

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Killarney prays for Ukraine**

March 19, 2022

## Image of the day

### Killarney prays for Ukraine

A giant sunflower – the national flower of Ukraine – has been installed on the steeple of St Mary's Church in Killarney as a gesture of solidarity with the people of the war-torn country

## People and places



**Methodist College Chapel Choir sang on BBC Radio 4 morning service on St Patrick's Day**



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The Chapel Choir led the worship in the BBC Radio 4 morning service broadcast from the Chapel in Methody on St Patrick's Day. The preacher was Simon Doogan. The Chapel Choir was directed by Ruth McCartney and the organist was Dr Joe McKee. The service was broadcast on long wave and digital radio. You can hear it at - <http://ow.ly/nYJe50llxu1>

## St Patrick's Day Civic Service restored at St Fin Barre's Cathedral



After two years of absence, representatives of Cork City Council gather in the cathedral grounds before the Civic Service.

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The annual Festival and Civic Service for St Patrick's Day was held at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork. After two years of not being able to host this celebration, Bishop Paul Colton invited the Lord Mayor of Cork and Cork City Council politicians, as well as representatives of State agencies, NGOs and Voluntary Groups to finally celebrate St Patrick's Day together and in person again.

For the first time since Christmas 2019, the full Cathedral Choir was singing at the service. There were forty singers, including girl and boy choristers, Junior Lay Vicars and Adult Lay Vicars Choral.

For over twenty years, the Bishop and his wife Susan would host their annual Saint Patrick's Day reception at the Bishop's Palace in Cork, which was also not possible for the past two years. This year, still conscious of the ongoing pandemic, the Bishop arranged for Cortado Coffee to serve hot beverages and cake from their van outside the cathedral after the service.

## **War represents the failure of politics, politics and dialogue - Archbishop Martin**

**Homily given by Archbishop Eamon Martin for Mass on the Feast of Saint Patrick.**

Overview -

+Ukrainians continue to celebrate Mass and the sacraments on the streets, in the bunkers and shelters, doing their best to bring to their fearful people the love and compassion of Christ

+It is heartening that there has already been such an outpouring of prayer and charity and solidarity from Ireland towards the people of Ukraine

+The Gospel is calling on us to open up our hearts and our homes to refugees coming to Ireland

+May all Christians of Europe, including Patriarch Kirill and the Russian Orthodox Church, unite in support of a ceasefire, humanitarian outreach and the immediate laying down of weapons.

+A special Church collection will be taken up at all Masses across Ireland on the weekend of Sunday 27 March

+We know in Ireland how peace is built and sustained not only by words, but also by our actions and our attitudes to others

+The UK government must be more generous in its response to the refugee crisis and there needs to be urgent cross-border cooperation to ensure that bureaucracy does not get in the way of hospitality

Full text at -

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/03/17/war-represents-the-failure-of-politics-politics-and-dialogue-homily-of-archbishop-eamon-martin-for-mass-on-the-feast-of-saint-patrick/>

## News briefs

### **+Christian charity 'concerned' for chaplains in Ukraine as church in Mariupol is bombed**

Christian maritime charity Sailors' Society (CMCSS) is worried for Society chaplains in Ukraine, as Russian forces have bombed a church that had been built by Sailors Society Chaplain for the Port of Mariupol, Pastor Viktor Dudnick around 18 years ago.

### **+Covid outbreak temporarily closes Belfast's St Peter's Cathedral**

Masses were temporarily suspended earlier this week after three clergy tested positive

### **+First German Catholic diocese allows women to perform baptisms**

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Essen has become the first in Germany to allow women to perform baptisms, citing a lack of priests.

### **Ongoing restoration of Holy Trinity Church in Frankfield, Diocese of Cork**

### **+Russian Orthodox Church in Amsterdam breaks with Moscow**

The Russian Orthodox church in Amsterdam has announced it is to break from with the Moscow Patriarchate, over the invasion of Ukraine.





## **+Dean of New York's St. John the Divine announces resignation**

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel III, dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, said on March 15 that he will resign effective June 30. Daniel was appointed dean in June 2018, having served as interim dean since March 2017.

## **+Heritage grants in Limerick**

33 historic heritage and protected structures across Limerick are to benefit from funding for essential repairs and maintenance. The Limerick projects include the former St

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Munchin's Church of Ireland church on Church Street  
(€4,000)

## **+Heritage grants in Kildare**

Over €120k in grants allocated to historic buildings across Kildare. Projects include St Brigid's Cathedral Church in Kildare Town which received €10,000 for repairs and the Church of Sacred Heart and St Brigid in Kilcullen which was awarded €9,000 for a conservation assessment. St John's Church in Kill received €2,500 for the stabilisation of masonry while the Presentation Convent in Kildare town was allocated €4,500 for essential works to a chimney and bell tower.

## **News reports**

### **We can't solve poverty without solving war - Sentamu**

**Eliminating war is key to eliminating poverty, the former Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, has said.**

Speaking at the launch of Christian Aid's new report into poverty, "Reimagining paths to human flourishing", Dr Sentamu said that the war in Ukraine was a case in point.

"You cannot eliminate poverty without eliminating war," he said.



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"In fact, war throws more people into poverty. At the moment, Ukraine is quite a clear example.

"No matter how wonderful that country was, war begins and it drives a lot of people into poverty."

Dr Sentamu, who is Christian Aid's Chair of Trustees, said that Christians must be the peacemakers who work to prevent war.

"We need to be people who love our neighbours and do our best to make sure that war does not actually happen because it kills more people, kills more of our neighbours, and we need to make friends with a number of people who are very different from us," he said.

Dr Sentamu said the reality of poverty "breaks the heart of God" and that eradicating it was "really a spiritual question". But he also said that Christians need to see Jesus among the poor.

"Those who have the love of God in their hearts don't see Jesus often among people living in poverty, they're looking somewhere else," he said.

"When I look at the poor, it is Jesus looking back at me. And if it's Jesus looking back at me, that gives me great hope that transforming our world from the world of deep poverty is a possibility.

"Being part of the church, I should be an instrument of transformation where I see everybody as my brother, where when I see people in poverty, it's Jesus looking at me."

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He added that the only thing that can destroy Isaiah's vision of a world of peace "is the presence of war and the abuse of power and people being silent when others are being slaughtered".

Christian Aid's report was launched on Tuesday and is the culmination of a two-year project examining the cause and effect of poverty, and how it can be eradicated.

The report says that Ukraine and widespread famine in the Horn of Africa are evidence that too many promises have been "unfulfilled".

It calls for a re-think in approaches to international development to move beyond "the polarity of 'us' and 'them'" and recommends a "new path that moves on from growth-centred definitions of development and aid dependency to a vision of human flourishing that is just and sustainable and recognises people's interdependence".

Christian Aid's interim Chief Executive, Patrick Watt said: "In recent decades there has been remarkable progress to help those in need. But inequality, entrenched by the economic fallout of Covid-19, has slowed that progress and now the climate crisis and conflict threaten to throw it into reverse.

"Poverty is increasingly concentrated amongst people who face exclusion and discrimination.

"Eradicating poverty now requires fresh approaches that tackle inequality, strengthen people's voice and decision making and treat poverty as multi-dimensional."

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The report has been endorsed by UN Special Envoy for Global Education and former British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, who said leaders must be challenged "to face the scandal of global poverty afresh".

"As a result of the pandemic, we have a health crisis, an economic crisis, and an education crisis, but we also have a poverty crisis, a social emergency which, if not addressed, will cost countless lost lives," he said.

"It is this generation's moral obligation to overcome extreme poverty and address inequalities, and we need to find new ways to strengthen those whose voices are often not heard.

"Christian Aid's poverty report is a hopeful call for justice founded on the realisation that we are responsible for one another to live flourishing lives."

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said: "Christian Aid's report shows the gains that have been made in tackling extreme poverty in recent decades, but also the limits of progress to date.

"The pandemic has clearly exposed the deep, persistent inequalities that continue to blight our world, with women and girls in lower income countries being hit especially hard.

"No one can be left out of the fight against poverty. We must listen to and be led by the most marginalised, understanding their experiences and standing with them in claiming their rights."



## **Kiev's mayor invites Pope Francis to the capital to make peace call**

**The Vatican has revealed, the mayor of Kiev had issued a formal invitation for Pope Francis to visit Ukraine's capital earlier this month.**

On Tuesday, a Vatican official said Vitaly Klitschko had written a letter to the Pontiff urging him to visit the city, as he believed his presence in Kiev would be "key for saving lives and paving the path to peace."

The Vatican confirmed the Pope had received the letter but made no mention of a future trip.

But in his letter, Klitschko said that if a trip was not possible, a live or recorded video conference would also be helpful.

"We kindly ask for a joint video conference, to be recorded or broadcast live. Efforts will be made to include President Zelenskyy in this call."

It continued: "We appeal to you, as a spiritual leader, to show your compassion, to stand with the Ukrainian people by jointly spreading the call for peace."

This is not the first time Kiev's mayor calls on religious leaders to take stance against Russia's actions. On March 5th, Klitschko published a video on Twitter urging religious leaders from around the world to come to Kiev.

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"What is happening in the heart of Europe touches the hearts of all the inhabitants of our planet, who love justice and values of goodness, regardless of their region or religion. I expressly appeal to religious leaders to take a stand and assume the moral function that is incumbent upon them and to proudly assume the responsibility of their religions for peace," Klitshko said.



Pope Francis has so far avoided to publicly condemn Russia by name for its invasion. However, it has rejected Russia's statement that it is carrying out 'a special military operation' but called it a war that is causing 'rivers of blood and tears.'

The Pontiff has also said "the Holy see is willing to do everything to put itself at the service of peace" and has sent two cardinals as papal envoys to Ukraine.

## **If there's a God, love is going to win - US Presiding Bishop**

**"Putin may overrun the country, but he will not defeat the people of Ukraine. He will not. Spirit will always win over flesh. It may not be in the forecast time, but it's real.**

In 1853, Theodore Parker, an abolitionist, when it looked like slavery would never end in this country, said, and I quote, 'I do not pretend to understand the moral universe. The arc seems to be a long one, but from what I can see it bends toward justice.' Dr. King shortened it and said, 'The moral arc of the universe is long, but it is bent toward justice.'

Not because of some metaphysical magic, but because there is a God. And if there is a God, then there is hope. If there is a God, then there can be faith. And if there is a God, as my Bible says, who is love, then in the end, no matter what we have to go through now, in the end, love is going to win. If there's a God, love is going to win."

From Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry's sermon delivered Tuesday to the House of Bishops.

Read the full text here:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/give-me-jesus/>

## **House of Lords throws out latest attempt to legalise assisted suicide**



## **The House of Lords has rejected the latest attempt to legalise assisted suicide in England and Wales.**

Peers voted by 179 votes to 145 against Lord Forsyth's amendment to the Health and Care Bill that would have forced the Government to bring forward assisted suicide legislation within a year.

It is the 12th time since 1997 that proposals for assisted suicide have not been thrown out by Parliament.

Ciarán Kelly of the Christian Institute said the vote had prevented "a real threat to the lives of vulnerable people".

"The proposal clearly breached the Sixth Commandment and denied the value of every person as an individual made in the image of God," he said.

"Recent scandals over blanket use of 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders showed that, sadly, some health professionals have lost sight of the value of human life.

"Weakening the law would have put vulnerable people under pressure to end their lives for fear of being a financial, emotional or care burden on others.

"Supporters of assisted suicide claim it can be introduced safely, but international evidence shows it is impossible to establish sufficient safeguards to protect vulnerable people once the law is liberalised. Keeping assisted suicide illegal is the only safeguard."

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After the vote Baroness Campbell of Surbiton expressed her delight that the attempt to introduce assisted suicide “by the back door” had failed.

Speaking on behalf of disability campaign group Not Dead Yet, Lady Campbell said disabled people “want support to live, not support to die”.

She was supported by Dr Gordon Macdonald, chief executive of Care Not Killing, who said peers had recognised “the dangers of ripping up laws that protect the terminally ill and disabled people from feeling like a burden”.

Danny Kruger, Conservative MP for Devizes and chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Dying Well, said: “The House of Lords has now unequivocally rejected the latest attempt to shoehorn radical assisted suicide laws onto the statute book.

“Given that supporters of assisted suicide have said that the House of Lords is more supportive than the Commons, this is ample evidence that assisted suicide enjoys neither momentum nor support,” said Mr Kruger (pictured).

“Countless hours have been spent debating these proposals and given the pressures on Parliamentary time, this result ought to be an indicator that future time should not be given over to this issue again.”

Dr Mark Pickering of the Christian Medical Fellowship, said: “I’m very relieved that the Lords rejected this inappropriate amendment. Baroness Meacher’s Bill has already been fully debated recently in the Lords, and it was entirely wrong for

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assisted suicide campaigners to breach protocol in this way by hijacking an already complex health bill. This has potentially taken valuable debate time away from other very important health issues that have not received sufficient parliamentary time.

“We should be focussing attention on improving patchy palliative care provision, as Baroness Finlay’s amendment is already looking to do.”

Nathan Stilwell of Humanists UK, which supported the amendment, said that he vote “robs those who need an assisted death of the choice, dignity, and autonomy as to when to end their lives”.

He said: “Allowing people to choose the manner and moment of their own death is the hallmark of a compassionate society and should be a basic right.”

## In the media

**Mournes - Six year old twins complete a challenge for friend**

**BBC News**

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-60658895>]

**Even the worst war comes to an end**

**BBC News**



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Even the worst war comes to an end. Sometimes, as in 1945, the only outcome is a fight to the death. Mostly, though, wars end in a deal which doesn't satisfy anyone entirely, but at least brings the bloodshed to an end. And often, even after the worst and most bitter conflicts, the two sides gradually resume their old, less hostile relationship.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-60756993>

## **Ireland sends body armour and ready-to-eat meals**

### **Belfast Telegraph**

Ireland has sent 5,000 ready-to-eat meals and 200 units of body armour to Ukraine, as the war against Russia continues.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/body-armour-and-10-tonnes-of-food-sent-by-ireland-to-ukrainian-army-41445892.html>

## **C of E business ethics**

### **BBC News**

The Church of England is putting pressure on TotalEnergies over its decision not to cut business ties with Russia in the wake of its Ukraine invasion

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-60760375>

## **Andrew Trimble - People in the Republic are not ready for a united Ireland**

### **Irish Times**

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[\[https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/andrew-trimble-people-in-the-republic-are-not-ready-for-a-united-ireland-1.4822360\]](https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/andrew-trimble-people-in-the-republic-are-not-ready-for-a-united-ireland-1.4822360)

## **Rising fuel prices could see school bus services cut**

### **RTE news**

<https://www.rte.ie/news/business/2022/0314/1286326-rising-fuel-prices-could-see-private-bus-services-cut/>

## **Landmark Strule shared education campus faces further delays**

### **BBC News**

The full opening of a landmark shared education campus in Omagh is facing another delay.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-60708475>

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

## **Reorientation: wellbeing in a time of uncertainty**

By Adult Learning at St Paul's Cathedral . Premieres online on Tuesday 29 March, 7.00-7.45pm

At the 2 year marker of the pandemic, Corin Pilling invites you to explore what this experience has meant & how we might flourish rather than survive.

This has been a time of profound disorientation. Many of us have endured terrible losses, from bereavement, loss of employment, the loss of seeing friends and relatives to the simple sense that we had that the ground was steady under our feet. Many of us feel profoundly weary, and in need of spiritual refreshment. Yet there may also have been unexpected, perhaps hidden, blessings. As we adjust to a new season and new ways of being, take time out to explore what this experience has meant and how we might, in the light of it, flourish rather than just survive.

Corin Pilling, the UK Director of Sanctuary Mental Health will offer a time to reflect together using the experience of the prophet Jeremiah.

Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries equips the Church to support mental health and wellbeing.

This is a recorded online session with a gentle pace, and will include times for private, personal reflection.

[[] <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reorientation-wellbeing-in-a-time-of-uncertainty-tickets-291262563167> ]

## **Clonard Solemn Novena 2022**

This years Clonard Solemn Novena will take place from the 15th to 23rd of June 2022. The Novena will be both in Church and online. Further details to follow - watch this space.

## Poem for today

### On Raglan Road by Patrick Kavanagh

On Raglan Road on an autumn day I met her first and knew  
That her dark hair would weave a snare that I might one day  
rue;

I saw the danger, yet I walked along the enchanted way,  
And I said, let grief be a fallen leaf at the dawning of the day.

On Grafton Street in November we tripped lightly along the  
ledge

Of the deep ravine where can be seen the worth of  
passion's pledge,

The Queen of Hearts still making tarts and I not making hay

-

O I loved too much and by such and such is happiness  
thrown away.

I gave her gifts of the mind I gave her the secret sign that's  
known

To the artists who have known the true gods of sound and  
stone

And word and tint. I did not stint for I gave her poems to say.  
With her own name there and her own dark hair like clouds  
over fields of May

On a quiet street where old ghosts meet I see her walking  
now

Away from me so hurriedly my reason must allow

That I had wooed not as I should a creature made of clay -

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When the angel woos the clay he'd lose his wings at the dawn of day.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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