact circumstances were not clear or yet verifiable. A member of parliament was interviewed about the deteriorating situation – she felt as if she had strayed into a nightmare and couldn't get back to her own life. As a Ukrainian legislator she was constantly on the move, and that day the parliament had met briefly to enact some new laws to facilitate the war effort.

Moving

On that evening's **Drivetime** (RTÉ Radio One) it was quite moving to hear members of the Ukrainian parliament singing their national anthem with gusto. Later on **BBC News** (BBC News Channel) there were inspiring scenes at Berlin train station, where we saw large numbers of German families queuing up to offer accommodation to Ukrainian refugees. There was, according to



People walk past the Apple reseller 're:Store' at a mall in Omsk, Russia on March 2. Apple is one of many companies that are limiting or putting on hold business in Russia following a wave of sanctions imposed after the country invaded Ukraine. Photo: *CNS*

reporter Lyse Doucet, a glimmer of hope in that the two sides had made some progress as regards humanitarian aid. Whether it was due to malice or incompetence the first two efforts at humanitarian corridors failed because of Russian shelling, and it was galling to hear on early news bulletins on Monday morning that the latest corridor led only to Russia or their ally Belarus.

As I noted last week it was likely that RT TV would be

blocked in the EU and sure enough it disappeared in the middle of last week. Though propagandist it was useful to have a look to see what they were saying. I can see the reasoning but a predictable response was the Russian government banning BBC and other Western outlets, making it harder for Russian citizens to get the truth. In the meantime, it's useful to range over a wide range of news sources. On Aljazeera on Friday night we

heard from an independent Russian journalist ashamed of what her country was doing in Ukraine. The ticker tape banner told of the mass resignation, on air, of the staff of an independent Russian TV station. There followed an interview with Kathy Kiely of the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She said the "iron curtain of censorship" had fallen again. She thought it ironic for Russia to ban Facebook, as they had been using it to spread misinformation. Yet she had some optimism - "the truth is mightier than tanks".

Risking

Journalists have been risking their lives - there was a shocking clip on Sky News (Friday) which showed a Sky crew in their car being ambushed, apparently by Russian infiltrators. They were lucky to escape with their lives - one got a bullet in his body armour. Shouting out that they were journalists didn't make any difference. Last Sunday, in more dramatic footage, the Sky News team was also under fire along with fleeing civilians.

Many journalists have impressed. I valued the reporting of Irish reporters - Tony Connolly (RTÉ), especially in those early days in Kyiv and then from Lviv; Paul Cunningham (RTÉ) reporting from the Polish borders on the influx of refugees; Fergal Keane (BBC),

PICK OF THE WEEK

MASS

RTÉ One Sunday March 13, 11am

Fr Martin O'Hagan celebrates Mass for Trócaire, with a congregation and folk group from the Parish of Newtownards and Comber Church, Co. Down. Music Director is Leanne Campbell.

MASS FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY RTÉ One Thursday March 17, 11am

Hosted by the Franciscan Friars of Multyfarnham Abbey, Co. Westmeath. The Principal Celebrant is Dr Tom Deenihan, Bishop of Meath. There will a blend of contemporary and traditional liturgical music.

GIVE UP YER AUL' SINS

RTÉ One Thursday March 17, 12:05pm

Endearing animation on the life of the national patron.

including his reporting last Sunday night from Lviv on special needs children escaping the war; and Orla Guerin (BBC), including her dramatic reporting from Irpin near Kyiv last Sunday as refugees were attacked as they fled.

Sunday Sequence (BBC Radio Ulster) impressed, with up to the minute accounts from the ground and more reflective studio discussion. Freelance journalist Sarah Firth described how checkpoints were very tense for journalists as credentials were checked at gunpoint. On the road to Irpin she had seen the bodies of dead soldiers from both sides and what looked like abandoned Russian hardware - I was glad to hear her determined to have this verified by her team.

The studio discussion focused on what presenter Audrey Carville called "the greatest ethical dilemma" whether or when NATO should intervene. Providing broader background Irina du Quenoy of Georgetown University discussed Vladimir Putin's relationship with Orthodox Christianity. She thought that for him religion was only a secondary consideration to "naked power", and pointed out the incongruity of one who "allegedly" practices Orthodox Christianity bombing Kyiv, which she described as "the source of Russian spirituality".

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Music

Pat O'Kelly

Saluting two great contemporary composers

Two recent National Symphony Orchestra programmes at the National Concert Hall focussed on a pair of wellestablished contemporary American composers, each of whom has his own particular following but with one better known through his involvement with the 'silver screen' not least *Jaws* and *Star Wars*.

New York-born John Williams is the more recognisable household name than Philip Glass but that may stem from the former's staggering output for Hollywood's film studios. The NCH concert celebrated the composer's 90th birthday last month.

The anniversary medley came through a selection from the prodigious expanse



Orchestra principal flautist Caitríona Ryan.

of Mr Williams' film scores, although the breadth of his compositional output extends well beyond the movie sphere. Under compatriot and highly sympathetic conductor Richard Kaufman, the programme played to two 'sold out' houses. The other concert brought two substantial symphonies by Philip Glass, born in Baltimore in 1937. These were conducted with penetrating control by our own David Brophy, and like the later John Williams' extravaganza, showed the NSO in particularly fine fettle.

Venturing

Mr Glass waited some time before venturing into the symphonic arena with his First Symphony, subtitled *Low*, dating from 1992, and his Fourth, having the title *Heroes*, written four years later. Both are connected through what might be considered an unlikely source – albums, dating back to the 1970s, by English singer-songwriter of Irish extraction David

Bowie (1947-2016), and his occasional multi-talented collaborator Brian Eno (b 1948). Mr Glass referred to his sixmovement Fourth Symphony as "a symphonic ballet - a transformation of the original [Bowie] themes combined with new material of my own and presented in a new dramatic form". The original recognition of its ballet potential came from American choreographer Twyla Tharp with whom Glass had already worked on the theatrical piece In the Upper Room for her dance company in 1986. I found both symphonies richly satisfying and David Brophy is to be congratulated in bringing them to us in such exhilarating performances from the NSO. Interestingly Ms Glass' Symphony No. 12 *Lodger* of 2018 also has its roots in another David Bowie album, which, with *Low* and *Heroes*, forms Bowie's *Berlin Trilogy*.

If one is looking for a connection between Messrs Glass and Williams then maybe it is to be found in *Summon the Heroes* – John Williams' salute to the opening spectacle of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Offerings

The offerings from Mr Williams at the NCH can be described as belonging to the genre of late- or neoromanticism. Often luscious in its orchestrations, the music moves between the distinctly lyrical and the boldly confident.

I particularly liked Mr Williams' mellifluous *Memoirs of a Geisha*, beautifully expressed by NSO principal flautist Caitríona Ryan, and the contrasting brilliance of his *Superman* March. However, there were times when I felt there was an over-similarity in the chosen content but then that is a charge that could well be laid against a retrospective of many a respected artist, writer or composer.

Intrepid conductor Richard Kaufmann also introduced the music succinctly with a number of personal anecdotes thrown in for good measure. The audience reacted with a standing ovation for him, the NSO's interpretative intensity and, of course, the music.

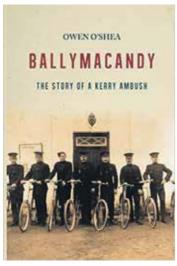
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BookReviews Peter Costello



Irish village



Ballymacandy: The Story of a Kerry Ambush by Owen O'Shea (Irish Academic Press, €14.95/£12.99)

J. Anthony Gaughan

In his latest book Kerry Historian Owen O'Shea provides a dispassionate account of the details surrounding the deadly ambush at Ballymacandy on June 1, 1921 dealing even-handedly with all the

Ballymacandy is just a mile outside the village of Milltown in mid-Kerry, which is situated ten miles from Tralee, the county town. It is a story worth pondering.
A party of 12 policemen were

returning to their barracks in Kilorglin after attending the monthly assizes in Tralee. Three were constables of the Royal Irish Constabulary, nine were members of the recently recruited Black and Tans. Led by District Inspector MacCaughey and Sergeant James Collery, they cycled two abreast into the ambush.

The police came under a hail of fire from over 60 members of the Kerry No. 1 and No. 2 Brigades of the IRA who were under the jointcommand of Tom O'Connor and Dan Mulvihill.

When firing stopped four of the policemen had been killed and one lay fatally wounded. Seven of the policemen escaped out of the ambush, three of them reaching the safety of their barracks in Kilorglin and four that of their barracks in Tralee. Jerry Myles, one of the attacking party, was seriously wounded and was secreted away on an improvised stretcher to a safe place in the mountains between Glencar and Sneem, where he was cared for by members of Cumann na mBan.

The author records how the residents of Milltown reacted to the incident. On hearing the firing Fr Alexander O'Sullivan, the local curate, rushed to the scene. He was no stranger to gun-fire, having served as a chaplain to the British army in Greece during World War I. He administered the last rites to the

dead and the dying. Subsequently he ensured that the bodies of the dead were appropriately cared for and laid-out reverently before the altar in the parish church.

Dr Daniel Sheehan, the local GP, also hastened to the scene and attended the wounded. He ordered an ambulance to take Constable John MacCormack, the most seriously wounded policeman, to Tralee hospital. In the event, this was not possible, as the roads in the area had been made impassable with trenches dug across them, and he became the fifth casualty of the ambush.

The deadly ambush left the residents of the village fearing for the worst. It was a time when the crown forces were carrying out harsh reprisals on the residents of places which were the sites of

Anticipating this, Tom O'Connor, the local IRA leader, had a letter delivered to Major Markham Richard Leeson-Marshall, the leading loyalist in the area, that his residence Callinafercy House would be burnt should that be the fate of any of the homes in the village. This prompted him to confer with the military authorities in Ballymullen barracks in Tralee.

Respect

This, it seems, and the respect shown to the bodies of the dead policemen caused the lives and property of the villagers to be spared. There was nothing, however, to spare the grief of the bereaved families of the dead policemen.

Mr O'Shea's monograph is much more than a Truman Capote style narration of the details of the Ballymacandy ambush. Delving deeply into the witness statements and pension applications in the Bureau of Military History, he provides a comprehensive account of the conduct of the War of Independence in mid-Kerry.

He also describes the membership and activities of Cumann na mBan in the area at that time. And he records how Paddy Cahill was 'stood down' by IRA GHQ as OC, Kerry No. 1 Brigade, and replaced by Andy Cooney. (The book has a number of very

informative appendices. Appendix I is a list of participants in the Ballymacandy ambush. Appendix II is a list of members of Milltown District Council of Cumann na mBan in July

Owen O'Shea, by the way, from Milltown, Co. Kerry, is a local historian who has written several books exploring aspects of Kerry's history. An Irish Research Council-funded PhD student at University College Dublin, he is currently researching electioneering and politics in Kerry in the first decade of the Free State, a still controversial topic.

Under fire in Ballymacandy: how 'the Troubles' came to an The tortured soul of Vincent van Gogh

Vincent van Gogh and the Good Samaritan: The Wounded Painter's Journey

by Henry Martin (Darton, Longman & Todd, £12.99/€15.50)

Anthony Redmond

ne of the greatest of the post-impressionists painters Vincent van Gogh led a troubled, somewhat unhappy life searching for love and recognition as an artist. He wrote countless letters to his devoted brother, Theo, in which he poured out his heart and soul and cried out in anguish and torment. His brother helped him not just financially but listened with sympathy and respect.

When he was young, Van Gogh was deeply religious and considered becoming a pastor like his father. As time went on Vincent became disillusioned and turned away from formal religion believing it to be rule-bound and lacking in compassion and understanding of human frailty. He replaced his interest in religion with a passion for art and

Exactly one hundred years after his death, his portrait of Dr Gachet was bought at auction for an incredible US\$82.5 million"

This passion took over his whole life. He suffered with mental problems and was in different mental hospitals from time to time. Shortly before he died in 1890, Vincent became very interested in the famous painting by Eugene Delacroix, The Good Samaritan, and decided to paint a copy of it in his own individual style.

Better painting

Many claim that Van Gogh's is the better painting. Vincent was a sensitive man who had compassion for others. He also knew what suffering and pain were about. In many ways, his brother Theo was his 'Good Samaritan'. Shortly after painting The Good Samaritan Van Gogh died at the age of 37 by suicide. His suicide has been questioned by certain writers who claim he may have been killed by young bullies who made fun of Vincent. We simply don't know. He and his brother, Theo, are buried side by side in the municipal cemetery in Auvers-sur-Oise. Theo died just six months after his beloved brother, Vincent.

Henry Martin is an artist, writer and ordained Anglican minister. He is deeply interested and passionate about Van Gogh and his knowledge and love for him are transparently clear. I feel that he could talk all day about the painting, The Good Samaritan.

He talks about the financial struggles Van Gogh experienced in his troubled life and how he was desperate to be recognised and to sell his paintings. Everything changed after his death when his true artistic genius was recognised and his paintings became so valuable and sought-

"In 1990," Henry Martin writes, exactly one hundred years after his death, his portrait of Dr Gachet was bought at auction for an incredible US\$82.5 million. His works rarely go on sale. Instead they fill the star places in museums around the world. In Amsterdam there is an entire museum dedicated to his work.

In the amazing parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus tells us that the Levite and the priest passed by and ignored the man who had been attacked and left lying injured by the roadside.

Samaritan

The Samaritan could not pass by. He did all he could to help the injured man and bring him comfort. Henry Martin writes: "Real love can never exist in words divorced from action. Real love is seeing, feeling and doing. Love goes on.

"The story cannot end here. The Reverend Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. takes this train of thought further than most: he acknowledges our duty to the bruised and battered on life's roadside, but argues that a single act, such as giving a coin to a beggar, can never be enough. True compassion requires us to transform the whole Jerusalem to Jericho road for all travellers, along with every structure that leaves people in the gutter. The work of the Good Samaritan does not end at the inn. Neither does ours.

Let us reflect on these important words: "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (I Corinthians 13:1).

In love

Vincent fell in love a few times, but he also experienced many incidents of rejection and disillusionment. He wrote to his brother, Theo, about his sadness and disappointment. The author says: "Vincent was certainly a wounded soul. If he was reflecting on his love life as he painted, he surely would have recognised himself in the battered figure being gently shoved upwards onto the mule. His adventures in love contained a great deal of heartache and very few moments of

Van Gogh was deeply religious and considered becoming a pastor like his father"

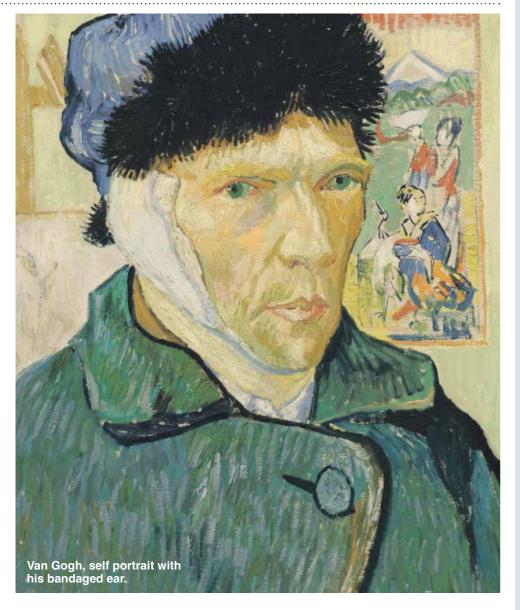
I found this book educational, moving and thought-provoking and it makes me want to read Van Gogh's letters. Henry Martin brings out so much of Van Gogh's personality and character and he helps us to really reflect on the wonderful parable of the Good Samaritan. His is an excellent book, well worth reading. I certainly enjoyed reading it.

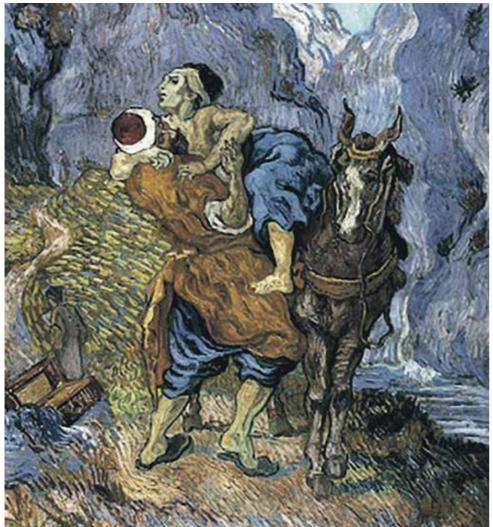
66 Jesus tells us that the Levite and the priest passed by and ignored the man who had been attacked and left lying injured by the roadside"



The painter's bedroom in the asylum in St Remy, where his mind found a

Readers should note that *The Irish Catholic* circulates throughout the island of Ireland and the book prices listed are the retail price recommended by the Irish or British publishers, in either euros or sterling, as a general indication of what purchasers may expect to pay.





Van Gogh's version of the Good Samaritan

Putin: the last heir of 'New Rome'?



Patriarch Kiril of Moscow in conversation with President Putin.

Peter Costello

The ongoing war in Ukraine seems to many in the West to defy reason. But that is very much the view from Strasbourg or Washington. From Moscow the prospect looks quite different.

In the weeks leading up to the deployment of his forces, President Vladimir Putin spoke of Ukraine being part of "the historic Russia", a part which cannot be detached from the whole at the mere whim of Ukrainian nationalists he sees as "drug addicted Nazis" in the pay of foreign governments. (In this context the term Nazi is mere abuse and without meaning. as the President of Ukraine is Jewish and lost family members in World War II).

Sense

That Ukraine is a "natural part of Russia" makes perfect sense to many Russians, for it was in its capital city Kyiv that Orthodox Christianity was first established in Slavic lands by missionaries from Constantinople in 899, more than a thousand years ago. It has remained since the central factor in Russian national identity, which even two generations of communism did not alter. Now it is ruthlessly utilised by Mr Putin to preserve his notion of national identity.

Constantinople, eventually the capital of the Byzantine Empire, was founded by Constantine himself, as 'the New Rome', where Christian culture would be settled and preserved after barbarians overran western Europe.

The idea of Byzantium, even under Justinian as recounted in the vivid immediacy of *The Secret History of Procopius* (or even at second hand in the pages of Robert Graves' admirable novel *Count Belisarius*), influenced the emergence of the public culture of Rus-

sia in later centuries, as the ceremonials of the tsars from the time of Peter the Great onward, especially in the 19th Century, reveal.

Their claim to have inherited the role of protector of Christianity in the Ottoman Empire led in fact to the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1853, in which Britain, France, and their allies invaded the peninsula to push back the tsarist claims on the Holy Land, indeed on the Levant in general.

Mr Putin's interest in Georgia, Turkey, and his support of the Assad family interests in Syria arise from this same long-established notion.

But the problem Mr Putin has is that the Christian cultures of Europe, North America - indeed of the entire globe - have adapted themselves to the changing conditions of the world. But the Patriarchate of Moscow never alters. (There are in Russia too old Orthodox Christians who rejected the minor attempt to change with the times made in the 19th Century Russian state and Church. They were, of course, punished, by the tsars for their ultra-conservativism)

On the map in their school atlases Russian children can see that the geographic Russia looks huge"

But Mr Putin somewhere in the depths of his now fuddled imagination conceives himself as the heir of Justinian, as the inheritor of the claim to be the ruler of the 'New Rome'. That he seems to be devoid of any religious feeling, and merely manipulates the Orthodox Church to maintain his own powerbase, is quite in keeping with

the spirit of that other tsarist title, 'Autocrat of all the Russians'

On the map in their school atlases Russian children can see that the geographic Russia looks huge: indeed the biggest nation in the world. But size does not tell the whole tale. True Russians, Russians like Mr Putin, have little interest in Russia beyond the Urals, all those bleak miles of hot desert or frozen wasteland, inhabited by demon worshipping savages with the mystical shamans. Siberia was and remains a place not for real Russians, but an outback fit only for difficult politicians, liberal minded authors, nihilists, and criminals. It is the land of the gulags, as it was under Stalin and the

So there is nothing new about what Mr Putin believes, or the claims he makes. But the tsars were overthrown. The Soviets, despite heroic defence of themselves in World War II, collapsed for much the same reason as the empire did.

Product

Indeed Russia beyond the Urals is the product of 19th Century conquest of lesser developed people. Asian Russia is an anomaly in the 21st Century. The British, French, Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese empires of the same era are all gone.

The tsar plunged happily into the Great War. They would teach those Austrians and Germans once and for all. But the war undermined their authority for good. Making war all too often has outcomes that surprise those who resort to it, as Mr Putin, like Nicholas II, may learn. The tsar's real enemy was not the German Empire in front of him; but his own people behind him. Palace intrigue and public assassination, these too are the historic gifts of Byzantium.

38 | Classifieds | The Irish Catholic, March 10, 2022

Classifieds

The deadline for advertising in the classifieds is 10.30am, the Friday before publication. Contact the Classified Team on 01 687 4094 or email advertising@irishcatholic.ie

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– Pope St Pius X, June 4, 1912

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DOWN 2 Observed 3 Ensure 4 Label 5 Yearned 7 Concelebration 8 Real 9 Apex 10 Reefer 11 Canada 12 Annually 13 Mouth organ 14

Joyful and triumphant 16 Dusty 21 Glove 22 Jog 23 Colt 27 Irate 29 Dime 31 Old 32 Lullaby 34 Oscar 35 Doing 36 Cat 41 Easily 42

Hark the Herald Angels Sing 44 Carolling 47 Silent Night 52 Dam 53 Roots 54 Bray 55 Varnished 59 Anvil 60 Yew 63 Pellet 64

Taunts 65 Plus 69 Due 71 Northern Lights 72 Crimea 73 Melchior 76 Elms 77 Granada 81 State 82 Feast 85 Goalkeeper 87 Polka 90

Noel 91 Fry 92 Aztec 94 Moy 95 Pear tree 96 East 99 Dismayed 100 Drum 102 Sew 103 Miner 104 Rainbow 106 Chalet 107

Drinks 109 Seraph 113 Comet 115 Leah

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ACROSS 1 Vegetables 6 Stalagmite 11 Tighten 14 Meda^ovl 15 Overturn 17 Perpendicular 19 Happy New Year 23 Fun 24 Extreme 25 Ode 26 Opt 28 Ally 30 Ballad 33 Naas 36 Tennis 37 Dolly 38 Freed 39 Twilight 40 Ermine 43 Aliens 45 Sty 46 Falconry 48 Henna 49 Spouse 50 Oafs 51 Bitter 54 Political asylum 56 Angina 57 Waiter 58 Tour 59 Fakir 61 Ego 62 Odium 65 Awl 66 Dry 67 Ounce 68 Sax 70 Ducks 74 Idol 75 Instep 77 Clinic 78 Headlamps 79 Aleppo 80 Lamb 83 Infirm 84 Nippy 86 Vocation 88 Box 89 Effect 93 Repeat 95 Alehouse 97 Judge 98 Tenet 101 Pyre 103 Blazer 105 Test 106 Amp 108 Via 110 Avoided 111 One 112 Radiant 113 Equip 116 Assault course 117 Goodness 118 Tries 119 Damaged 120 Objectives 121 Lose weight

DOWN 2 Godchild 3 Tulips 4 Booty 5 Eternal 7 Three card trick 8 Alps 9 Mark 10 El Nino 11 Toilet 12 Gauntlet 13 Trade union 14 Much Ado About Nothing 16 Towed 18 Less 21 Rouen 22 Hen 23 Flaw 27 Prior 29 Yoke 30 Blessing 31 Ayr 32 Amnesia 34 Atoll 35 Simon 36 The Cape of Good Hope 41 Myopia 42 Harlem Globetrotters 44 Influenza 46 Flew 47 Yellow 48 Hotpot 52 Raw 53 Studs 54 Prey 55 Childcare 59 Flask 60 Rod 63 Medley 64 Asimov 65 Axis 69 Pea 72 Finite 73 Diameter 76 Plan 77 Conceal 81 Pay up 82 Tiger 85 Play possum 87 Ogham 90 Feet 91 Elm 92 Sugar 94 Ate 95 Auld Lang Syne 99 Tempting 100 Ajar 102 Eva 103 Beard 104 Art Deco 106 Addled 107 Poncho 109 Subtle 113 Ensue 114 True 115 Peat



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HEAVEN'S MESSAGE

BISHOP JUAN GUEVARRA, Nicaragua approved the divine revelations to Luz de Maria at www.rev-elacionesmarianas.com/english.htm. An important message given on 19th of February 2022.

CARER NEEDED

CARER NEEDED to live in Sunday evening to Friday afternoon and assist person with dementia in Northern Ireland. Carer would have their own living quarters. Wage negotiable. Phone +44 7732730573.

SACRISTAN WANTED

WANTED: SACRISTAN for convent chapel services and altar flowers, laundry etc. Five and a half day weekly. Small flat available on site. Reply to Box 5070.

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A gift in your will to Irish Hospice Foundation is a meaningful way to help ensure no-one faces death or bereavement without the care and support they need.

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Please pray for the beatification of

Little Nellie of Holy God

"May God enrich with every blessing all those who recommend frequent Communion to little boys and girls proposing Nellie as their model"

- Pope St Pius X, June 4, 1912

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Missionaries of the Sacred Heart bring hope to the poorest people living in over 48 countries worldwide.

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MSC Missions Office, PO Box 23 Western Road, Cork. Tel: 021-4545704 Email: info@mscmissions.ie

www.mscmissions.ie

When you remember Trócaire in your Will, you bring hope to people living in the world's poorest places

Trōcaire

It's easy to get started, and we'll help you every step of the way. Call Grace Kelly on 01 629 3333. email grace.kelly@trocaire.org or write to me at Trócaire, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

Leisure time



Across

- 1 In a pantomime, Jack sold the cow for a handful of these (5.5)
- 6 This person works with wood (9)
- 8 A hen lays it (3)
- 9 Post which is delivered using a plane (7)
- 10 Your boy-child (3)
- 12 Weep (3)
- 14 Shrek is this type of monster (4)
- 15 Make fun of, mock (4)
- 16 Baby deer (4)
- 17 "I like a story with a happy _" (6)

18 The opposite of stale (5) Down

- 1 Scientists use it to look at tiny things (10)
- 2 They speak this language in Berlin and Munich (6)
- 3 Red fruit (6)
- 4 Wav in (8)
- 5 The last hole in a full round of golf (10)
- 7 You pass the baton when you finish running your part of this (5,4)
- 11 Start (5)
- 13 The person on the pitch with a whistle (shortened) (3)
- 15 Run to keep fit (3)

SOLUTIONS, MARCH 3 GORDIUS NO. 548

Across - 1 Pal 3 Bushwhacked 8 Frnest 9 Wind farm 10 Green Grow the Rushes O 11 Spoof 13 Tamed 15 Outlook 20 Hound 21 South 23 Gulag 24 Canonise 26 Traditional 27 Kir

Down -1 Pledged one's troth 2 Lancelot 3 Bison 4 How come 5 Aides 6 Klaxon 7 Dim 12 Firefighter 14 Dared 17 Tailback 19 Guinea 22. Henri Dunant 23 Gruel 24 Cut

CHILDREN'S No. 422

Across - 1 Puppies 5 Lip 7 Signposts 9 Spy 11 Insect 14 Eraser 15 Guitar 17 Baker 20 Scone 21 Banjo 22 Century

Down - 1 Pushing 2 Pages 3 Imp 4 SOS 5 Less 6 Pony 8 Otter 10 Piece 12 Extinct 13 Lava 16 Uncle 17 Baby 18 King 19 Roof

Down

Across

1. Provided meals for someone. (3)

Crossword

- 3. This endangered Himalayan cat can make a pedlar swoon, strangely enough.
- 8. Save from danger. (6)
- 9. One who writes the words of songs. (8)
- 10. Snooker foul. (2-3)
- 11. Frivolity, glee. (5)
- 13. Ancient unit of length. based on the distance from 7. Morse code symbol. (3) fingertip to elbow. (5)
- 15. Famous for a lack of furniture? (7)
- 16. A boa hid away an Old Testament prophet. (7)
- 20. The ends of the sleeves.
- 21. Run-down areas of a city; areas of tenements. (5)
- 23. Look of disapproval. (5)
- 24. The art of making great speeches. (8)
- 25. Famous gallery in Florence. (6)
- 26. Dependable. (11) 27. Joke. (3)

- 1. Absolution. (11)
- 2. Price reduction. (8)
- 3. Blue-skinned humanoid invented by Belgian cartoonist Peyo. (5)
- 4. Kangaroo-like animal. (7)
- 5. Drug that contains morphine. (5)
- 6. I pray a different home may be found for bees. (6)
- 12 & 18d. Member of the army top brass. (4-7,7)
- 13. Characteristic abdominal pain. (5)
- 14. Flexible pipes. (5)
- 17. Paying no attention to something. (8)
- 18. See 12 down.
- 19. The 'B' of FBI. (6)
- 22. Dark drink. (5)
- 23. Number represented by the Roman numeral L. (5)
- 24. Rodent. (3)

Sudoku Corner

Easy Hard 7 3 5 4 3 7 8 3 4 8 3 4 2 8 5 7 2 1 6 4 7 7 5 8 5 1 4 9 7 6 5 8 9 1 2 6 2 6 1 5 7 3 1 7 7 9 8 8 2 4 7 3

7 4 3 1 2 6 8 9 5 8 5 3

Last week's Easy 422

Last week's Hard 422 5 6 9 7 2 8 3 1 4 7 2 8 3 1 4 6 9 5

1 4 3 9 5 6 2 8 7 4 9 6 5 8 7 1 3 2 8 3 1 6 4 2 5 7 9 2 7 5 1 9 3 4 6 8 2 6 5

One day, parents and their children will tell the story of how your legacy of love changed their lives. Thank you for considering a 6 9 6 2 3 gift to Trócaire in your Will.

The Irish Catholic, March 10, 2022 40 | Comment

Notebook

Fr Vincent Sherlock



Beloved towns and cities under siege

I don't believe I know anybody from the country and I'd be hard pressed to name even a few of its cities or towns but I know I am heartbroken that the country finds itself at war. There are countless videos in circulation that seek to explain why Russia, or perhaps, its leader wants to have control of Ukraine. These videos seek to explain in a few minutes what it will take a lifetime to understand.

Phil Coulter's The Town I Loved So Well comes to mind whenever I think of these days. I can only begin to imagine how people's eyes are burning as they see their beloved towns and cities under siege and bombardment. Their hearts breaking as they hear of loved ones' deaths or see family members taking guns in hand to fight a strong and heavily equipped invading army. Who could want it to be like this? Why would anyone want to inflict this terror on innocent people and on our world? Where does this hatred come from? Where does this inflated notion of human power and control come from? Why is this happening?



The answer will not be found on Twitter, Tik-Tok or Facebook - in brief videos or photographs. The answer is quite likely not to be found anywhere this side of decency. Much and all as I like and use social media, chances are it is not the best place for us to find meaningful answers now.

I heard a Ukrainian member of government on the radio the other day. He said his people were not afraid of Russia but feared they

might not be able to buy enough bullets to kill all the Russian soldiers. A shudder ran down my spine when I heard that. It is certain that many of those soldiers have no desire for this either. They are literally ordered into battle by people who, from a safe distance, watch others carry out their commands. Yes, they learn to kill and to see those killed as the enemy but who made them enemies? Who brought them to this? "With their tanks and their guns, Lord my God what have they done to the town I loved so well?'

The Pope calls for prayer. The archbishop calls for prayer. The rabbi calls for prayer. We all know we should pray but what is God to do? He needs to be met half way. Our prayers to him are not about getting him to work wonders from on high because, literally God knows, it is at ground level the miracles need to take place. War is not taking place in Heaven. But the Pope, archbishop and the rabbi are right. We need to pray for peace. More than that, we need to be peaceful people. There are so many "wars" going on around us and we can all too easily throw our own grenades into the crowd. Grenades of gossip, begrudgery, jealousy, envy – destructive and deadly. If we are to be prayers for peace we need to be deliverers of peace and believers in peace.

Nanci Griffith, God rest her,

used to sing a song called From a distance and I often wondered about it. She sang that God is watching us "from a distance" and that from that distance "you look like my friend, even though we are at war... I just can't comprehend what all this fighting's for" - I believe God is giving us the benefit of the doubt. He knows what the world should be and could be. He knows the world he created and, from that distance, he can still see it the way it was intended. He is somehow depending on us to make his dream a reality and that dream is not the nightmare of war, the need to get enough bullets to kill all the soldiers or to see a town brought to its knees.

Pray for peace. Speak words of peace. Encourage peace - from a distance and close at hand - from your own front door and back yard

Let there be peace.

And our Eddie is in **Boyle**

I grew up to an old story about a woman near us at home. As talk was in the air about the possibility of what we now call the Second World War, the postman delivered her mail. "The war is on Mrs," the postman told her. "Oh, worrah worrah", she replied "and our Eddie is in Boyle!" As I think of her today, I am inclined towards thinking she was right to worry and I better understand her motherly concern. Her son was out of sight, the world was at war and she needed him to be at home and she wanted him to be safe. So many mothers in Ukraine, and quite likely Russia, are feeling that same uncertainty and fear today. That they may come home safely from Boyle.





PLEASE HELP TYPHOON VICTIMS IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Montfort Missionaries have written to The Little Way Association appealing for urgent help for the victims of typhoon Odette which hit the Philippines in December 2021.

The Fathers have been sheltering homeless victims, and urgently need funds to continue feeding the homeless families, to repair the community's own properties and to build the people new houses.

Fr Norwyn Baydo SMM writes: "The typhoon made landfall in different provinces. Our community in Minglanilla have opened their house to twenty families, though our own building was itself damaged by the typhoon. On Kinatarcan island, our house was used as an evacuation site for 10 families. The community members are all safe and are serving the people in providing shelter and for their needs.

"I'm asking on behalf of the victims for financial help to support our relief operation and also for the re building of their houses. Please help us to continue our relief work. God bless you.'

Funds sent to The Little Way Association for the homeless are conveyed to religious such as the Montfort Missionaries without deduction of any kind. Please be generous and particularly remember the families with small children.

Typhoon Odette left families in the Philippines homeless and destitute. You can enable missionaries to help rebuild the victims' lives.



'It is love alone that matters."

- St Therese

MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

The Little Way Association regularly receives appeals from bishops and religious superiors on the Missions for Mass stipends and intentions for their poor priests. Such payments help them to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. Also, the poor and deprived people, whom the clergy serve so faithfully, often turn to their priests for assistance. Thus, your stipends are gratefully received and your intentions are faithfully honoured at Holy Mass. We like to send a minimum of

€5 or more for each Mass

Our benefactors will be glad to know that a Mass is offered each day for their intentions.

WELLS NEEDED

Missionaries constantly appeal to The Little Way for funds to sink wells in order to provide clean water, the lack of which causes much illness and many medical needs. On average, women in Africa and Asia walk around three hours every day to fetch water, often in scorching heat.

Can you help provide a well?

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