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**Image of the day - Campanile, Trinity College, Dublin**

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## People and places

### Dublin's Black Santa Sit Out yields record sum

**2021 was a bumper year for Dublin's Black Santa Sit Out. Despite continuing pandemic restrictions, the appeal at St Ann's Church, Dawson St, raised a record €45,000 for local good causes.**

The appeal got off to a flying start when energy company Energia got in touch with an offer of €10,000 as part of their charitable donations in lieu of Christmas events for staff which had to be cancelled. The company also donated €10,000 to the Black Santa Appeal in Belfast.

Arthur Vincent of St Ann's said the parish was delighted at the success of this Christmas's appeal against all the odds. "This has been our best year ever. With the continuing effects of the pandemic, we had not set our hopes very high. Obviously the donation from Energia was a great boost but there were many other generous donations. There are people who give to Black Santa every year because they know every cent goes to the charities. This amount speaks very highly of people's generosity," he commented.

Last Christmas's appeal was the 21st annual Black Santa Sit Out at St Ann's Church in Dublin. It was officially launched by Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland and Archbishop

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Michael Jackson. They were joined by priest in charge the Revd Terry Lilburn and St Ann's caretaker, Fred Deane, as

Students from Alexandra College Dublin at the launch of the 2021 Black Santa Appeal pictured with the Revd Terry Lilburn, Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland, Black Santa Fred Deane and Archbishop Michael Jackson.

well as four students from Alexandra College choir who quietly sang 'Silent Night' accompanied by the harp.

The charities supported by Black Santa include include the Salvation Army, the Simon Community and the Peter McVerry Trust, all of which work with homeless people and [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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also Protestant Aid, Barnardo's, St Vincent De Paul, the Laura Lynn Foundation and the Solas Project.

The funds raised will be distributed to the charities during a special service at St Ann's on Sunday February 13 when the preacher will be the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd Stephen Forde. The Dublin Black Santa Sit Out is modelled on a similar sit out which takes place at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast every year. The name 'Black Santa' is derived from the heavy clerical cloaks worn to keep out the cold in the run up to Christmas.

## **New pilgrim route to link Welsh cathedral to Ferns Abbey, Ireland**

**A group that has established a series of pilgrimage routes connecting religious sites across Britain is planning its first international route.**

The Way of St Aidan and St David, which is being developed by the British Pilgrimage Trust, will link St Davids Cathedral, in Pembrokeshire, with Ferns Abbey, Co. Wexford, in southern Ireland, and will involve pilgrims in a sea crossing between Rosslare and Fishguard.

It will follow a journey taken in the sixth century by St Aidan of Ferns to Wales, where he was one of St David's most faithful disciples.

"It will become the Camino of Ireland and Wales, connecting the route associated with two great saints of Wales and Ireland near the coastline of both countries," the Trust's director, Guy Hayward, said.

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“We have joined forces with the national pilgrimage organisation of Ireland: Pilgrim Paths Ireland; and two organisations that organise guided pilgrimages in Wales: Guided Pilgrimage and Journeying. We hope it will become one of Europe’s leading pilgrimage routes, attracting thousands of committed and long-distance pilgrims and walkers within five years.

“This is our first time outside the UK. It’s not normally in our remit, but the opportunity came along, and I tend to go along with the flow.”

They hope to finalise a 90-mile “modern reimagining” of St Aidan of Ferns’s route early next year (2022), and are appointing two full-time pilgrimage officers — one for each side of the Irish Sea — to administer and promote the walk. They will also organise short guided pilgrimages for small groups, and longer events with accommodation, transport, and guides.

There will also be an audio-guided app for pilgrims planning their own journey to download. Walkers can have a “pilgrim passport”, which can be stamped as they complete each section of the route, and will qualify them for a certificate, like that offered on the Camino de Compostela.

St Aidan, also known as St Máedóc, was born in Inisbrenny, in Co. Cavan, in about 550, and as a young man travelled to west Wales, to study under St David. He returned to Ireland in 580, taking with him a gift from the Welsh saint of a hive of bees, which were believed to be rare in Ireland. In Co.

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Wexford, he became the first Bishop of Ferns, founding 30 churches and several monasteries.

## **Diocesan and Provincial Registrar appointed**

**The Revd Robert Marshall has been appointed Diocesan and Provincial Registrar. He has served as Deputy Diocesan and Provincial Registrar since 2007. He succeeds the Revd Stephen Farrell who has been appointed Dean of Ossory.**

Robert Marshall was ordained as a priest in the auxiliary ministry of the Church of Ireland in June 2003 having been made deacon the previous year. Since 2002 he has served in the grouped parishes of Stillorgan and Blackrock. He describes himself as a Solicitor in Holy Orders, although he retired from practice a number of years ago to return to Trinity College and graduated with an MBA. As a solicitor he specialised in commercial property and heritage cases.

An active historian, he is a former president of the Irish Legal History Society and is currently a member of the Historical Sciences Committee of the Royal Irish Academy.

Making the announcement, Archbishop Michael Jackson commented: "The Revd Robert Marshall, as an ordained lawyer, is very well placed to be the Diocesan and Provincial Registrar in succession to the Very Revd Stephen Farrell who has moved from Zion to Kilkenny. Robert has an encyclopaedic knowledge of Ecclesiastical Legal History as readers of The Church Review are well aware."

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The Revd Robert Marshall (left) with Dean Dermot Dunne, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Ciaran Toland SC and Dean Stephen Farrell.

“I should like to thank Stephen for everything he has done in this role and to welcome Robert as his successor,” the Archbishop added.

Commenting on the announcement of his appointment, Robert said he looked forward to the “challenge of acting as registrar and particularly to working with the Archbishop on the institution of clergy to parishes, and the authorisation of changes to church buildings”.

The Provincial and Diocesan Registrar is part of the legal team of the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and of the wider Province of Dublin.



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Each diocese has its own tribunal to decide matters of controversy arising under the law of the Church of Ireland, other than doctrinal and ritual matters.

Established originally by the Convention in 1870, in the United Dioceses these courts have not been summoned to sit for many years, a sign of the unity of opinion within the United Dioceses. The court comprises the Archbishop as judge, who acts *ex officio* on the advice of his chancellor.

Once every three years, the clergy and the laity respectively elect their panels for the diocesan courts. In the event of a petition being presented to a diocesan court, a member is chosen from each of the panels to represent the clergy and the laity who will sit with the Archbishop to decide matters of fact. In effect they act as a jury. Matters of church law are reserved to the Archbishop and his Chancellor. The Archbishop appoints the registrar of the courts who becomes responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the courts and the management of their papers.

Aside from contentious matters the court issues 'faculties' to authorise the making of changes to churches, a function for which the other 'judges' are not required. The registrar also maintains the roll of the Archbishop recording the declarations required of clergy and laity before taking up formal offices within the church. The registrar of Dublin and Glendalough is also registrar of the Province of Dublin and of the Court of the General Synod should it be convened. The chancellor of the United Dioceses is Ciarán Toland SC who succeeded the Hon Catherine McGuinness in 2020. The Revd Stephen Farrell has been registrar since he

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succeeded Canon Victor Stacey upon his election as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral.

## **CMHI appoints new Chairperson**

**The Rev. Canon Lesley Robinson, Rector of Clontarf, has been appointed as Chair of the Board of Directors of CMH:I**

She succeeds The Rev. Canon Dr. Daniel Nuzum who retired from the Board this year after 5 years excellent service in the role. Canon Robinson has been a member of the Board since 2016 and also serves on the Dublin & Glendalough Ministry of Healing committee.



## **Funeral of Mrs Elizabeth Peters**

**The funeral of Mrs Elizabeth Peters, widow of Revd Ralph Peters, will be in Down Cathedral on Monday 24 January at 11.00am, followed by a private family burial.**

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Revd Peters served two curacies in Down and Dromore and was also rector of St Mary, Newry (1965–81) and Down with Hollymount (1981–84).

## **Vacancy for Diocesan Administration Officer (part-time)**

**The Joint Committee of Connor, Down and Dromore seeks to recruit a part-time Diocesan Administration Officer for the Diocese of Down and Dromore.**

The successful candidate will report to the Diocesan Secretary and be responsible for a range of administrative tasks which support the smooth running of the diocese and its ministries. See -

[[] <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2022/01/vacancy-for-diocesan-administration-officer-part-time> ]

## **Vacancy for Under 18s Ministry Coordinator**

**Are you gifted and enthusiastic in helping young people follow Jesus?**

The Parish of St John's, Orangefield (Castlereagh Road, Belfast) seeks to appoint an Under 18s Ministry Coordinator. See -

[[] <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2022/01/vacancy-for-under-18s-ministry-coordinator-> ]

## **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books**

### **Parenting for Faith course**

Based on the book Parenting Children for a Life of Faith, the Parenting for Faith course is a video-based resource for communities that can be downloaded or live-streamed. The course, handbooks and promotional materials are all free to download and use or you can purchase a DVD and handbooks if you prefer. It's normally run in a church or small group, but can be used by individuals as well.

The goal of the course is to help parents discover that they are perfectly positioned to show their children the reality of a life with God and to empower them to have their own vibrant two-way relationship with him.

[\[http://parentingforfaith.org/course\]](http://parentingforfaith.org/course)

### **Special online talk to celebrate 270 years of Belfast Charitable Society**

The 270th anniversary of Belfast Charitable Society (BCS), will be marked by a “very special discussion with Sir Ronnie Weatherup, President of BCS, and Dr Éamon Phoenix, highly esteemed local historian, who will examine Belfast’s oldest charity through its buildings, people and influence across the centuries”.

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'Georgian Bricks and Belfast Mortals' talk will take place via Zoom on Wednesday 26th January at 7pm.

Book your place today:

[ <https://cliftonbelfast.com/event/georgian-bricks-and-belfast-mortals-belfast-and-its-charitable-society-by-dr-eamon-phoenix-belfast-charitable-society-270-years/> ]

## **MP launches a new church funding guide**

Carla Lockhart MP has launched a booklet containing valuable information to support church and faith based organisations. Her Banbridge Office can provide copies -

[ [https://mydup.com/news/church-funding-directory-launched?fbclid=IwAR1fFNN3Uba\\_qSMIDlhMH-WRY18ms7DxB5hY7EeGtx9RFR1Bp7To9D7hHQQ](https://mydup.com/news/church-funding-directory-launched?fbclid=IwAR1fFNN3Uba_qSMIDlhMH-WRY18ms7DxB5hY7EeGtx9RFR1Bp7To9D7hHQQ) ]

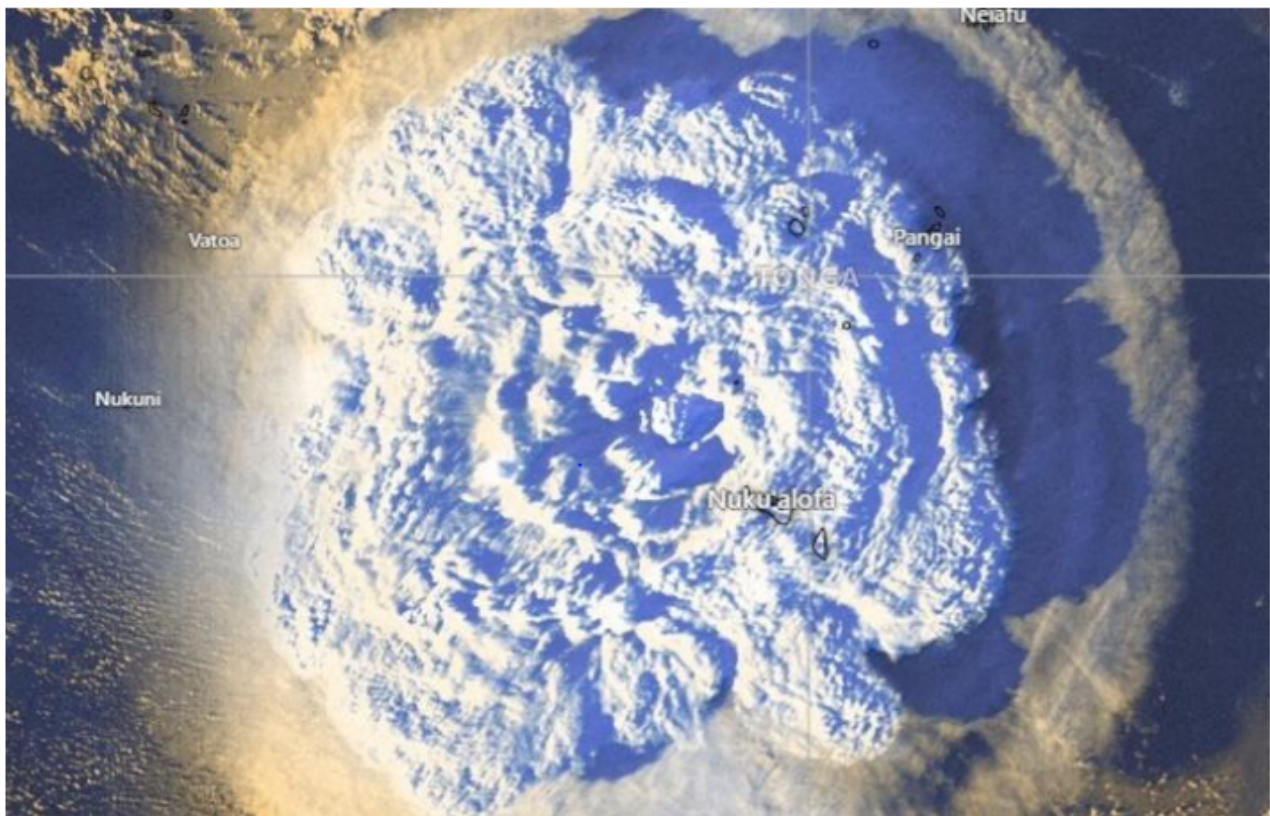
## **News Reports**

### **Anglican Diocese of Polynesia launches emergency appeal for people of Tonga**

**The Anglican Diocese of Polynesia and Anglican Missions have launched an appeal for the people of Tonga after volcanic eruption.**

The Anglican Diocese of Polynesia and Anglican Missions have launched an emergency appeal for the people of Tonga after a volcanic eruption caused widespread damage on 15 January. The Hunga Tonga – Hunga Ha’apai Volcano erupted in the sea, 65km from Tonga’s capital Nuku’alofa,

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The massive undersea volcano eruption in Tonga on 15 January, 2022. Photo: Tonga Meteorological Services /

On 15 January the underwater Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano erupted

generating a 19.2km high, 5km wide ash plume, and triggering tsunami waves.

Initial reports on social media showed metre-high surges inundating coastal areas of Nuku'alofa and aerial and satellite images have shown the capital is blanketed in ash. The Tongan Navy has reported major damage on the islands of Mango and Fono'i, where waves were estimated to be 5 to 10 metres in height, reaching 500 metres inland and causing significant damage.

Pending assessments, damage in the northern isolated islands will also likely include contaminated water and food



supplies because of ashfall as well as major damage to buildings and crops.

Anglican Missions is working closely with the Diocese of Polynesia and a network of New Zealand agencies responding to this event in Tonga, as well as maintaining links with the official New Zealand government response.

The Diocese of Polynesia are asking churches to channel their support by raising and donating money. Funds sent through to the Diocese will initially be used to replenish relief supplies already located at four Anglican churches in Nuku'alofa. Further funds will then be deployed according to an assessment of needs.

Donations can be made via the Anglican Missions website - [\[\[\] https://angmissions.org.nz/news/emergency-appeal-for-tonga \]](https://angmissions.org.nz/news/emergency-appeal-for-tonga)

## **Ukrainian crisis threatens peace and democracy in Europe, observers warn**

**Ukrainian-American Catholics warn a Russian military buildup on Ukraine's border poses a grave threat not only to that nation, but to Europe and democracy itself.**

“It is a question of life or death for thousands, who will be massacred by an escalated invasion,” said Archbishop Borys Gudziak, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. He said he expects 3 million to 6 million refugees to flee to Western Europe.

Speaking Jan. 16 by telephone with CatholicPhilly.com, the news website of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the archbishop described Ukraine as a “bulwark of freedom” against what he called an authoritarian regime that is “moving toward totalitarianism” under Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“If Russia succeeds in subjugating Ukraine, chances are the process will continue in the Baltic countries, Central Europe and beyond,” Archbishop Gudziak said.

For Ukrainians, “the reality of war ... is not a new story,” Archbishop Gudziak said. “Our priests (there) have been burying war dead regularly for over eight years.”

Eugene Luciw, president of the Philadelphia chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, echoed the archbishop's concerns.



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Putin’s demands — including that NATO deny membership to Ukraine and other former Soviet states — show that he wants “to reestablish the sphere of influence the Soviet Union had (by bringing) back the rest of Eastern Europe,” said Luciw, a member of Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

In 2014, Russia annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula, with Russian-backed separatists proclaiming “people’s republics” in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. The move came 23 years after Ukraine gained independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union, of which it had been a part.

Clashes, shelling and sniper attacks have become common in eastern Ukraine since the incursion. The United Nations reported nearly 1.5 million internally displaced people in the

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country in 2021, with more than 3,350 civilian deaths and more than 7,000 civilian injuries between April 2014 and March 2020.

In recent months, about 100,000 Russian troops have amassed at Ukraine's border, with as many as 175,000 poised for a military operation in the coming weeks, according to U.S. intelligence officials.

A Jan. 14 cybersecurity attack, regarded by observers of the region as a prelude to military action, crippled approximately 70 Ukrainian government websites with an onscreen message warning users to "be afraid and expect the worst."

The breach, which occurred hours after diplomatic talks between Moscow and Western allies stalled, showed signs of Russian involvement, said Kyiv's state security service.

The online assaults are far from unprecedented, Archbishop Gudziak said.

"The energy grid, businesses and political institutions have been subjected to malware and cyber warfare," he explained. "And all this because Ukraine wants to be free, and Ukrainians insist on their self-determination."

Although "the reality of war has become part of the fabric of life," he said, "the prospect of escalation into war is leading people into a kind of deeper anxiety."

The U.S. provinces of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great released a statement that expressed "great

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concern” for the safety of 165 members of the order’s Ukrainian-based Holy Trinity province.

“We are equally concerned for a number of other religious communities in Ukraine,” the congregation said.

Leaders of Manor College, a Catholic institution in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, released a similar statement.

“The mounting Russian forces on Ukraine’s border have the community throughout Manor College very concerned for the safety and well-being of families and individuals in Ukraine as well as the peoples of all of Eastern Europe,” Jonathan Peri, president, said in the statement.

Economic and political sanctions against Russia are not necessarily sufficient to deter “what appears to be an imminent, large-scale invasion of Ukraine,” Peri wrote. “Although we see the wisdom in responsive transactional diplomacy, it is imperative that the United States stand firm in communicating and enforcing its resolve to protect the sovereignty and integrity of Ukraine.”

Former college trustee Leonard Mazur told CatholicPhilly.com his family members in Western Ukraine feel as if they are “living with a comet about to collide with (them).”

Archbishop Gudziak described the logic behind Russian aggression as “quite simple.”

“Ukraine is one of the democratic success stories after the fall of communism. And a democratic Ukraine with a free

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press, a growing economy, vibrant ecumenical relations, a political system that is modified by the vote of its citizens, and which is found on the borders of Russia, is a great threat to the system that President Putin has set up,” he said.

As “a witness to the freedom that Putin has crushed in Russia,” the archbishop said, Ukraine offers a visible alternative to a system that, “while not classical communism,” nonetheless “rejects basic Christian anthropology” and “the teaching of who is a human being.”

“Our faith, our church teaching, the holy Scriptures, which are the basis of Western democracy, have inculcated in us a deep awareness of the fact that we are children of God,” he said.

That dignity “cannot become a function of some goal,” he continued. “You can’t kill millions of people leading humanity to some kind of utopian future, as the communist system has promised.”

Paradoxically, said Archbishop Gudziak, the “colonialist, imperialist plan” of Putin is being endorsed by the Russian Orthodox Church, with which Mikhail Gorbachev restored relations in 1988 while he was general secretary of the Soviet Union’s Communist Party.

Putin himself professes to be devoutly Orthodox, but Archbishop Gudziak said the alliance between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Russian state is essentially “a fight for grandeur and a fight for territory” based on a nostalgic

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desire for “past imperial glory,” both “political and ecclesiastical.”

## **Pope declares St. Irenaeus a doctor of the church**

**Pope Francis officially has declared St. Irenaeus of Lyon a doctor of the church.**

In a decree released by the Vatican Jan. 21, the pope ordered that the second-century theologian be given the title of “doctor of unity” and said St. Irenaeus’ life and teachings served as “a spiritual and theological bridge between Eastern and Western Christians.”

“May the doctrine of such a great teacher increasingly encourage the journey of all the Lord’s disciples toward full communion,” the pope said.

During a meeting with Pope Francis Jan. 20, Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, asked the pope to “accept the affirmative opinion” of the cardinals and bishops who are congregation members to confer the title on St. Irenaeus, who was known for his defense of orthodoxy amid the rise of gnostic sects.

St. Irenaeus is the second doctor of the church named by Pope Francis after St. Gregory of Narek, who was given the designation in 2015. He brings the total number of doctors of the church to 37.

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Born in Smyrna, Asia Minor — now modern-day Turkey — St. Irenaeus was known as a staunch defender of the faith.

Concerned about the rise of gnostic sects within the early Christian church, he wrote “Adversus haereses” (“Against Heresies”), a refutation of gnostic beliefs that emphasized personal spiritual knowledge over faith in Christian teachings and in ecclesiastical authority.

In October, the pope had told members of the St. Irenaeus Joint Orthodox-Catholic Working Group that he intended to declare their namesake a doctor of the church.

“Your patron, St. Irenaeus of Lyon — whom I will soon declare a doctor of the church with the title, ‘doctor unitatis’ (‘doctor of unity’) — came from the East, exercised his episcopal ministry in the West, and was a great spiritual and theological bridge between Eastern and Western Christians,” he said.

During his meeting with Cardinal Semeraro, Pope Francis also signed decrees recognizing how three sainthood candidates — one man and two women — heroically lived the Christian virtues. The three were:

— Italian Archbishop Francesco Saverio Toppi, the former prelate of Pompei, who was known for his devotion to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. He was born in 1925 and died in 2007.

— Italian Sister Maria Teresa De Vincenti, founder of the Little Workers of the Sacred Heart. She was born in 1872 and died in 1936.

— Italian Sister Gabriella Borgarino, a member of the Daughters of Charity. She was born in 1880 and died in 1949.

## Perspective

### **The West can't afford disunity over Ukraine - Daily Telegraph editorial**

**One of the arguments advanced for electing Joe Biden as US president was that he represented a safe pair of hands after the apparent chaos of the Trump years. That argument is now in tatters.**

First came the botched exit from Afghanistan and the return to power of the Taliban. Then followed a series of domestic set-backs: Mr Biden has not united Americans as he had

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promised but pursued a Left-wing agenda that has exacerbated divisions. Now, as Russian forces mass on the border with Ukraine, he faces perhaps his most serious test yet.

In a series of extraordinary remarks on the occasion of the first anniversary of his presidency, Mr Biden appeared to say that if Vladimir Putin made only a “minor incursion” into Ukraine then Russia would not face the devastating sanctions that had been threatened. What would count as a “minor incursion”? Some in Ukraine have accused Mr Biden of giving a green light to an invasion. The White House scrambled to clarify that any movement of Russian troops over the Ukrainian border would result in a severe US response.

Mr Biden also suggested there were splits within Nato over how to respond to Russian aggression, at a time when a united front is surely most required. It is true that Western powers cannot seem to agree on how to deal with Mr Putin. The UK has flown anti-tank weapons to Kyiv, but avoided German airspace while doing so. Although it is said that no transit request was made, Germany is compromised by its dependence on Russian gas while it is switching off its nuclear power plants. Emmanuel Macron has been more robust, but talks in terms of a European strategic response separate to Nato. The French president has even suggested a European treaty with Moscow.

Suffice to say, this is a dangerous moment for the leading powers of the West to go wobbly. The UK alone appears to be firm in its resolve to help Ukraine resist Mr Putin’s forces, although there is no question of Britain playing an active role



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in Kyiv's defence. It is possible that the Kremlin has no intention of launching a direct attack, but is instead playing a different game designed to extract concessions without war. Yet it would be grossly irresponsible to assume that is the case.

The urgent priority now is making clear to Mr Putin that he cannot do what he likes with another sovereign state without incurring overwhelming costs. Our allies are making that vital task harder.

Courtesy the Daily Telegraph, published 21/01/2022

## Poem for today

### Begin by Brendan Kennelly

Begin again to the summoning birds  
to the sight of the light at the window,  
begin to the roar of morning traffic  
all along Pembroke Road.  
Every beginning is a promise  
born in light and dying in dark  
determination and exaltation of springtime  
flowering the way to work.  
Begin to the pageant of queuing girls  
the arrogant loneliness of swans in the canal  
bridges linking the past and future  
old friends passing though with us still.  
Begin to the loneliness that cannot end  
since it perhaps is what makes us begin,  
begin to wonder at unknown faces

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at crying birds in the sudden rain  
at branches stark in the willing sunlight  
at seagulls foraging for bread  
at couples sharing a sunny secret  
alone together while making good.  
Though we live in a world that dreams of ending  
that always seems about to give in  
something that will not acknowledge conclusion  
insists that we forever begin.

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