



Image of the Day - Hats for Seafarers

People and places

36 Hats for Seafarers



During the past year of restrictions, two parishioners of Douglas Union with Frankfield, Co. Cork have been busy knitting hats for seafarers, continuing an activity that started in the parish on Sea Sunday 2017.

This year, thirty-six woolly hats have been posted to the Port Chaplain in Dublin for distribution.

The Rev. Hazel Minion explained, “At present, due to Covid 19 limitations, seafarers do not visit the centre in Dublin

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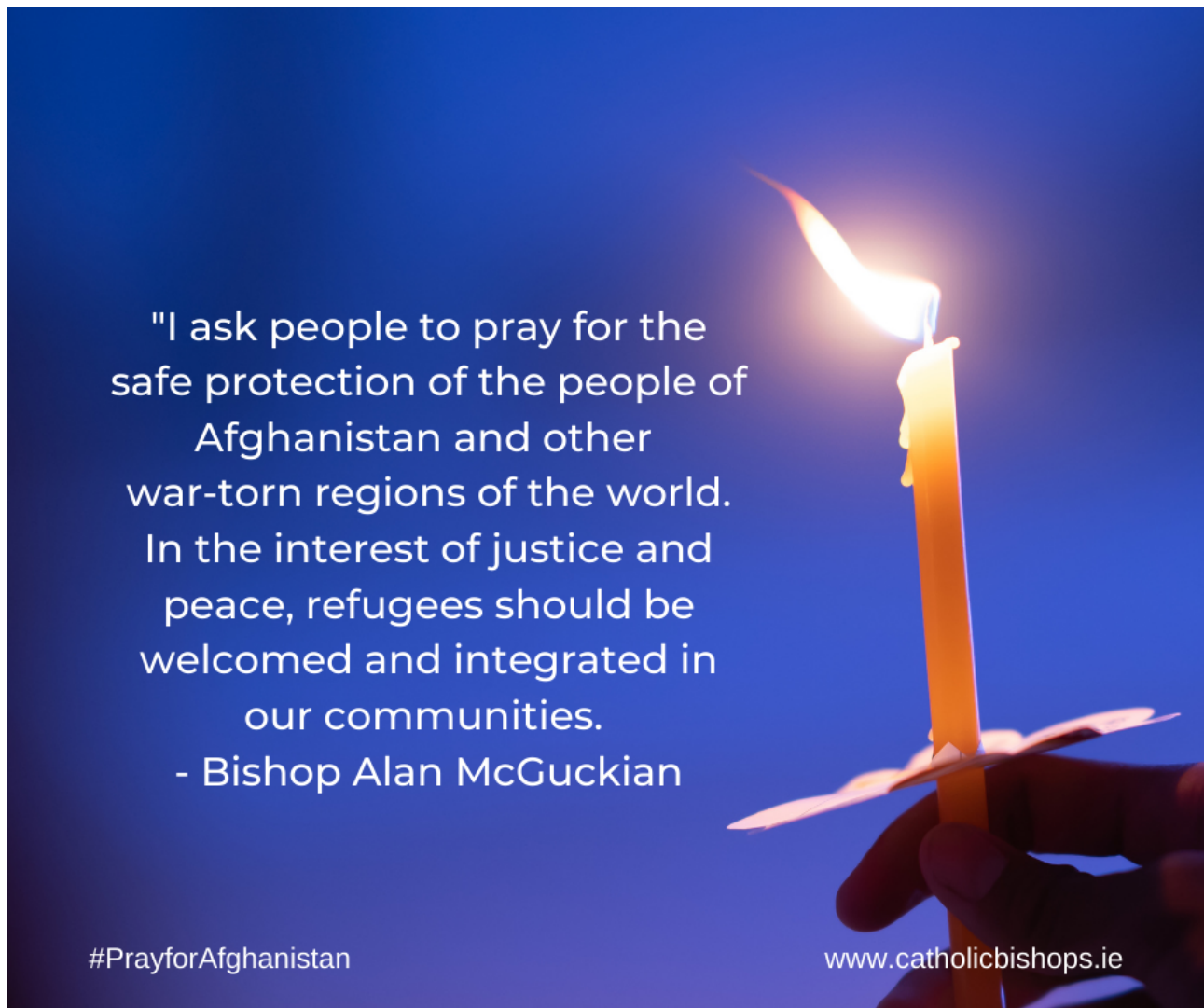
where formerly many supports were available. But the port chaplains continue to visit ships to meet seafarers, to chat with them and offer assistance where it is needed and possible. They are delighted to be able to take some woolly hats to give to them, both to keep them warm and as a token that people on land are thinking of them as they transport our goods across the world”.

The Mission to Seafarers says, “Imagine getting on a ship in summer in the Philippines, dressed in shorts and t-shirt. Soon you find yourself transiting freezing Arctic waters with only your overalls to keep you warm.

“Seafarers often set out on new contracts not knowing where their ship will end up or travel through, and they may need to stock up on warm clothes to see them through some of the chillier parts of the globe. We are always grateful for gifts of warm knitted items which our chaplains can pass on to seafarers”.

Bishop McGuckian: Pray for Afghanistan – Ireland must do more for forcibly displaced people

While welcoming Ireland’s intervention at the UN Security Council on the crisis in Afghanistan, and appeal for safe and reliable humanitarian access for its people – together with the commitment of Government to accept 150 refugees under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme – Bishop Alan McGuckian has urged that the processes involved be accelerated and



that the acceptance of additional refugees in Ireland should be considered as a policy priority.

Bishop McGuckian said, "Ireland, as one of the wealthier nations of the world, must do more for forcibly displaced people in terms of welcome and integration through State and community supports. Yes, our hearts are deeply moved by the panicked scenes of people fleeing, but it should not take such scenes and circumstances to force governments to act.

"According to the UNHCR, at the end of 2020 there were 82.4m forcibly displaced people worldwide. Yet 85% of these are being looked after in the least wealthy nations,

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with only 15% being accommodated in the wealthier countries of the world, including Ireland. What does this say to us about solidarity and fraternity in our world today?”

Bishop McGuckian continued, “This unfolding crisis presents Ireland with another opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the protection of human rights, including access to education for all, and to welcome the stranger among us. As Pope Francis reminds us, we are called respond to such challenges with four actions: welcome, protect, promote and integrate.

“I ask people to pray for the safe protection of the people of Afghanistan and other war-torn regions of the world. In the interest of justice and peace, refugees should be welcomed and integrated in our communities. The values of our Irish faith tradition teach us that outreach, encounter and authentic dialogue can bring the true peace that the world needs at this time.”

Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ is Chair of the Council for Justice and Peace of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Celebrating Annabella Hayes' legacy - Founding member of Mothers Union in Ireland

It is 100 years since the death of Annabella Hayes and Mothers' Union in Ireland is taking time to reflect on her life.

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Mothers' Union in Ireland was founded in Raheny, Dublin, in 1887 by Mrs Annabella Hayes. Annabella was born in Dublin in 1847. In December 1866 she married the Reverend Francis Carlisle Hayes who was then curate in Sandford Parish Church, Dublin.

In 1867 he was appointed curate of St. Andrew's Church, Suffolk Street, and their first child, Ernest William Carlisle Hayes, was born in February 1868. In 1873, Sir Arthur Edward Guinness (later Lord Ardilaun) appointed him Rector of Raheny Parish and he and Annabella moved to the Glebe House where they were to remain for the next forty-five years.

Their second child, Marie Elizabeth (always known as May) was born in May 1874, and in April 1878 her sister Ethel Clara Ridley was born. A boy, Maurice, was born in 1886 but sadly died in infancy. Ernest went to school at St. Columba's and an English governess, Connie Gibbs from Willesden, was appointed to look after the education of the two girls.

In 1887 Annabella Hayes set up the first branch of the Mothers' Union in Raheny, inspired by what Mary Sumner had done in England eleven years before. Little did either of them know that in the twenty-first century world-wide membership of Mothers Union would have grown to over four million.

Canon and Mrs Hayes liked to travel and after Marie's untimely death in Delhi in 1908 aged 33, they travelled to Delhi to visit the hospital where Marie had worked for the previous three years and to meet people she had worked with. Later Annabella edited and published letters which

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Marie had written to home. Marie's final letter, sadly, arrived some weeks after the fateful telegram giving news of her death had been received in Raheny. The Hayes memorial cross in Raheny village was erected some years later.

Canon Hayes retired in 1918 and he and Annabella moved to 12 Northbrook Road which was apparently owned by Francis since his days at St. Andrew's. Annabella survived a bad bout of 'flu shortly after they moved, but was taken ill again about a year later. She was diagnosed with liver cancer and died at home on the 7th February 1921 age 74 and Francis was 94 when he died on 12th December 1931.

Annabella is buried in St. Fintan's Cemetery in Sutton and her headstone (and that of Francis) stands at the highest point of the Cemetery. It is, however, not made of stone but of wood – teak, and despite its having stood there for 100 years there is absolutely no sign of decay in the timber. The cross however has suffered some weathering, the plinth that supports it is cracked and the grave itself needs some repair.

No family members could be located and Mothers' Union application to the National Heritage Council for a grant towards repairs has been supported by the Heritage Council under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2021 which will cover the majority of repair costs.

To acknowledge receipt of this grant Mothers' Union are hosting events during National Heritage week August 14 to 22 2021

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On August 14 there was a Zoom coffee morning with guest speakers. One gave the history of founder Annabella Hayes and a guest speaker from the Heritage Council spoke on how they support projects like this annually.

On August 21 the second event will be the dedication of the new plaque on the refurbished gravestone by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson, in St Fintan's Cemetery in Sutton. This will be followed by a short memorial service in All Saints' Church in Raheny.

Reports

New research reveals significant contribution by cathedrals to local economies and communities

A new report has highlighted the hugely positive economic and social impact England's cathedrals have on the cities and communities they serve and the effect the pandemic has had on their contribution.

In 2019, England's 42 Anglican cathedrals contributed £235m to their local economies. They provided 6,065 jobs full time equivalent jobs and volunteering posts for 15,400 people who gave 906,000 hours of their time. They welcomed more than 14.6 million visits, 308,000 by schoolchildren for educational events, and 9.5m from tourists.



In the same year, cathedrals hosted a rich programme of arts, music, heritage and culture – amounting to 9,580 events equivalent to two every three days – as well as providing the venues for film shoots such as *The Crown*, *Doctor Who* and *Avengers:Endgame*.

They played a huge role socially, responding to local need by running foodbanks, support groups for the more vulnerable, the unemployed, the homeless, outreach activities in schools, residential homes and hospitals, lunch clubs, parent and toddler groups, and community cafes. And over two thirds of cathedrals are part of the A Rocha Eco Church programme, helping the Church of England achieve its carbon reduction targets by 2030.

The Economic and Social Impact of Cathedrals in England was produced by independent research consultancy, churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Ecorys, for The Association of English Cathedrals to show how cathedrals use their assets to promote mission and well-being. This latest research builds on previous studies of 2004 and 2014 and continues to prove that cathedrals successfully provide a multitude of community focussed services alongside worship. It enables cathedrals to demonstrate their social and economic impact as good stewards of their buildings, their history, their musical and spiritual inheritance, and, as good servants of their communities, to the wider church, local and national government, and other stakeholders.

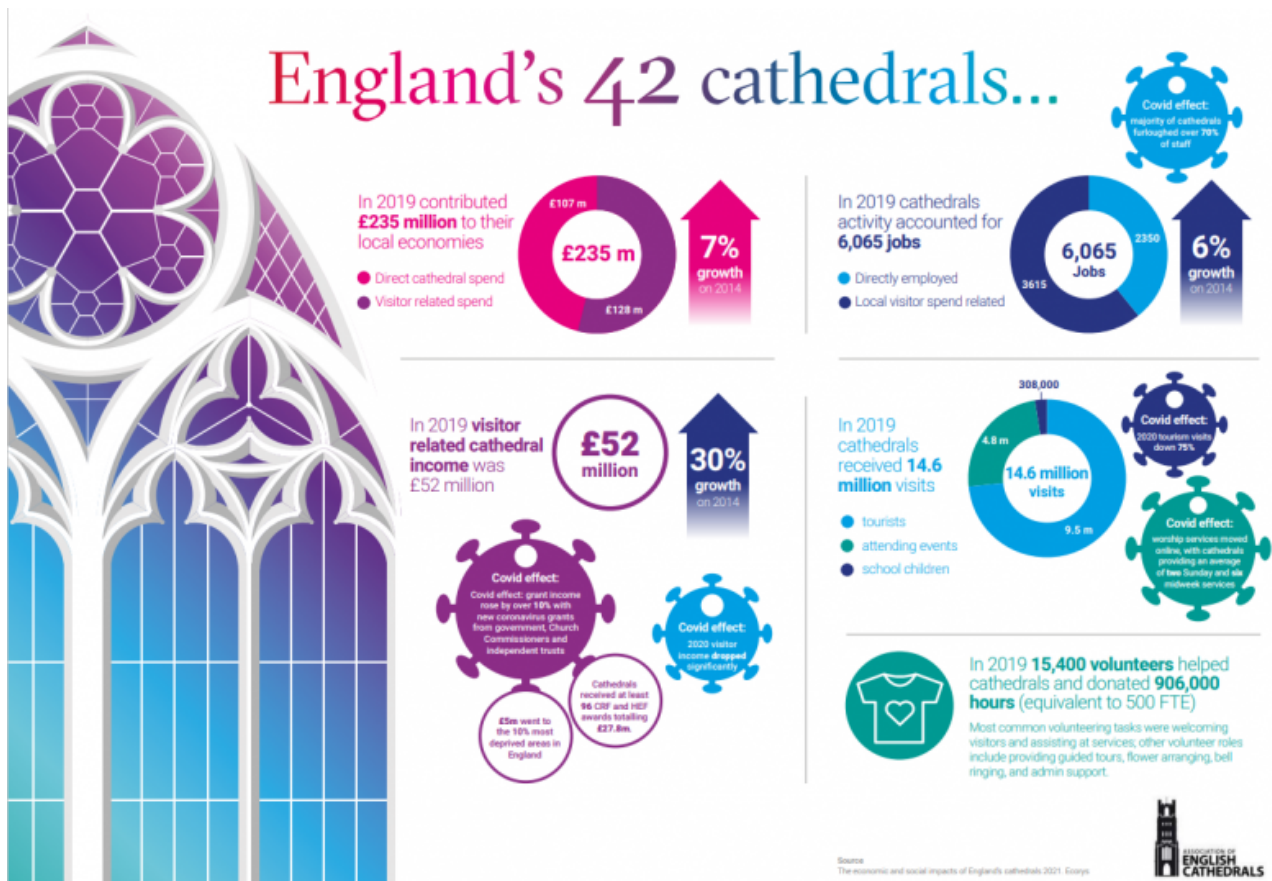
“This report comprehensively demonstrates the value and importance of our nation’s cathedrals, not only to those who worship in them but to their whole community.”

Bishop Viv Faulkner

Evidence collected on the impact of COVID-19 - which saw Government mandated closures and restrictions on gatherings - reveals visitor numbers slumped by 75 per cent compared to 2019, visitor spend was down proportionately, and over 70 per cent of cathedral staff were furloughed.

The research continues, stating that the fall in visitor numbers has had a significant effect on cathedrals’ income levels, particularly those cathedrals more dependent on the visitor economy.

It also found a significant fall in cathedrals’ average non-visitor income, driven by a reduction of almost 80% in income generated from the use of cathedral facilities. Closure and restrictions on congregation size also meant



fewer people attended services in the cathedral, down from a midweek average of 362 adults and 108 children in 2019, to 84 and 25 respectively in 2020, leading, inevitably, to a drop in congregational giving.

But the research also found that COVID-19 had given rise to new pastoral and creative opportunities. While 75 percent of cathedrals' existing social projects stopped due to closures and restrictions, new services like food deliveries, shopping and online face to face pastoral support developed.

From 2020, worship services moved online with cathedrals providing on average two Sunday services and six midweek services, and digital technologies enabled cathedrals to reach more people with creative online initiatives such as prayer walls, candle lighting, tours, pilgrim trails, and some, like Salisbury Cathedral, took a major art exhibition online.

In Durham, a new community of worshippers, the Community of Prayer, was born out of the growing online community of worshippers that formed around its live-streamed Daily Offices and Sunday Eucharists which started in the first lockdown.

In conclusion, the study found clear evidence that cathedrals make a significant contribution to their local economies and have a positive impact on their local communities, consistent with the findings in 2014 and 2004.

It also found that the pandemic, while bringing fresh creative opportunities, has brought about a number of challenges, particularly in the form of reduced visitor numbers, which has had a significant effect on cathedrals' income levels and a direct impact on cathedrals' ability to be self-sustaining in 2020. Cathedrals estimate their finances will be constrained for some time to come while national and local economies recover.

It recommends further research into how cathedrals are being affected by COVID-19, including any knock-on impact on cathedrals' ability to continue offering pre-COVID levels of support to their local communities.

The Bishop of Bristol, Viv Faulkner, the Church of England's lead Bishop for cathedrals and church buildings, said:

“This report comprehensively demonstrates the value and importance of our nation's cathedrals, not only to those who worship in them but to their whole community.

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“They are beacons in their cities and counties, at the heart of our civic life, centres for arts and heritage and bringing increasing numbers to faith.

“While the pre-covid growth in many areas indicated in this report is very encouraging, the report also highlights the significant losses and cutbacks that have been necessary to meet the challenges of the past year.

“Cathedrals are not alone in the challenges faced, however this is a timely reminder of all they offer which justifies the support they have already received, for which we are grateful.

“It is imperative this support continues to help cathedrals to grow back and to develop all they offer to their communities and economies.”

The Very Revd Adrian Dorber, chair of the Association of English Cathedrals, said:

“Cathedrals stand at the heart of their communities and regions – places of faith and worship, welcome and service, wonder and education. By our welcoming and inclusive ethos, millions are drawn to our cathedrals every year. It is touching to receive so much public attention and endorsement. We have, though, been badly affected by the pandemic; the data proves that very clearly. But we’ve risen to new challenges. We’ve gone digital, streamed our services, and reached out to provide practical and spiritual care to be beacons of hope in tough times.

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“This study gives the evidence of our impact as sacred spaces and places of compassion, community and solace. England’s cathedrals are resources for our local communities and the nation,” he added.

Contributions to Peter’s Pence plummet

Contributions to papal charities are slumping amid reports of financial scandals in the Vatican, according to reports.

Speculation is mounting that concerns over corruption at the highest levels of the Catholic Church may be a factor in the falling generosity of the world’s faithful.

It comes after the Vatican’s secretariat for the economy posted another drop in overall sum of money donated to Peter’s Pence, which funds the Pope’s charities.

According to The Times, the annual collection in churches all over the world for Peter’s Pence last year came to 44 million euros.

The figure represents an decline in contributions of 40 per cent in just the five years between 2015 and 2020.

The period corresponds with revelations of financial scandals which have dogged the papacy of Pope Francis in recent years.

They have culminated in the prosecutions of Cardinal Angelo Becciu, the former prefect of the Congregation of

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Causes of the Saints, and his former secretary, Mgr Mauro Carlino, along with eight others.

Their trial for financial crimes, which they deny, opened in a room at the Vatican Museums in July before it was adjourned until October 5.

The accusations revolve largely around the investment by the Vatican's Secretariat of State of 350 million euros, much of it derived from contributions by Catholics to church charities, in a fund run by Mincione, to purchase about 45 per cent of a commercial and residential building in Sloane Avenue, South Kensington, London.

The venture, however, resulted in enormous losses, according to Cardinal George Pell, the former treasurer at the Vatican.

The prosecution has accused Cardinal Becciu and his associates of a range of charges including embezzlement and abuse of office.

Poem for today

Postscript by Seamus Heaney

And some time make the time to drive out west
Into County Clare, along the Flaggy Shore,
In September or October, when the wind
And the light are working off each other
So that the ocean on one side is wild
With foam and glitter, and inland among stones

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The surface of a slate-grey lake is lit
By the earthed lightening of flock of swans,
Their feathers roughed and ruffling, white on white,
Their fully-grown headstrong-looking heads
Tucked or cresting or busy underwater.
Useless to think you'll park or capture it
More thoroughly. You are neither here nor there,
A hurry through which known and strange things pass
As big soft buffetings come at the car sideways
And catch the heart off guard and blow it open.

Pointers for prayer

For the week following the 11th Sunday after Trinity.

Creator God,
you call us to love and serve you
with body, mind, and spirit
through loving your creation
and our sisters and brothers.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive our petitions
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.
Holy One,
hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards
of the fragile bounty of this earth
so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven.
Amen.

We praise your abiding guidance, O God,
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,
to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.

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We offer these prayers of love
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbours,
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.
Loving God,
open our ears to hear your word
and draw us closer to you,
that the whole world may be one with you
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of salvation,
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,
hear our prayers
on behalf of those who are lost in our day,
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings
with your unending compassion.
Redeeming Sustainer,
visit your people
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,
that we may hurry to make you welcome
not only in our concern for others,
but by serving them
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Living God,
you are the giver of wisdom and true discernment,
guiding those who seek your ways to choose the good.
Mercifully grant that your people,
feasting on the true bread of heaven,
may have eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire, or deserve:

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Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid,
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
save through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.



Speaking to the Soul

When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 1:4 NLT

Saturday

24

July

Not surprisingly many people have a special affection for the book of Nehemiah. It offers us an engaging firsthand account of a man of huge courage and faith. Here we meet Nehemiah in Persia which was about 1000 miles away from

Jerusalem, his ancestral home. Many years before Jerusalem had been attacked by King Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, and much of the population had been taken off into exile. That must be as humiliating a punishment as could be imagined but for the Jews, for whom the land was a gift of God, it was an excruciating penalty. The people longed to return to their homeland and were eager for any snippet of news. On this particular day Nehemiah had heard the latest and it is a story of unrelieved misery. Although many of the exiles had returned to Jerusalem they were in great trouble and disgrace and the walls of the city were broken and the gates burned with fire. For Nehemiah there was no way in which the news could have been worse and he responded with tears and prayer.

I am struck by the number of times, on the radio and television, when I hear people describe their situation as being so hopeless and desperate that all they can do is pray. Prayer is portrayed as the last resort when every other remedy has been exhausted. Nehemiah saw it in exactly the opposite way. For him it was the first response. His confidence in his great God was such that he knew that Nehemiah could open up his heart to God, and that's precisely what he did. This was no polite, formal approach to God but the laying bare of his rawest emotions.

In common with all the greatest privileges of life, it is easy to abuse prayer. It is almost too wonderful to think that it is possible for us to communicate with the Creator of the Universe, but that is what we are invited to do. Like Nehemiah we need to turn prayer from something that we do once we've decided on a course of action, to our first response.

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QUESTION

How important is prayer in your life?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for the amazing privilege of being able to pray to you. Help me never to treat it lightly but to treasure it more and more. Amen

