TV and radio: Seeing priesthood at the most intimate moments of life – Page 35



Thursday, March 24, 2022

Parish schools 'pull out all the stops' to welcome children from Ukraine

Chai Brady and Ruadhán Jones

Catholic schools across the country are already seeing "significant numbers" of children fleeing the Russian onslaught of Ukraine and have pledged to do whatever it takes to make places for them.

Parish school leaders north and south say that the situation is moving very quickly with more than 200,000 refugees expected in coming weeks tens of thousands of them children of school-going age.

Séamus Mulconry of the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association told The Irish Catholic that the schools "are rising to the challenge - but it is quite a challenge because many do not have English and the

numbers are very significant. "Schools are pulling out all stops to welcome them," he said.

The parish of Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare in the Galway Diocese is the new temporary home of hundreds of Ukrainian refugees. Accommodated in three local hotels, those seeking refuge include 178 children - 58 secondary school and 120 primary school pupils.

At a meeting of the four local schools over the weekend it was unanimously agreed to welcome "with open arms all school-going children from Ukraine into the parish schools.

» Continued on Page 2



Fostering a sense of mission in parishes PAGE 34



'Open arms' – principal of Presentation Primary School in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Natasha Miskell with Lilia Shumko, a Ukrainian woman who has been living in Ireland for many years and has set up a support group for refugees, welcome Mariia Shumko who recently fled Ukraine and has enrolled her children in the school, and Bishop of Meath Tom Deenihan.

HOLY LAND

Journeying with Christ in the holy places **PAGES 9-15**



JASON OSBORNE

Drawing closer to God through fasting PAGES 31&33



MISSIONARIES ARE ON THE GROUND, HELPING THOSE FLEEING AND LEFT BEHIND BY WAR.

UKRAINE APPEAL

Please Donate Today WWW.MISEANCARA.IE/DONATE



Managing Editor: Michael Kelly, editor@irishcatholic.ie Deputy Editor: Chai Brady, chai@irishcatholic.ie Northern Correspondent: Martin O'Brien, martin@irishcatholic.ie Multimedia Journalists: Ruadhán Jones, ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie Jason Osborne, jason@irishcatholic.ie

Newsroom: news@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874026

Books Editor: Peter Costello, books@irishcatholic.ie

Advertising: advertising@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874094

Accounts: accounts@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874020

Magnificat: magnificat@irishcatholic.ie

Shop: shop@irishcatholic.ie

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, Sandvford, Dublin 18, D18 K277 Printed by Webprint, Cork

Place an Advert Phone 01 687 4094 or advertising@irishcatholic.ie

Parish schools 'pull out all the stops' to welcome children from Ukraine

» Continued from Page 1 "We are grateful for the continued support of the community as we embrace, in the spirit of Christ, these innocent victims of war,' the schools said in a statement adding: "we look forward to seeing the children smile again and seeing them laugh".

There will be issues in school in relation to communication, but these are surmountable"

Bishop Tom Deenihan, who spoke to this newspaper just after welcoming Ukrainian children to Mullingar said the massive effort "is happening on the ground already. There is a huge willingness and enthusiasm in Catholic schools to open their doors'

He said that it was not without challenge in terms of classroom space and other logistical issues, however "there seems to be a willingness on behalf of schools and on behalf of the Department [of Education] itself to come together and overcome those difficulties.

"I have seen nothing but positivity and enthusiasm to reach out and to be of support. Many of the schools have enrolled children from Ukraine already.

Wicklow-based priest Fr Donal Roche said that the Catholic school network already has significant experience of integrating children fleeing war.

"The Ukrainians will be welcomed with open arms,' he said.

Fr Roche insisted that

"the local Catholic schools, are very welcoming and they have responded in the past to refugees from Syria and they were integrated straight away into the local school and there were no issues - they were made so welcome"

John Curtis, who represents Catholic voluntary schools in the second-level sector said that the situation is moving very quickly and that schools are fully onboard.

"Schools are generously facilitating wherever they can - it's already happening.

"The main thing is the hospitality and courtesy is being extended to Ukrainians across the country, and that will continue to be the case for the coming months," Mr Curtis said.

I have seen nothing but positivity and enthusiasm to reach out and to be of support"

Mr Mulconry said that education officials are finalising details for supports for schools taking in refugees. "The kind of resources we need are psychologists. teaching resources - particularly English language teachers and resources - and sometimes things as basic as chairs and uniforms," Mr Mulconry said.

Bishop Deenihan predicted that "there will be issues in school in relation to communication, but these are surmountable. I've seen nothing but an outpouring of support at all levels".

Michael Kelly's Editor's Comment will return next week New group to push cause for a heroic WWI priest

Jason Osborne

An association seeking the canonisation of famous Irish military chaplain killed in action during World War I, Fr Willie Doyle SJ, has recently been launched.

The Father Willie Doyle Association is a private association of the Faithful that has now been formally recognised by Bishop of Meath Tom Deenihan.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch, association president Patrick Kenny said the association is "a response to the wish of many people, over many decades, who have wanted to see Fr Willie Doyle recognised as a saint in the Catholic Church".

Fr Willie Doyle was born in Dalkey, Co. Dublin on March 3, 1873 and went on to join the Jesuits, spending most of his ministry in Ireland before volunteering as a

military chaplain during the First World War. In November 1915, he was appointed chaplain to the 8th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers

Willie Doyle volunteered as a military chaplain in the First World War and served in this role from late 1915 until his death in August 1917. During his years as a chaplain he accompanied his men through the horrors of war, and was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery at the Battle of the Somme," Mr Kenny said.

"He was killed during the Battle of Passchendaele while rescuing two wounded Anglican soldiers from Ulster. His heroism, and the holiness of his life, led to an outpouring of devotion to him in the years after his death."

By the early 1930's, "over 50,000 letters testifying to devotion to him were received", Mr Kenny said, with "over 6,000"

alleging favours and healings through his intercession.

Among his devotees are several canonised saints, including St Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Mr Kenny said Fr Doyle is a "tremendously relevant figure" for the Church today, especially in Ireland.

"By offering his life to save wounded Anglican soldiers he became an ecumenical martyr of charity and is an icon of reconciliation and unity in the midst of religious and political division.'

The association will publish materials about Fr Doyle, and aims to organise events and talks to spread awareness of him.

"Only one native Irish person has been canonised a saint in the last 500 years, we want the heroic Fr Willie Doyle to be among the new saints of Ireland," Mr Kenny said.

Patriarch 'blinded **ICS**

"it certainly appears to us

from this perspective here in

the West that the patriarch

must be blinded by whatever

kind of allegiances... we don't

have to look too far to see that

even in our own country, how

Christian leaders can some-

times be blinded by state or

cultural allegiance or religious

allegiance, to see the horror of

what has happened in Ukraine

makes us ask about global

fraternity, about the work of

global peace-making, sorts of

things that Pope John Paul II

alluded to when he said that

'war is a defeat for humanity','

said Archbishop Martin.

"I suppose in many ways

what's around them".

Chai Brady

The Primate of All Ireland has criticised Patriarch Kirill of Moscow as being "blinded" by allegiances in Russia, and asked the religious leader to work towards peace.

Patriarch Kirill, an influential Russian Orthodox leader, has vocally supported President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Archbishop Eamon Martin told The Irish Catholic that religious leaders are wondering: 'Is he [Patriarch Kirill] under pressure? Is there something that is preventing him from seeing what's happening with his own eyes?

The archbishop said that



Mass crisis in Kilmore

Ruadhán Jones

Bishop of Kilmore Martin Hayes said in a pastoral letter that initial synodal conversations have revealed a "crisis of faith" reflected in the level of participation in the liturgies.

The diocese "must find new ways in which our faith can be expressed in life-giving liturgies that will engage people", Dr Hayes said in his March 10 letter.

Speaking to The Irish Catholic, the bishop of Kilmore said that "if you have too many Masses and small congregations, it doesn't lead to a wholesome or life-giving liturgy".

"Now, because people are mobile and have a car, they can travel to any number of Masses within a few minutes. So parishes will probably have to work together to organise their timetable of Masses," Dr Haves said.

Bishop Hayes also warned in his letter the number of active priests in the diocese will almost halve in the next decade, going from 49 priests to 27 by 2031, saying pastoral teams of lay people and priests working together will be needed in the future.

Church of Ireland Archbishop John McDowell of Armagh, in a joint St Patrick's Day message over the weekend, said: "May all Christians of Europe, including Patriarch Kirill and

the Russian Orthodox Church unite in daily spiritual and practical efforts in support of a ceasefire, humanitarian outreach and the immediate laying down of weapons."

"The Our Father is one of the most precious gifts Jesus left to us"

-Pope Francis Our fathe Who an in heaven tallowed be thy Name. Thy known come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaver Give us this day our dely bread And forgive us can tresposses As we largice those white the against us. 10 **Price:** And lead us not 35 Bring the Our into teosplation. Father into your Including P&P! home with this but deliver beautiful hand LIMITED us from evil carved cross 8 3 from the Holy **QUANTITIES** Ареп Land, which also **AVAILABLE** includes earth 0 **ORDER YOURS** from Bethlehem TODAY at the foot. The Irish Catholic 01 6874024

The Irish Catholic, Unit 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, D18 K277

The Irish Catholic, March 24, 2022

News 3

Stark warning over Vatican abuse body losing independence

Chai Brady

An Irishwoman who advised Pope Francis on clerical abuse has warned that Vatican reforms could lead to the body losing independence.

Marie Collins, who exposed abuse in Dublin Diocese and went on to serve the universal Church on the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, told *The Irish Catholic* she was concerned that the body will now become part of the Vatican infrastructure rather than being independent.

Francis made the announcement at the weekend when he unveiled new reforms of the Roman Curia.

Mrs Collins, who resigned from the commission in 2017, said putting it under the control of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith could lead to it coming up against Vatican resistance.

"When I was on the commission we got a lot of resistance to our work from the CDF, they basically felt that we were interfering. And that, I believe, is the norm in the Vatican - they really do not like anyone who are seen as outsiders coming in," Mrs Collins told *The Irish Catholic*.

She said that while



becoming part of the dicastery may mean "more co-operation", she believed the CDF "appears to me to be the wrong one".

"Abuse in the Church is not really a disciplinary problem it is a systemic problem - if you look at it purely as there are bad apples in the priesthood that have to be controlled and disciplined, you're taking a terribly narrow view, and it was never what the commission was working on."

Mrs Collins added that she believes the commission will have to "fit in to the CDF way of doing things rather than the CDF fitting in with what the commission might view as the right way to do things".

"The whole point was to bring in outside perspective, but you lose your outside perspective if you're part of the curia - part of the Vatican structure.

"This is not the most positive way of bringing about change. I feel it's losing its independence," she predicted.

The change comes as part of the Pope's constitution for the reform of the Roman Curia, *Praedicate Evangelium*. The reforms took nine years to complete and are due to take effect in June.

MARIAN PILGRIMAGES RENEW OUR SPIRIT OF LOVE, FORGIVENESS AND PEACE GROUP PILGRIMAGE SPECIALISTS PADRE PIO PILGRIMAGES



FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PIO

WE INCLUDE Return Flights - Coach transfers in Italy - Hotel Accommodation Spiritual Directors Services of Marian Pilgrimages Rep. on the Ground - Shrine of St. Michael the Archangel - Travel Insurance - All Airport and local Taxes

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONISATION OF ST. PIO

4 nights | 13 - 17 June 2022

Including 1 night in Benevento

Join the Celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the Canonisation of St. Pio of Pietrelcina with visits to the Benevento Cathedral and Piana Romana



€719_{pps}

LOURDES 2022



HOTEL ROISSY - GRAND HÔTEL MODERNE - HÔTEL PADOUE All within 5mins walk of the sanctuary

WE INCLUDE Direct Flights to Lourdes - Coach transfers in Lourdes - 4 * Hotels Spiritual Directors - Services of Marian Pilgrimages Rep. on the Ground - Walking Tour of Lourdes - Travel Insurance - All Airport and City Taxes

WWW.MARIAN.IE

(01) 878 8159 | (028) 95680005

19 Eden Quay, Dublin 1

Deposits of only €100 per person are required to book with balances due 8 weeks before departure.



Maynooth to host major conference on Christian thought

Staff reporter

The Faculty of Philosophy at Maynooth is set to host a conference next month exploring what Christianity can bring to current debates in the world.

Leading speakers will 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), Eleonore Stump (arguably the leading female Catholic philosopher writing today), and William Desmond (arguably Ireland's greatest living philosopher).

Topics at the conference are diverse and themes will range from robust metaphysical and theological issues, Christology, drama and tragedy Christianly understood, technology, the human life, along with the ever-pressing questions of freedom and desire. Everything is on the table for invited speakers as Maynooth seeks to offer a forum or space wherein their straining attempt to intellectually think what might lie ahead is heard and responded to. It will take place from April

sexualised West, the end of

27-30 and more information and registration is available at www.maynoothcollege.ie

NEWS IN BRIEF Archbishop Martin to join Pope in consecrating Russia and Ukraine

Archbishop Eamon Martin said he is looking forward to joining Pope Francis in consecrating Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25.

Pope Francis invited bishops and priests across the globe to join him in the prayer for peace and act of consecration on the Feast of the Annunciation.

In the apparition of July 13, 1917, in Fatima, Our Lady had specifically asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. Archbishop Martin said the Pope's call for bishops across the world to unite in prayer is "a powerful global act of prayerful solidarity for peace in the world, and especially between Russia and Ukraine".

Teaching the EU truths about Irish history...

U diplomats have been told by Sinn Féin that Europe must prepare for the reunification of Ireland – and that the EU must take the same encouraging attitude to Irish unity as it did to the reunification of Germany. "Our European partners must be energetic and proactive in advocating for Irish unity at every opportunity," Mary-Lou McDonald has said.

Some suggest that the reunification of Ireland poses economic problems, and that here, the EU could help with funding"

I'm all for working towards Irish unity, and the current conversations around a 'shared island' are an encouraging approach to exploring the zone. But



Europeans mugging up on the Irish situation should compare differences affecting Germany East and West as opposed to Ireland North and South. Germany had only been divided for 44 years; and a large group, even a majority over the arc of a century, of people in East Germany did not proclaim allegiance to another state.

Reunification

Some suggest that the reunification of Ireland poses economic problems, and that here, the EU could help with funding. And so they could. But I see the challenge as much deeper than finance: it's about culture, narrative, history and identity. Symbols have always been important: are they going to place the

ENCOUNTERS

ANGEL

€18

ncl P&P

Union Jack within the Irish tricolour? Which anthem will we sing? What history will be taught? What stories will we

tell one another?

Even the Anglo-Irish Treaty itself was negotiated while Irish people prayed the Rosary outside 10 Downing Street"

A functioning society needs to cohere around shared values and a shared narrative of the past. What made the Irish Free State workable, at its inception in 1923, was that it was homogenous. Though fragile, after a brutal civil war, it survived because the composition of the State was more than 90% Catholic, as the historian J.J. Lee has pointed out. (Later on in the century, that majority grew to 96%.)

The Irish revolution was fought with rosaries as well as guns: the Irish State owes its existence to the faith of its founding patriots. Even the Anglo-Irish Treaty itself was negotiated while Irish people prayed the rosary outside 10 Downing Street.

From Constance Markievicz feeling the urge to fall on her knees in prayer – Mauser in hand! – to Ernie O'Malley, reading *The Imitation of Christ* while he awaited execution, and Liam Mellows requesting a Catholic chaplain before he faced the firing squad – the element of the sacred and of Irish religious



US President Joe Biden bows his head in prayer on St Patrick's Day as Benedictine Fr Thomas O'Connor of Our Lady of Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, Massachusetts gives a blessing during the annual Friends of Ireland lunch in Washington. Photo: CNS

66 The Irish revolution was fought with rosaries as well as guns: the Irish State owes its existence to the faith of its founding patriots"

faith runs through the foundation of the Irish State.

Essential truths

faced the firing element of the f Irish religious How will they teach these essential truths of history in the narrative of Irish unity? I suspect the answer is – they won't be taught. This history will be erased. EU officials will be assigned to an airbrushed version of Irish history that deletes the pivotal role of faith. Yet you cannot build the future without facing the truths of the past. A reunited Ireland needs a lot more honest conversation before it can aspire to forming a stable, functioning democracy.

Assisted suicide

Last week, 35 British psychiatrists published a joint letter about the dangers of legislating for assisted suicide – and I thought the information in their joint declaration was very significant.

Extensive experience

"We have extensive experience of assessing those who express the wish to die," wrote Drs Jennifer Bryden, Lucy Ault, Jonathan Buckley and Prof. Glyn Harrison (with 31 others). "Depression is common in terminally- and chronically-ill patients, as if feeling unworthy of care and that their family will be better off without them." They note that in Oregon, which passed an assisted dying act in 2020, the percentage of patients requesting euthanasia who felt they were "a burden" was 53% in 2021.

"Jurisdictions where 'assisted dying' is legal have seen a slow widening of criteria brought by successive legal challenges," the psychiatrists warn. Canada now includes people with serious mental illness – but are not terminally-ill – in a category for assisted death.

Assisted dying is subject to 'mission creep' as the boundaries are pushed by articulate people, to the peril of those less well able to speak up for themselves, say these doctors of mental health. When this question arises again – as it will – such warnings from physicians who know about the vulnerable should be heeded.

It's deplorable that Canada should, in effect, collude in bumping off the mentally ill.

• My mother gave me the middle name of Cecilia, in the hope that the patroness of music would bestow on me some musical ability. Alas, I found it difficult to distinguish a crochet from a semi-quaver, and the gift of music – beyond an average singing voice – was not mine. But answers to prayers can take time, and it's a huge joy that my 13-year-old granddaughter, Kitty, will be playing the violin at the Royal Albert Hall in London on April 1. She will be part of an ensemble orchestra, and she's showing signs of being an accomplished violinist, which to me is a wonderful answer to prayer.

Encounters with Angels

The Invisible Companions of

You'll learn where angels are during Mass and the role they play in your prayers. You'll learn about guardian angels and their unique purpose.

"Really good book! I enjoyed it much. We written I highly recommend it for anyone wants to get closer to their grounder

We accept orders by phone, email or through our website or send payment to: Family & Life, Freepost, 25 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8552790; Email: Info@familyandlife.org or visit www.familyandlife.org

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Mobile:
Email:
I prefer to charge my debit/credit card: □ Visa □ Mastercard
Card Number:
Expiry Date:CVC Code:
Signature:
I hereby consent to Family & Life processing my personal data in accordance with its Privacy Policy and sending me communications by mail, e-mail, SMS, and telephone, including newsletters, updates on the organisation's projects, and requests for financial support. I understand that I am free to change my mind,
and withdraw my consent, at any time. IC EWA 2022

Irish Emergency Alliance UKRAINE **CRISIS APPEAL** Millions of people could provide a hygiene kit for have fled unimaginable a family fleeing violence in Ukraine conflict could provide **FAMILIES IN DESPAIR 361** warm blanket for 4 displaced families **NEED YOUR HELP NOW** could provide emergency food for two Ukrainian Donate now at: irishemergencyalliance.org Call: 1800 939 979 families for a m YES, I would like to help by giving € Emergency towards this Emergency Coronavirus Appeal Please make your cheque payable to Irish Emergency Alliance Expiry Date: Card No: Security Code/CVV: Signature: _____ _____ Date: _____ Name: Address: Email: Tel: Please tick to receive updates Return this to: Irish Emergency Alliance, 11 Harrington Street, Freepost FDN5300, Dublin 8, D08 EK7D Millions of lives are at risk. Please donate today.

The Irish Emergency Alliance brings together key humanitarian agencies from Ireland to raise funds for overseas emergencies in times of greatest need. Irish Emergency Alliance, Registered Charity No. 20203848, CHY 22307, Company Registered by Guarantee No. 632937.

tearfund

World Vision[®]



Troca

return to the table where

the Eucharistic Breaking

unity of Christians. Even in the Bible, the writer of

the Letter to the Hebrews

states that Christians who

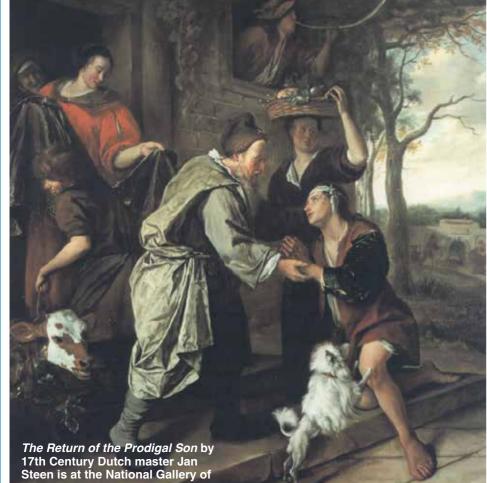
return must not be allowed

have lapsed but want to

back. "It is impossible

of Bread expressed the

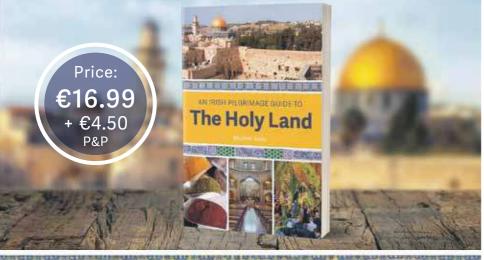
This man welcomes sinners... Christians who wanted to



Art in Washington. Photo: CNS

AN INDISPENSABLE GUIDE TO The Holy Land

FROM THE EDITOR OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC



Michael Kelly has led more than a dozen pilgrimages to the Holy Land and in this unique guidebook, he takes readers to the sites associated with the earthly life of Christ from Bethlehem to Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee to Jerusalem. Whether you are planning a trip to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, or simply want to deepen your understanding of faith this guide is indispensable.

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY 💊 0 1 6874096 | 🌐 www.columbabooks.com 🚖 Unit 3B, Block 3, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, D18 K277

The Sunday Gospel Fr Silveste O'Flynn OFM Cap.

f all of Scripture were to be destroyed with the exception of one passage, my choice to be preserved would be today's Gospel (Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32), the parable of the Prodigal Son. This is the essence of salvation history, the story of sin and God's offer of forgiveness. It describes three steps downwards to the pits of sin before the Prodigal comes to his senses and makes three decisions to direct his steps back to the welcoming father. This man welcomes sinners

Downward steps

Like playing snakes and ladders, land on the snake of temptation and down you slide, but land on the ladder and up you go. This story has three downward slides and three steps up. The first slide down begins with putting me at the centre of affairs. "Give me my rights." The father's will which would hand over the inheritance ought not take effect until after his death. Effectively, the son is saying, "Da, I want it now. I want you out of my way." This is the beginning of sin when I tell God that now I will do it my way whether you like it or not. This is the nature of the original temptation. "This is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eat this fruit and you will be like gods, having the freedom to make up your own com-mandments and morality."

Biting remorse is now replaced with repentance, which literally means to think again"

The second stage on the slippery slope is the journey away from home and the values that home represents. The lost sheep did not set out to get lost but it nibbles its way lost. There is a rapid deterioration of living as the son goes to a distant country, squander-ing his inheritance in a life of debauchery.

The third stage of sin is the famine: the famine of peace of mind; the lack of contentment and joy; the loss of self-respect and idealism: all the selfpunishment inherent in sin. Feeding with the pigs, to the Jewish mind, represented the lowest of the low: utter depravity.

The ladder

The turning point is when the lad comes to his senses. He looks into the mirror of life and does not like what he sees. Many people do not like what they see when they reflect on what they have done, but they do not know where to turn for help. They are smitten with remorse, literally a biting sorrow. This is the devil's sorrow, and the more it bites, the less confident one feels, and the more one is vulnerable to further temptation.

Fortunately for this sinner, he remembers his father's house where evervbodv is so well treated. Remembrance gives direction to his steps. Biting remorse is now replaced with repentance, which literally means to think again. In this new thinking he makes three decisions: "I will leave this place; I will go to my father: I will confess that I have sinned against heaven and against you.'

The hug

The focus of the story now switches to the father. The son is still a long way off, perhaps dithering about completing the journey. I have met people at that dithering stage. But the father sees him, runs to him, clasps him in his arms and hugs him home. This is my favourite picture of what God is like. He wants to hug us back home. He calls for the best garments and a ring for his son's finger. This is the family signet ring which can seal the wax of a family document, the equivalent of today's credit card. Full family membership has been restored. It is an occasion for a great banquet.

Refusing to forgive

The story now turns to the elder son who is angry with this celebration. He cannot even refer to the prodigal as his brother but calls him "this son of yours." When Luke was writing his Gospel, he was facing a particular pastoral problem about accepting the repentance of lapsed

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world. You sat with sinners and gave them hope. Take us by the hand and lead us from the biting sorrow of remorse, through the honesty of repentance, unto rejoicing in your merciful embrace.

for them to be renewed a second time" (Hebrews 6:6). Luke's Gospel answers this pastoral problem by recalling the parables of Jesus and how he treated sinners. "He welcomes sinners and eats with them." Like playing snakes and ladders, land

temptation and down you slide"

on the snake of

Confession

Many people question the need to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. "Why can't I confess my sins privately to God?" Yes, it's essential to talk privately to God. God already knows our sins even more clearly that we do, but having to put words on them takes ownership of our wrongdoing. Availing of the Sacrament is a way of celebrating the victory of Jesus Christ over sin. The father might have taken the son through the back door in a private capacity, but for such a loving man this would not be enough. He called for music and a great banquet. In the Sacrament the confession of sin opens the door for the celebration of the welcoming hug of the Father, the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and the breath of the Holy Spirit over the Church. "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven." St Paul in today's second reading says that we are ambassadors of God's reconciliation.

The homecoming of the prodigal was a journey from remorse to repentance and eventually to rejoicing. You will learn to love this Sacrament when you stop beating yourself up in guilt and learn how to rejoice in the powerful

hug of our merciful Father.

It's been said that if your name is held in the hearts of others, you will never truly die.

A 7hen you set aside a gift of **V** any size in your Will to Trócaire, your good and generous name will <u>never</u> die.

Every year after your passing, we'll honour your name in gratitude and love at a special Remembrance Mass where all faiths are welcome.

We'll keep your name safe and warm in our Books of Remembrance, too, where all the people who've loved you can come to see it.

Simple bequests of any size by Will are some of the greatest, most everlasting gifts of all made by caring people just like you across Ireland.

So whether you ultimately include Trócaire in your final legacy – or another worthy cause – we have a free and easy planner you can bring to your solicitor to get started. We're happy to post it to you, discreetly, and with our heartfelt thanks for your consideration and for being a faithful Irish Catholic reader.

For the relief your legacy will bring to people living in fear from poverty, injustice,

indifference, and exploitation worldwide, we believe that even though you pass on, your good name should never die.

Request your free and confidential legacy planner from Trócaire today. Then bring the planner to your family solicitor for an open and honest conversation.

We'll remember your name.



To request your free legacy planner now, including bequest wording and a simple 4-step worksheet you can share privately with your solicitor, ring Grace Kelly on 01 5053 221, or email grace.kelly@trocaire.org

Charity Regulatory Authority No. 20204842; Revenue Number CHY 22508; Company Number 661147



Shannon Campbell The View

Pitting spirit against flesh can take us down a dangerous path

is not uncommon to hear people say, "I'm spiritual, not religious." The reasons for the trend are many and varied, ranging from disillusionment with organised religion, to boredom - even laziness. According to one pre-coronavirus study, 69% of Irish people identify as Catholic, but only 34% go to church regularly. That's not bad by European standards. The picture is bleaker in the UK where 34% identify as Christian, with only 13% church attendance. The jury is still out on post-Covid-19 figures, but the trend is almost certainly downwards.

Consequences

This has consequences for the spiritual life. 'Spiritualities' that are divorced from a rule of life, religion, do nothing to cultivate sacrifice or the discipline of discipleship. They risk becoming an end in themselves. Increasingly, people are taking refuge in forms of 'spirituality' that promise escape from the realities of the word and the flesh. No such flight is possible, nor would it be desirable. There is no antiseptically sterile realm of spirit for us; it is an illusion. Pitting spirit against flesh can take us down a dangerous path. It leads to a dualistic way of thinking and a disincarnate spiritually.

Pope Francis, in his critique of modern heresy, describes this as a form of contemporary Gnosticism that reduces Christian holiness to a set of abstract ideas detached from the flesh. Such an approach makes individuals "incapable of touching Christ's suffering flesh in others, locked up as they are in an encyclopaedia of abstractions".

Some are attracted by a "strict and allegedly pure" faith which appears to possess "a certain harmony or order that encompasses everything".

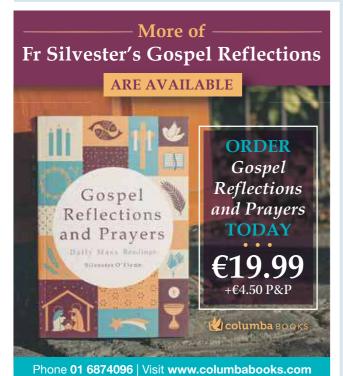
He highlighted the opportunities chaplaincy offers for concrete encounters with the flesh of Christ"

The modern Gnostic recoils at the messiness of real life, the imperfections of others, the suffering of people at the margins and the fact that God is a mystery that cannot be domesticated or understood easily.

Transcends

"[Yet] God infinitely transcends us; he is full of surprises," says Pope Francis. The best spiritualities are

ordered to and at the service of a higher goal: union with God.





They enable us to 'keep it real', feet firmly on the ground, with hearts and minds directed to God.

In his homily for Ash Wednesday, heard by more than a thousand Oueen's University Belfast students at the chaplaincy, Fr Dominic McGrattan reminded us that holiness is a very ordinary, down-to-earth enterprise. He encouraged us to be courageous and go out in search of the flesh of Christ, rather than rest content with being highly educated and starch-pressed, prepared only to discuss matters of intellectual import over tea.

Opportunities

He highlighted the opportunities chaplaincy offers for concrete encounters with the flesh of Christ: our book club for refugees and asylum seekers which helps them learn English and integrate; our Trócraire society's Zimbabwe Appeal; our partnership with L'Arche Belfast which gives adults with learning disabilities opportunities to learn life skills in a university context; our support of the Order of Malta's humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine and Poland.

We have been overwhelmed by the response. Our students never

fail to impress when given a challenge, often going above and beyond the call of duty. They have come to know that we draw close to God not by way of comfortable, lofty spiritual thoughts but by taking up our cross daily, and helping others do the same.

Fr Dominic McGrattan reminded us that

holiness is a very ordinary, down-toearth enterprise"

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the staples of this 'earthed' spirituality: praying the rosary while working out at the gym, fasting from the iPhone during mealtimes so as to connect with the person sat opposite, holding back on that bar of chocolate when filling up with diesel at the garage and putting the money saved in the Trócaire box.

Goal

Spirituality is not our goal this Lent. Our goal is God.

One inspiring example came from a friend of chaplaincy, Dr Gerard McCann, who lectures at St Mary's University College in Belfast. Gerard is a valued partner of the chaplaincy, having helped establish our student-led language and solidarity initiative to assist refugees and asylum seekers from Eritrea and Ethiopia.

When news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine came in, and the horrifying humanitarian crisis it provoked, Gerard mobilised postgraduate students in education to accompany him to reception centres on the Ukrainian-Poland border to teach refugee children. They supported refugee families, delivered funding and essential supplies, and worked to

who mobilised postgraduate students in education to accompany him to reception centres on the Ukrainian-Poland border to teach refugee children.

> build a support system for Ukrainian students and academics.

The immediate benefit to those fleeing for their lives is obvious. They have some continuity in their education when all other support structures collapse around them.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the staples of this 'earthed' spirituality"

Equally important is the long-term benefit this experience will have for those returning student teachers. The insights they have gained, and skills acquired in that unique situation will make them well-equipped to educate the increasing number of children in our communities who continue to experience the long-term trauma of war and displacement.

Gerard and his students have gone out in search of the flesh of Christ.

Feature 9

Pilgrims in the land of the Lord...







t was with a certain sense of the unknown that 40 pilgrims set off from Dublin Airport late last month to make our way to the Holy Land. Regulations then in place (since thankfully dropped) meant we all required a Covid-19 test before leaving Ireland and another one on our arrival in Tel Aviv. Despite some apprehension, the process was extremely smooth and we were soon on our way to Nazareth - the childhood home of Jesus. As we arrived at our hotel, phones were already pinging with results from the tests carried out at the airport. All pilgrims were mercifully negative and the real pilgrimage could begin.

I've been to the Holy Land more than 20 times over the last 15 years, and I have never seen it so quiet. Covid-19 has crippled the pilgrimage landscape in the Holy Land and many in the pilgrimage community have had a hungry two years.

The plus side for our pilgrims, of course, was that all of the holy sites associated with Christ's life were quiet – almost eerily so. In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, site of Jesus' tomb, pilgrims were privileged to spend intimate moments alone inside the tomb. The site of the crucifixion was also quiet and meant that rather than the usual splitsecond visit, our pilgrims were able to spend time meditating at this holiest of sites.

Everywhere our merry band of pilgrims went, we were welcomed with open arms. Locals – particularly the local Christian community – were delighted to see pilgrims returning. The fact that we were the first group from Ireland brought particular cheer to locals as Irish pilgrims have long been a welcome feature in the Holy Land.

In Nazareth, we had a chance to visit the site of the Annunciation and celebrate Mass together before moving to nearby Cana where married couples who were pilgrims were able to renew their matrimonial vows at the site where Christ turned the water into wine.

A highlight for many pilgrims was the boat ride on the Sea of Galilee where we read together about the call of the first disciples who were fishermen on this same lake. There are few more idyllic places to contemplate the Gospel stories that took place on the shores

around this water. In Jerusalem, a solemn air descended as our pilgrims took up the cross and walked the *Via Dolorosa* – the way of sorrow symbolically retracing the journey of Christ on that first Good Friday. It was a marked shift in mood from our earlier visit to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem where we prayed at the site of the birth of Jesus where Mary laid the Christ-child in the manger.

With Covid-19, please God, no longer a threat to international travel we plan to recommence our regular schedule of Christian Solidarity Pilgrimages to the Holy Land with another two trips planned for this autumn (see pages 16 and 17). I hope you'll consider joining us in walking in the footsteps of Jesus. It'll enrich and transform your faith.







A pilgrim views the Basilica of the Annunciation, Nazareth.





Fr Ryan Holovlasky CSsR reads the Gospel in Nazareth, while Fr Denis Browne watches.



Pilgrims enter the Orthodox Church of St Gabriel in Nazareth to draw water from the same well as the Blessed Virgin.



Pilgrims pray at the site of the Annunciation.



Guide Nabil Hazboun stands below the icon donated by the people of Ireland to Nazareth.



A variety of fruits, nuts and spices at a shop in Nazareth.





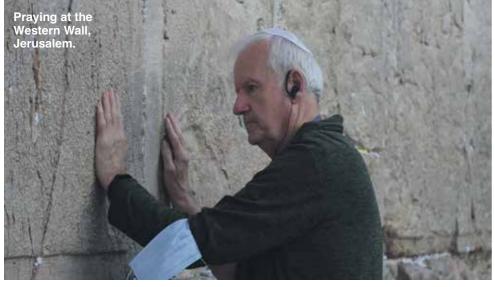
David Walsh reads at Mass at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Jericho.



Paraic Maher at the Mount of Temptation.

Feature 11















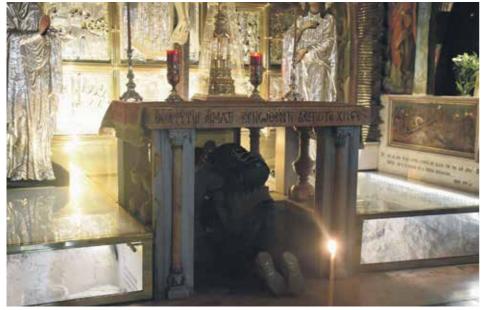






Praying at the Stone of Unction, where the body of Jesus was laid after being taken down from the cross.

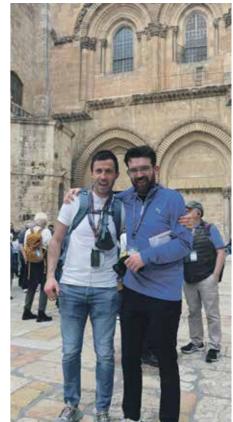




Touching the rock of Calvary in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Ed Petersen, Fr Ciaran O'Callaghan CSsR, Fr Ryan Holovlasky CSsR and Johnny Frazer outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Keith Fahey and David Walsh in Jerusalem.









Pilgrims enjoy some ice cream in Bethlehem.





















Thomas and Sharon Riordan.





Ellen and Stephen Reichenbach.







Pat and Elizabeth Kavanagh.



Fr John Carroll.



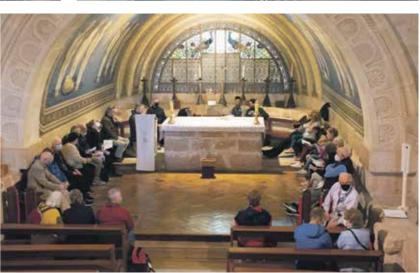


David Walsh and his father John in fine form.

ciples the

The Our Father in Irish at the Pater Noster Church, where Jesus taught

ord's prayer.



Mass at the Church of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor.



The site where tradition records Jesus cooked breakfast for his disciples in the Church of St Peter's Primacy.







Pilgrim Keith Fahey.



Learning a traditional dance on the Sea of Galilee.



A young pilgrim at Confession on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.







The Encounter Chapel in Magdala, in the lower level of Duc In Altum, is dedicated to Jesus' encounter of everyone, as illustrated by the hemorrhaging woman.



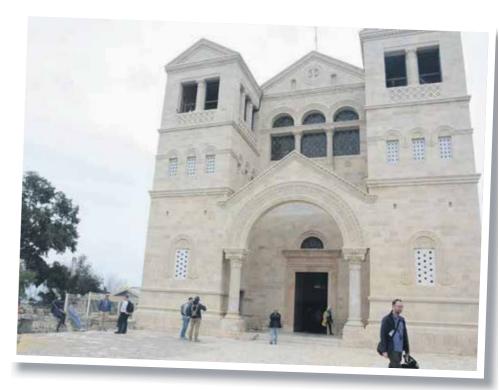
The excavations at Magdala.



Fr Eamon Kelly LC shows pilgrims around Magdala while Fr Carroll looks on.

A trip of a lifetime in the Holy Land...

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land is an opportunity for faith and culture to meet. Visiting the holy places associated with the life of Christ, the Gospel comes to life in a new and meaningful way. Journeying together with fellow pilgrims one gets a chance to penetrate the essence of the Faith in the land where Christianity was born.



The Church of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor.

ITINERARY:

Day 1

Make your way to Dublin airport and check-in for Turkish Airlines flight to Tel Aviv via Istanbul, with onboard catering and personal entertainment on one of Europe's best Airlines. On arrival in Tel Aviv, we will be met by our Marian Pilgrimages representative and guide in the arrival hall before boarding our tour coaches. We can get acquainted with the group on the short transfer to Bethlehem - birthplace of Jesus Christ - for check-in to the four star Manger Square Hotel for four nights with dinner, bed and breakfast.

Day 2

After breakfast, we take the short walk to the Church of the Nativity where we spend the morning and celebrate Mass. Here we will visit the birthplace of lesus, and the Holy Manger as well as the chapels of St Joseph, St Jerome, the Holy Innocents and the Church of St Catherine.

Leaving the Church of the Nativity, we make our way to the Milk Grotto Church before sitting down to lunch in Manger Square where we will have a chance to meet the Mayor of Bethlehem and hear from local Christians. After lunch, we board the coaches for the short drive to the Shepherds Fields' where the angels heralded the birth of Christ. After lunch, we continue to Ein Karem and visit the Churches of the Visitation (where Mary met Elizabeth) and St John the Baptist beforewe return to the hotel for dinner. Day 3

This morning we drive to Jerusalem and enter the Old City to the Church of St Anne and nearby, see the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a man paralysed for over 40 years. Close by we begin the Via Dolorosa - the way of sorrow and follow the stations of the cross through the markets and streets of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of Calvary (where Jesus was crucified) and his tomb. Here we will celebrate Mass and take some time to reflect at this sacred site.

Afterwards we can enjoy some free time in Jerusalem for lunch and exploring the markets, before visiting the Western Wall.

Day 4

After breakfast, we drive to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem where we take our group photo and enjoy the view of the Old City below. We make our way to the highest point on the Mount of Olives to the Ascension Dome that marks the site

where Christ ascended into heaven. After this, we continue to visit the Pater Noster Church, Dominus Flevit, the Assumption Church and Grotto and the Garden of Gethsemane. In the afternoon we celebrate Mass in the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu or 'cock's crow', where Peter denied Jesus three times and see the dungeon where Jesus was held the night of Holy Thursday.

Åfterwards, we walk around Mount Zion and visit the Church of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Tomb of King David and the Room of the Last Supper before return-ing to the hotel for dinner.

Day 5

This morning, we leave Bethle-hem and visit Bethany where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, for Mass. We will then drive via the Inn of the Good Samaritan to the Dead Sea the lowest point on earth. We have some time to relax and float on the water near Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We will then continue to Oasr-al-Yahud where Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by St John the Baptist for a renewal of baptism vows.

We then proceed to Jericho to see the Mount of Temptation where Jesus was tempted by the devil, and the Sycamore tree of Zacchaeus. After lunch,

we drive along the Jordan Valley to Nazareth and for checkin to the four-star Legacy Hotel for four nights, dinner, bed and breakfast. Optional Eucharistic Adoration at the Basilica of the Annunciation at 8.30pm. Day 6

After breakfast, we will spend our morning exploring the city where Jesus lived as a child. We make our way to the Basilica of the Annunciation to celebrate Mass. Visiting the lower level of the basilica, we see the remains of Mary's house and where the Angel Gabriel visited her. Here inscribed on the altar are the Latin words of 'Here the Word was made flesh'. Adjacent to the basilica is the St Joseph's Church, where we will visit the site of Joseph's workshop and the house of the Holy Family.

A short walk from the basilica through the thriving market is Mary's Well where we have the opportunity to draw water from the same well as the Virgin Mary. After some time for lunch, we take the short coach journey to Cana where we visit

the Wedding Church, the site of Jesus' first miracle, turning the water to wine. Couples on the pilgrimage can take part in the special ceremony to renew their wedding vows and there is also prayers and blessings for spouses at home and deceased husbands and wives. In the lower level of the church we see artifacts from the site before having an opportunity to taste and purchase some wine from this sacred site. Afterwards, we make the short return journey to Nazareth for dinner in our hotel. Optional rosary at the Irish

icon at the Basilica of the Annunciation at 8.30pm. Day 7

This morning we make our way to the Mount of Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum and Tabgha. Here we take some time to listen to the readings of the great Sermon on the Mount before continuing to Capernaum to see the old synagogue and the excavations of St Peter's house. We then visit

TRIP INCLUDES:

the nearby site of the multiplication of the loaves and fish at Tabgha, and the Church of the Primacy of St Peter.

We enjoy lunch on the shore of the Sea of Galilee before taking a boat trip on the lake. Before returning to the hotel, we visit Magdala and the magnificent retreat centre and celebrate Mass in the newlybuilt chapel at the home of St Mary Magdalene.

Optional candlelit procession at the Basilica of the Annunciation at 8.30pm.

Day 8

After breakfast we drive to Mount Tabor and ascend by taxi for Mass at the Church of the Transfiguration where Jesus is transfigured and speaks to Moses and Elijah. We have a chance to enjoy the view of the Valley of Armageddon before returning to Nazareth for some free time and dinner at the hotel.

Day 9

Early breakfast before taking our coach to Tel Aviv airport for return flights to Dublin via Istanbul

COST: €1,745pps

• Return flights Dublin to Tel Aviv via Istanbul with 4* Turkish Airlines. Superb in-flight catering and full entertainment system on

board one of Europe's best airlines; • Transfer on arrival from Tel Aviv airport to

- hotel with guide assistance;
- Four nights in the four-star Manger Square Hotel. Bethlehem:
- Four nights in the four-star Legacy Nazareth Hotel:
- Breakfast and evening meal served each day at the hotels:
- Luxury air-conditioned coach throughout the itinerary;
- Services of Marian Pilgrimages
- representative based locally:
- Professional English speaking guides

throughout the pilgrimage; • Full religious programme organised by The Irish Catholic with daily Mass

• Fully guided programme of sightseeing including admissions to sites of interest as detailed in the itinerary below;

- Wireless audio tour guide system;
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee:
- Return taxi transfers to Mount Tabor;
- Tips for hotels, coach drivers and guide;
- All airport and local taxes;

Not Included:

- Single Room Supplement (€500);
- Lunches;
- Travel Insurance €30 (€60 for those over 85);



Irish pilgrims pray at the Garden of Gethsemane in the Holy Land

WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS IN...

THE

Visit Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and other

1 - 9OCTOBER 2022 AND

6 - 14 **OCTOBER 2022** sites in the Holy Land associated with Jesus.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS



Fr Eamonn Conway (1st trip)



Fr Emlyn McGinn (2nd trip)

Eight-night pilgrimage in four-star hotels

PRICE:

INCLUDING **TAXES AND TIPS**

1745

- Luxury air-conditioned coach daily
- Breakfast and evening meal served each day
- Full religious programme organised by Marian **Pilgrimages**
- Services of Marian Pilgrimages representative and professional English-speaking guide throughout the pilgrimage
- Full-day guided tour of Jerusalem including visits to the Western Wall, Dome of the Rock, Church of St Anne, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre and Shrine of the Book
- Complete programme of sightseeing and visits to sites of interest in the Holy Land
- Boat trip on Sea of Galilee
- Return taxi transfers to Mount Tabor

To reserve your place:

Call Dublin (01) 878 8159 or Belfast (028) 95680005 or email info@marian.ie



The Irish Catholic

Marian Pilgrimages is a fully lic bonded tour operator TO142 - A

Facing the synod journey with hope



We are called to be more energised Christians with a stronger pastoral and missionary sense, writes **David Quinn**

ost parishes are now holding meetings, or gatherings, to consider the future of the Church ahead of a Synod in Rome next year.

In its own words, the purpose of that synod is "not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands".

This seems to be a way of saying that we should become more energised Christians with a stronger pastoral and missionary sense.

In any event, parishes are being asked to consider how they can contribute to the synod in Rome, and ultimately to a national one in Ireland as well.

Parishioners are being invited to take part. In Dublin, two gatherings are currently taking place in most parishes and participants are being asked to consider four questions in all, two at each meeting.

The four questions are: When you think of your experience of Church, what brings joy?; When you think of your experience of Church, what brings sorrow?; When you think of your experience of Church, what brings hope?; When you think of your experience of Church, what brings fear or anxiety?

Consider

For the purposes of this article, I am simply going to consider how I would answer those questions as a member of my parish, if the opportunity arises.

First of all, what brings joy? The answer has to be anything the Church does locally and universally that successfully carries out the mission of Jesus and brings it to more people. For many, this will happen through the numerous charitable outreaches of the Church, starting with the parishes, and organisations such as the Legion of Mary or the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

It is easy to forget all the good the Church does, but it is immense. In Dublin, there is Crosscare. There is the work of Sr Stan RSC in help-



ing the homeless, and Sr Consilio RSM, who helps those with addiction problems. There is Bro. Kevin Crowley OFM Cap. assisting the homeless in Dublin city centre.

Each day, committed Catholics, lay and religious, assist those whose marriages are in trouble, or they prepare young couples for marriage.

I am simply going to consider how I would answer those questions as a member of my parish, if the opportunity arises"

In hospitals, chaplains give succour to people at very vulnerable points in their lives, or as they near the end of life.

The sacraments of the Church meet people at all the major stages of life, from birth through to death, giving dignity and meaning to all those occasions.

Everywhere, Christians are being inspired by the message and example of Jesus to do these things.

Worldwide, the Church continues to run 5,000 hospitals, 16,000 health centres, and over 70,000 schools where often none would exist at all without the efforts of Catholic organisations, lay and religious. Next, what brings sorrow? Obviously, the scandals come to mind. They have damaged the lives of so many people and have enormously undermined the credibility of the Church and caused the good work of countless numbers of Catholics to be overshadowed.

Ageing

We also see how rapidly the Church is ageing. This is not just a Catholic problem. The membership ranks of political parties and trade unions and many other organisations are also ageing. People are even getting married at older ages. But still, without enough young people, the future of the Church looks bleak for the foreseeable future.

What brings hope? Chiefly, the knowledge that God is always with the Church and can intervene at any time to restore it. But sometimes, as Cardinal Newman pointed out, the Church succeeds through failure, that is, it revives after being brought low first.

This does not necessarily mean it will revive in our lifetimes, or in a given place. As we see in some parts of the world, North Africa and the Middle East, for example, the Church can go into very longterm decline. But overall, the presence of God in the universal Church is assured. We can see this, for example, in the persistence of faith in places where the Church is incredibly beleaguered and persecuted. It is hard to fathom, for example, that there are still Christians managing to hang on in North Korea, the most aggressively atheistic State in the world.

There is also the hope that immigration from parts of the world which remain more Catholic than we are, such as Nigeria or the Philippines, will help revive the Church here. The most Christian parts of Western Europe today are often those with the highest number of immigrants from the developing world.

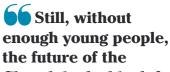
Anxiety

What brings fear or anxiety? For me, it is that we lose faith in core tenets of Church teaching, especially ones that challenge the present dominance of modern liberalism hyper-individualism (which is often very illiberal).

This puts huge pressure on the Church to alter its teaching on issues such as marriage. The temptation is to retreat from challenging the present liberal consensus, even though this consensus is highly damaging to many people precisely because it promotes 'personal autonomy' and 'choice' at the expense of almost everything else, hence high abortion rates, high divorce rates and the rising popularity of assisted suicide.

Eliminate

In the West, we are encouraged to eliminate anything considered burdensome in the name of 'autonomy', ranging from the unborn, to our marriages, to the old and infirm. This is not what a truly compassionate society does, and it is something the Church must point out fearlessly, but I think it is losing the nerve to do so.



Church looks bleak for the foreseeable future"

There also has to be a concern, related to this, that the synod will seek to follow the easiest path, which is to make peace with the present liberal consensus, no matter how much this is harming people, and no matter how much it will cause the Church to abandon core parts of its mission.

The synod can only succeed through fidelity to the Word of God, by doing even better the things we already do well, and by not despairing about the future, because despair is the ultimate form of infidelity.

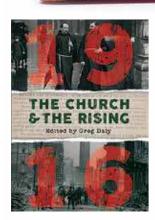
Faithful Catholics will restore the Church, and nothing else. The synod can only succeed by making this apparent to all those who take part and by giving them confidence in the age-old and eternal wisdom of the Gospel.

66 Everywhere, Christians are being inspired by the message and example of Jesus to do these things" **Columba**books

COLUMBA SUPER SALE

€4.50

FLAT RATE

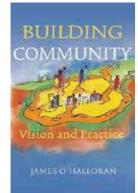


1916 The Church and the Rising Ed Greg Daly

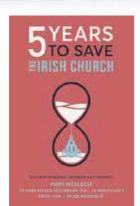




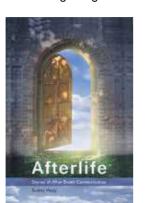
Adventures of a Book Collector Philip Murray



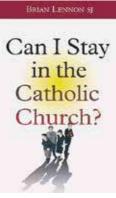
Building Community, Vision and Practice James O'Halloran



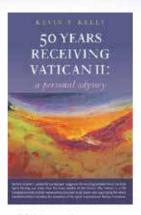
5 Years to Save the Irish Church Ed Mags Gargan



Afterlife Audrey Healy

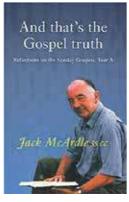


Can I stay in the Catholic Church Brian Lennon SJ

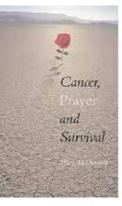


2 BOOKS FOR

50 Years Receiving Vatican II Kevin T. Kelly



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



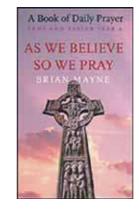
Cancer Prayer & Survival Mary McDonnell



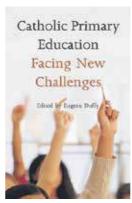
INDIVIDUAL

BOOKS FOR

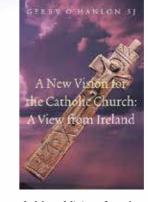
Faith and the Hungry Grass Enda McDonagh



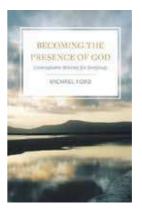
As We Believe so We Pray: Year A Brian Mayne



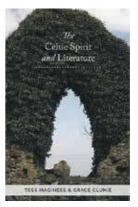
Catholic Primary Education Ed Eugene Duffy



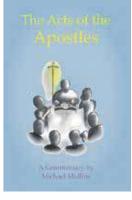
A New Vision for the Catholic Church Gerry O'Hanlon SJ



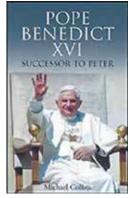
Becoming the Presence of God Michael Ford



Celtic Spirit and Literature Grace Clunie and Tess Maginess



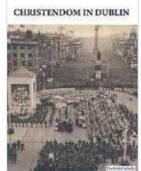
Acts of the Apostles Michael Mullins



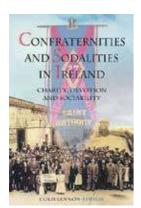
Pope Benedict XVI: Successor to Peter Michael Collins



The Celtic Songlines David Forsythe G. K. Chesterton



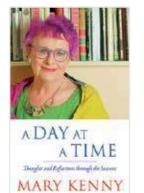
Christendom in Dublin G.K. Chesterton



Confraternities and Sodalities Ed Colm Lennon

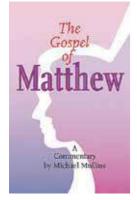


Christianity in Ireland Eds Brendan Bradshaw and Dáire Keogh

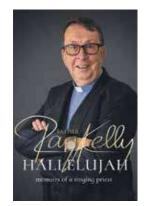




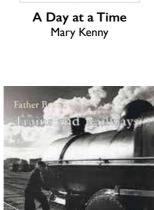
Faith Questions Eds Brendan Leahy and Declan Marimion



The Gospel of Matthew: A Commentary Michael Mullins



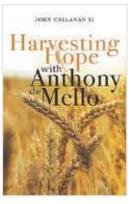
Hallelujah: Memoirs of a **Singing Priest** Fr Ray Kelly



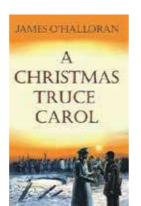
Father Browne's Trains and Railways E.E.O'Donnell



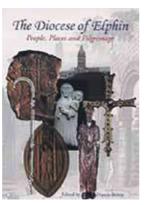
Following the Pink **Ribbon Path** Mary Redmond Ussher



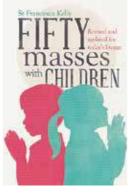
Harvesting Hope with Anthony de Mello John Callanan SJ



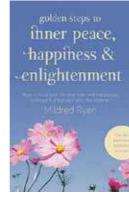
Christmas Truce Carol James O'Halloran



The Diocese of Elphin Francis M. Beirne



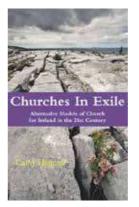
Fifty Masses with Children Sr Francesca Kelly



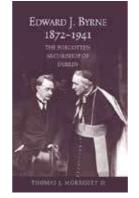
Golden Steps to Inner Peace & Enlightenment Mildred Ryan



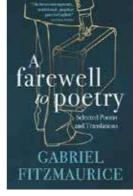
Heartbeat of the Seasons Kathleen Glennon



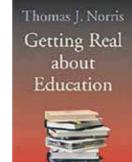
Churches in Exile Cathy Higgins



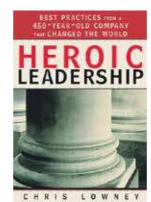
Edward J Byrne Thomas J. Morrissey SJ



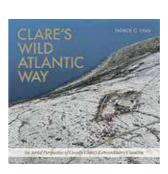
A Farewell to Poetry Gabriel Fitzmaurice



Getting Real about Education Thomas J. Norris



Heroic Leadership Chris Lowney



Clare's Wild Atlantic Way Patrick G. Ryan



An Endangered Species Fr Jerry Daly



Food, Feast, Fast P. Fintan Lyons OSB





THE COLUN

LECTIONARY FOR MASSES WITH CHILDREN

Columba Lectionary Masses

with Children Year B

Eds Sean McEntee and Michael Breen

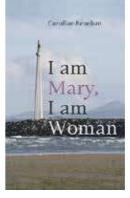
Fáilte Pope Francis Children of Ireland



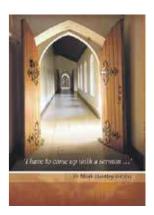
Funeral Homilies Liam Swords



The Francis Effect DVD Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation



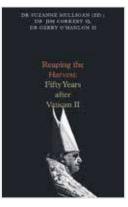
I am Mary, I am Woman Caroline Renehan



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



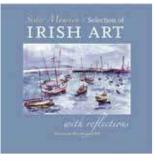




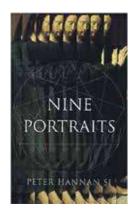
Reaping the Harvest: 50 Years after Vatican II Dr Susan Mulligan



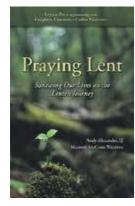
Let All the People Praise Him Michel de Verteuil



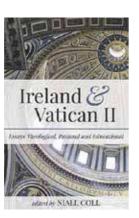
Sr Maureen's Selection of Irish Art Maureen MacMahon OP



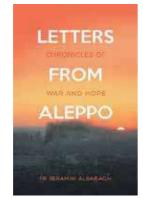
Nine Portraits of Jesus Peter Hannan SJ



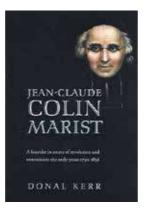
Praying Lent Andy Alexander SJ and Maureen McCann Waldron



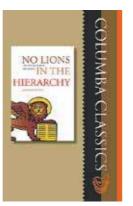
Ireland and Vatican II Ed Niall Coll



Letters from Aleppo Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh



Jean Claude Colin Marist Donal Kerr



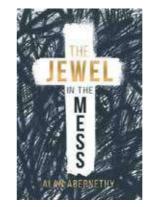
No Lions in the Hierarchy Joseph Dunn

McArdle

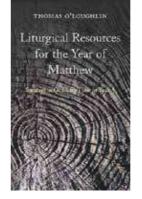
At Playschool with Mary

my Mother

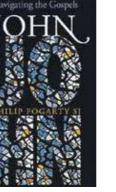
Jack McArdle



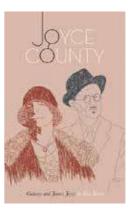
The Jewel in the Mess Alan Abernethy



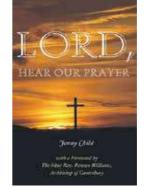
Liturgical Resources Matthew's Year Thomas O'Loughlin



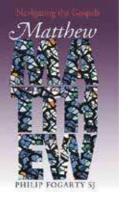
Navigating the Gospels: John



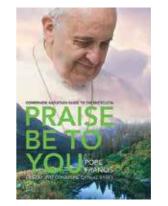
Joyce County Ray Burke



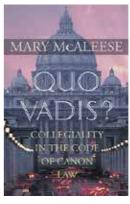
Lord, Hear Our Prayer Jenny Child



Navigating the Gospels, Matthew Philip Fogarty SJ



Praise Be To You Eamonn Conway and Cathal Barry

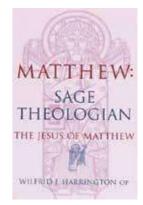


Quo Vadis? Mary McAleese

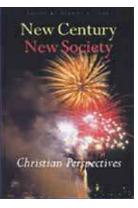




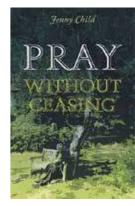
Lent with St John's Gospel John Mann



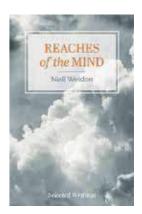
Matthew Sage Theologian Wilfrid Harrington OP



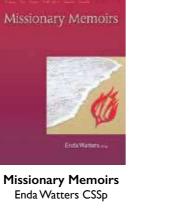
New Century, New Society Dermot Lane



Pray without Ceasing Jenny Child



Reaches of the Mind Niall Weldon



COLUMBA CLASSICS

11

Preparing

Liturgies

for Victims of Suicide

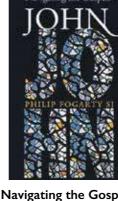
Preparing Liturgies for

Victims of Suicide

Pat Seaver

Passion for the Possible

Daniel O'Leary



Philip Fogarty SJ

CANCER

Cancer: A Circle of

Seasons

Anne Alcock



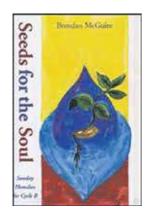
Pluralism & Diversity

in Ireland

Micheál Mac Gréil



Remember How It Goes Jonathan Frazer



Seeds for the Soul: Cycle B Brendan McGuire



Seeds for the Soul: Cycle C Brendan McGuire

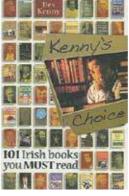
The Good News of

Luke's Year

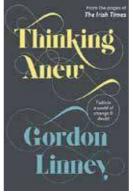
Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap



Shadows on the Journey Alan Abernethy



Kenny's Choice Des Kenny



Thinking Anew Gordon Linney



The Irish Benedictines Martin Browne OSB

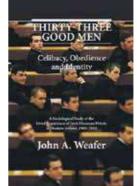
SINGING PSALMS

Singing Psalms Year A Alison Cadden and Peter

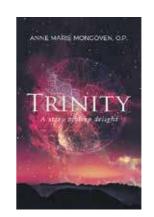
Thompson

THE IRISH

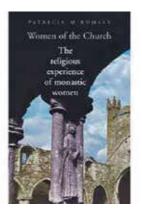
BENEDICTINES



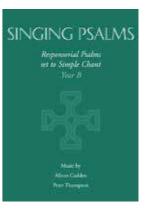
Thirty Three Good Men John A. Weafer



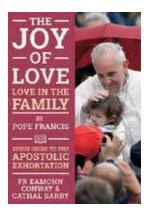
Trinity a Story of Deep Delight Anne Marie Mongoven OP



Women of the Church Patricia Rumsey



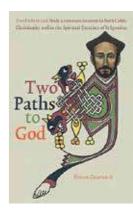
Singing Psalms Year B Alison Cadden and Peter Thompson



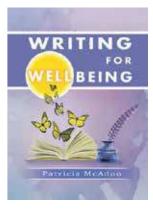
The Joy of Love Eamonn Conway and Cathal Barry



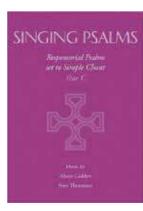
Three Dancers, One Dance James O' Halloran SDB



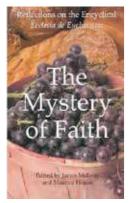
Two Paths to God Fintan Creaven SJ



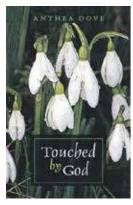
Writing for Wellbeing Patricia McAdoo



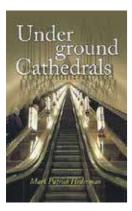
Singing Psalms Year C Alison Cadden and Peter Thompson



The Mystery of Faith Eds James McEvoy and Maurice Hogan SSC



Touched by God Anthea Dove



Underground Cathedrals Mark Patrick Hederman OSB



DIED

The Passion according to Luk

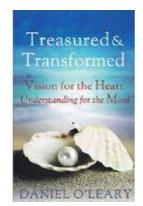
The Kilderry Files Maurice Manning



Toward Mutual Ground Eds Gareth Byrne and Patricia Kieran

Unfinished Search

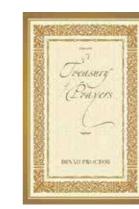
Robin Eames



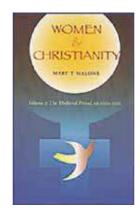
They have fooled you again

Denis Carroll

Treasured & Transformed Daniel O'Leary



Treasury of Prayers Dinah Proctor



Women and Christianity Vol 2 Mary T. Malone

To order please fill in the form below and send it to Columba Books, Block 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, D18 K277. Alternatively you can phone us on 01 687 4096 or email sales@columba.ie.

- MY ORDER (Please put the quantity before each book	s) ·
1916 The Church and the Rising - Ed Greg Daly	Navigating the Gospels: John - Philip Fogarty SJ $\epsilon 4.50$
5 Years to Save Irish Church - Ed Mags Gargan	Navigating the Gospels, Matthew - Philip Fogarty SJ FLAT DA
50 Years Receiving Vatican II - Kevin T. Kelly	Navigating the Gospels, Matthew - Philip Fogarty SJ FLAT RATE New Century, New Society - Dermot Lane P&P
Faith and the Hungry Grass - Enda McDonagh	Nine Portraits of Jesus - Peter Hannan SJ
A New Vision for the Catholic Church - Gerry O'Hanlon SJ	Passion for the Possible - Daniel O'Leary
Acts of the Apostles - Michael Mullins	At Playschool with Mary my Mother - Jack McArdle
Adventures of a Book Collector - Philip Murray	Pluralism and Diversity in Ireland - Micheál Mac Gréil
Afterlife - Audrey Healy	Praise Be To You - Eamonn Conway and Cathal Barry
And that's the Gospel Truth Year A - Jack McArdle ss cc	Pray without Ceasing - Jenny Child
As We Believe so We Pray: Year A - Brian Mayne	Praying Lent - Andy Alexander SJ and Maureen McCann Waldron
Becoming the Presence of God - Michael Ford	Preparing Liturgies for Victims of Suicide - Pat Seaver
Pope Benedict XVI: Successor to Peter - Michael Collins	Cancer: A Circle of Seasons - Anne Alcock
Building Community, Vision and Practice - James O'Halloran	Quo Vadis? - Mary McAleese Reaches of the Mind - Niall Weldon
Can I stay in the Catholic Church - Brian Lennon SJ Cancer Prayer & Survival - Mary McDonnell	Remember How It Goes - Jonathan Frazer
Catholic Primary Education - Ed Eugene Duffy	Seeds for the Soul: Cycle B - Brendan McGuire
Celtic Spirit and Literature - Grace Clunie and Tess Maginess	Seeds for the Soul, Cycle C - Brendan McGuire
The Celtic Songlines - David Forsythe	Shadows on the Journey - Alan Abernethy
Christendom in Dublin - G.K. Chesterton	Singing Psalms Year A - Alison Cadden and Peter Thompson
Christianity in Ireland - Eds Brendan Bradshaw and Dáire Keogh	Singing Psalms Year B - Alison Cadden and Peter Thompson
Christmas Truce Carol - James O'Halloran	Singing Psalms Year C - Alison Cadden and Peter Thompson
Churches in Exile - Cathy Higgins	The Day He Died – Passion According to Luke - Mathew Byrne
Clare's Wild Atlantic Way - Patrick G. Ryan	The Good News of Luke's Year - Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap
Columba Lectionary Masses with Children Year B - Eds Sean	Kenny's Choice - Des Kenny
McEntee and Michael Breen	The Irish Benedictines - Martin Browne OSB
Confraternities and Sodalities - Ed Colm Lennon	The Joy of Love - Eamonn Conway and Cathal Barry
A Day at a Time - Mary Kenny	The Mystery of Faith - Eds James McEvoy and Maurice Hogan SSC
The Diocese of Elphin - Francis M. Beirne	The Kilderry Files - Maurice Manning
Edward J Byrne - Thomas J. Morrissey SJ	They have fooled you again - Denis Carroll
An Endangered Species - Fr Jerry Daly	Thinking Anew - Gordon Linney
Fáilte Pope Francis - Children of Ireland	Thirty Three Good Men - John A. Weafer
 Faith Questions - Eds Brendan Leahy and Declan Marimion	Three Dancers, One Dance - James O' Halloran SDB
Father Browne's Trains and Railways - E. E. O'Donnell	Touched by God - Anthea Dove
Fifty Masses with Children - Sr Francesca Kelly	Toward Mutual Ground - Eds Gareth Byrne and Patricia Kieran
A Farewell to Poetry - Gabriel Fitzmaurice	Treasured & Transformed - Daniel O'Leary
Food, Feast, Fast - P. Fintan Lyons OSB Funeral Homilies - Liam Swords	Treasury of Prayers - Dinah Proctor Trinity a Story of Deep Delight - Anne Marie Mongoven OP
The Gospel of Matthew: A Commentary - Michael Mullins	Two Paths to God - Fintan Creaven SJ
Following the Pink Ribbon Path - Mary Redmond Ussher	Underground Cathedrals - Mark Patrick Hederman OSB
Golden Steps to Inner Peace & Enlightenment - Mildred Ryan	Unfinished Search - Robin Eames
Getting Real about Education - Thomas J. Norris	Women and Christianity Vol 2 - Mary T. Malone
The Francis Effect DVD - Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation	Women of the Church - Patricia Rumsey
Hallelujah: Memoirs of a Singing Priest - Fr Ray Kelly	Writing for Wellbeing - Patricia McAdoo
Harvesting Hope with Anthony de Mello - John Callanan SJ	
Heartbeat of the Seasons - Kathleen Glennon	MY DETAILS
Heroic Leadership - Chris Lowney	
I am Mary, I am Woman - Caroline Renehan	Name:
I have got to come up with a sermon Year A - Fr Mark Hartley	Address:
OCSO	
Reaping the Harvest - Dr Susan Mulligan	
Ireland and Vatican II - Ed Niall Coll	
Jean Claude Colin Marist - Donal Kerr	Phone Number:
The Jewel in the Mess - Alan Abernethy	Email:
Joyce County - Ray Burke	
Lent with St John's Gospel - John Mann	METHOD OF PAYMENT
Let All the People Praise Him - Michel de Verteuil	□ PAY BY: Cheque/Postal order for €
Letters from Aleppo - Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh No Lions in the Hierarchy - Joseph Dunn	
Liturgical Resources Matthew's Year - Thomas O'Loughlin	payable to: Columba Books REMEMBER ADD €4.50 P&P
Lord, Hear Our Prayer - Jenny Child	
Matthew Sage Theologian - Wilfrid Harrington OP	□ PAY BY CREDIT CARD: Visa □ MasterCard □ Debit
Sr Maureen's Selection of Irish Art - Maureen MacMahon OP	Card No:
Missionary Memoirs - Enda Watters CSSp	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Exp date:/ CVV No:

Discover more at **www.columbabooks.com** and **www.currachbooks.com**.

.....

Preparing to be born again



CORK: Bishop of Cork and Ross Fintan Gavin warmly welcomed 13 candidates preparing to receive the Sacrament of Initiation in the diocese, March 5. The candidates from the parishes of Bandon, Carrigaline and South Parish were presented to Bishop Gavin in the Cathedral of St Mary and St Anne. Each candidate is accompanied on their journey by a group of trained parishioners in each parish. Candidates will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in their parishes at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday evening.



LIMERICK: Pupils from Doon CBS who received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time pictured with their class teacher, Ms Elizabeth Doherty and Fr Jimmy Donnelly PF

Targeted supports needed for elderly in cost of living crisis

A charity that supports older people to age at home have called for a "pandemic-like response" from the Government to help older people address the rising cost of living crisis.

The charity Alone said in a statement that targeted measures are needed to support older people and other low-income households.

Measure called for include a temporary, means-tested basic food allowance of €25 to ensure more households in fuel poverty can avail of the scheme. Alone also recommends that a

commitment be implemented to benchmark the State Pension to the average weekly wage, that was made in programme for Government.

"The huge increase in energy prices and the coming increases in food costs are hitting older people hard," said Alone CEO Seán Moynihan in a statement.

He said the State pension is already below the poverty line, and older people have little or no disposable options they can drop out of your spending.

"Heating is most important for older people to help manage chronic health

parishioners joining her on the Tuesdays of Lent at the Parish Centre, Kingscourt in journeying with Jesus through Saint Luke's gospel.

conditions, but now some people are having to weigh up their choices between heating or eating. No one should have to make these choices," Mr Moynihan said.

Archbishop of Dublin pays tribute to deceased Braybased priest

Fr John O'Connell, who served as parish priest of Holy Redeemer Church for 34 years, passed away last week aged 89.

Raised in Scartaglen, Co. Kerry, Fr O'Connell was ordained to the priesthood in 1957. Well respected in both academic

and pastoral spheres, he taught theology in Clonliffe College from 1961 to 1974, while also serving as a chaplain at Mountjoy

Prison. In 1974, he went to Bray as a curate. Following his retirement in 2008, he became Pastor Emeritus of the parish. He celebrated his diamond jubilee in 2017.

During Fr O'Connell's funeral, Archbishop Dermot Farrell spoke of Fr John's lifetime of service, not only to Bray but to the Dublin diocese, where he served as Vicar General.

'He was a towering figure within the life of the diocese," the Archbishop said. Fr O'Connell was a man "way ahead of his time" who was deeply involved in the life of the parish.



News 25

Edited by Ruadhán Jones Ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie

Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



LOUTH: Augustinian Provincial Elect, Fr Tony Egan OSA, is pictured here with Adeel, one of the order's students, on a recent visit he made to the Drogheda community, March 3.



MONAGHAN: Sarah Deery and Fr Owen Joe McEneaney at a display in honour of St Patrick in St Patrick's church, Bawn, created by local artist Celia Richards.



KILDARE: On the first day of the Spring 2022 general meeting of bishops, the Primate of All-Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin celebrated Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Maynooth, with bishops and priests of St Patrick's College, and seminarians and staff attended. Prayers were offered for peace and the people of Ukraine, March 7.



MONAGHAN: Colin Bell from the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust receives a cheque for €1,200 from the Monaghan Order of the Knights of St Columbanus to, the proceeds of their January church-gate collection. Pictured (from left) are Paul Cullen, Donal Kenny, Colin Bell, Grand Knight CK31 Andy Caldwell and Seamus Keenan.



MAYO: Queens University Belfast students enjoyed a weekend at Knock International Marian Shrine for Seek 22. Students from across Ireland, together with visitors from Austria and the United States, gathered at Knock for prayer, discussion and social time.



CORK: Our Lady of Apostles (OLA) sisters' jubilarians, Sr Rosarii O'Sullivan, Sr Eithne McDevitt and Sr Anne McCormack, celebrated the anniversary of their joining the order, March 7.

Events

• Following the lifting of almost all Covid-19 restrictions many Church events are now returning. The popular Events Listing column, which was suspeded during the pandemic, will soon return. If you know of any planned parish event, prayer group meeting etc., please email: ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie or call 016855455

SWorld Report

IN BRIEF

Priest threatened in Mexico in area of increasing violence

• A priest involved with social and environmental causes in southern Mexico was threatened by gangs, the latest in a wave of increasing violence gripping the communities served by the Diocese of San Cristobal de Las Casas.

Fr Matías Rodríguez Jiménez was threatened by five individuals on motorcycles, who cut off the priest as he was driving to Chicomuselo, where he is parish priest, according to March 17 statements from the Catholic organisation Pueblo Creyente (Chiapas Support Committee) and a collective of social and religious organisations.

The individuals struck the priest's vehicle and warned: "We know who you are and what you do. Be careful.'

Pope visits refugee children hospitalised in Rome

Pope Francis made a surprise visit on Saturday to Ukrainian refugee children being treated in the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital in Rome.

Some of the hospitalised children suffer from serious blast wounds from the war, according to Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni.

The children suffering from cancer, neurological diseases, and other illnesses were brought to Italy for medical treatment during the first days of the war in Ukraine.

Pope Francis stopped in the hospital rooms to visit all of the children staving in the ward on the afternoon of March 19, the Solemnity of St Joseph, before returning to the Vatican.

political chamber, rejected

the amendment, 179-145,

The defeat of the

following a March 16 debate

amendment represents the

12th time in 25 years that

the British parliament has

dismissed an attempt to

legalise assisted suicide. which is punishable under the

Bishops worldwide asked to join consecration of **Russia and Ukraine**

• Pope Francis has asked bishops around the world to join him March 25 in consecrating Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, something bishops in every part of the globe had started announcing the minute they heard what the Pope had planned.

"Pope Francis has invited the bishops of the whole world, along with their priests, to join him in the prayer for peace and in the consecration and entrustment of Russia and of Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary," Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, said March 18.

British parliament rejects amendment to allow assisted suicide

• The British parliament threw out an attempt to legalise assisted suicide in England and Wales

Amendment 170 to the Health and Social Care Bill would have forced the British government to introduce assisted suicide legislation in the near future.

But members of the House of Lords, Britain's second

1961 Suicide Act by up to 14 years in jail. Nigerian sister recounts deadly shooting

 Sister Esther Nkiru Ezedinachi, who survived a fatal shooting incident in Nigeria's embattled Anambra State last month, finds it difficult to believe that she escaped the episode unscathed.

A member of the Handmaids of the Child Jesus in Nigeria's Catholic Diocese of Ekwulobia, Sister Nkiru was involved in heavy shooting late last month when assailants attacked a vehicle she was traveling in with other people coming from a marriage ceremony.

A professor was killed and a number of other people kidnapped in the incident, which Sister Nkiru noted has not received any media attention.

In a March 16 interview with ACI Africa, Sister Nkiru described her experience as traumatic and said that she was lucky to have escaped alive

Pope reforms Curia with launch of Vatican constitution

he Vatican published on Saturday a longawaited document implementing Pope Francis' reform of the organisation and structure of the Roman Curia.

The apostolic constitu-n, *Praedicate evangeli*tion, um ("Preach the Gospel"), was released initially only in Italian on March 19 after nine years in production by the Pope's Council of Cardinal Advisers.

The constitution underlines that "any member of the Faithful" can lead one of newly constituted Vatican dicasteries or other bodies, "given their particular competence, power of governance and function".

Praedicate evangelium replaces Pastor bonus, the apostolic constitution on the Roman Curia promulgated by Pope John Paul II on June 28, 1988, and later modified by both popes Benedict and Francis.

With the publication of the new constitution, Pastor bonus is "fully abrogated and replaced".

The constitution was issued on the Solemnity of St Joseph, the ninth anniversary of the inauguration of Pope Francis' pontificate. It will take full effect on June 5. the Solemnity of Pentecost.

Under the new constitution, all the Vatican's main departments are now known as "dicasteries". The powerful Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, for example, will now be called the

"Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith". Along with removing the

Curia. Photo: CNS.

title "congregation" from Vatican departments, the new from constitution renames pontifical councils as "dicasteries".

The constitution says: "The Roman Curia is composed of the Secretariat of State, the Dicasteries and other bodies. all juridically equal to each other." The 16 dicasteries are as

follows: Dicastery for Evangelisation

 Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith

 Dicastery for the Service of Charity

 Dicastery for the Eastern Churches • Dicastery for Divine Wor-

ship and the Discipline of the Sacraments Dicastery for the Causes of

Saints Dicastery for Bishops • Dicastery for the Clergy Dicastery for Institutes of

Consecrated Life and Societies

of Apostolic Life • Dicastery for the Laity, Fam-

ily, and Life Dicastery for Promoting

Christian Unity • Dicastery for Interreligious

Dialogue • Dicastery for Culture and

Education Dicastery for Promoting In-

tegral Human Development Dicastery for Legislative

Texts Dicastery for Communication

The document explains that "it became necessary to reduce the number of departments, joining together those whose purpose was very similar or complementary, and rationalise their functions with the aim of avoiding overlapping of competencies and making their work more effective".

In a significant change, the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation and the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, responsible for mission work, are merged into the Dicastery for Evangelisation, presided over directly by the Pope.

The Dicastery for Evangelisation is listed first among the dicasteries in the document, indicating its centrality in the new structure of the Roman Curia.

The dicastery will have two sections, one for "fundamental questions of evangelisation in the world" and another "for the first evangelisation and the new particular Churches in the territories of its competence".

Each section will be governed in the Pope's name by a "pro-prefect".

Ukrainian priest describes plight of 'city of Mary'

A Ukrainian priest described escaping from his bombed-out parish in Mariupol and said he still hopes some Catholics will survive the relentless Russian onslaught.

Pauline Father Pavlo Tomaszewski said the decision to leave was not easy, "but when they started shelling the whole city, we realised we'd have to go"

"They bombed and shelled us without any break for four days - since our monastery had no cellar for hiding in, we could see tall apartments blocks exploding in front of us," said the priest, who comes

from the western city of Kamenets-Podolsky but studied in neighbouring Poland.

"Although there'd been water, food and gas and electricity supplies at the beginning, these were deliberately hit to cut off

what people needed for daily survival. By the end, with no sense of time, we'd lost any contact with parishioners or with the outside world."

The priest spoke at a March 18 virtual news meeting organised by the pontifical agency Aid to the Church in Need, as Russia's Defence Ministry confirmed its

forces were "tightening the noose" around Mariupol, a port city on the Sea of Azov. Up to 90% of all buildings in the city

were reported damaged. Fr Tomaszewski said Russian forces had

targeted civilians from the outset, bombing and shelling Mariupol's eastern districts, but had intensified "atrocities against the innocent population" in retaliation for Ukrainian resistance.

The priest added that he had seen three women torn apart by an artillery shell when they went out in search of water.

South Sudanese facing extreme hunger loot aid convoys

Church workers are concerned because increasingly desperate South Sudanese are looting humanitarian aid supplies and attacking aid workers in an effort to get food.

Some leading causes of the food shortages are armed conflict and climate change.

While the violence resulting from the conflict has hurt livelihoods and caused deaths, climate changeinduced floods have displaced families, swept away homes and farmlands. This has made it difficult for people to plant and harvest crops or replenish

their food stocks.

And now, as the communities race to find food. humanitarian aid workers are being caught in the crossfire, with some being killed and aid convoys, warehouses and medical teams being attacked or looted.

"Aid workers are losing their lives and their service on the way, as the aid is robbed or looted because the people are desperate," said Fr James Oyet Latansio, a Catholic priest who is general secretary of the South Sudan Council of Churches.



Ukrainian Catholic archbishop decries terrible toll of Russia's war



Barb Fraze

ussian President Vladimir Putin did not invade Ukraine out of concern that NATO would encroach on his borders, but concern about "the disease of democracy that could spread like a virus, and that's deadly for oligarchies and authoritarian rulers," said the archbishop who serves as a "foreign minister" for the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Russia needs "Ukraine's territory, its population, its market, its technological capacity... This country, with its seaports, helps Russia return to its nostalgic colonising and imperial building," said Archbishop Borys Gudziak, the Ukrainian Catholic archbishop of Philadelphia and the head of external relations for the worldwide Ukrainian Catholic Church.

He said people must understand the invasion was "not a response to a military threat, but it's a response to moral danger. Democracy could spread".

In a wide-ranging interview March 14, Archbishop Gudziak spoke of Putin's ruthlessness, the faith of Ukrainians, and Western leaders' "naivete, blindness, lack of courage and capacity to act (during) 22 years of Putin's rule". He sprinkled the interview with Biblical references such as David (Ukraine) and Goliath (Russia), the sin of Adam, and Herod's massacre of the Holy Innocents.

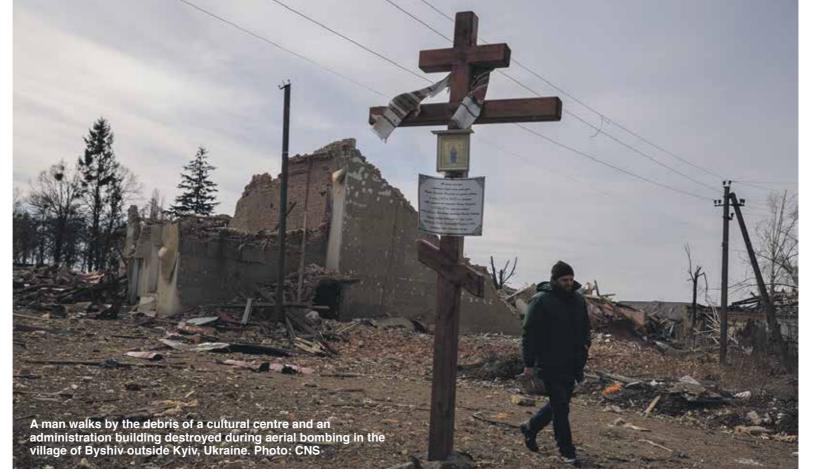
Archbishop Gudziak spoke of Russia's "devastating air assault" targeting civilians: "a maternity hospital, schools – some 200 schools have been damaged or destroyed; it's hitting churches; tanks are firing at apartment buildings. All of this is documented. The whole world is seeing it. What more is needed? What conscience cannot be moved to defend these innocent civilians?"

Division

The result is a division of families, over three million refugees, two million additional people displaced within Ukraine and billions of dollars of damage to infrastructure, he told *Catholic News Service*.

"The psychological, social, economic devastation is incalculable," he said. "It will take decades to deal with the trauma."

President Putin "has demonstrated a capacity to be utterly ruthless: killing, maiming, destroying civilian populations and civilian objects," he said, referring to the month-long battle to capture



the Chechen capital of Grozny in 1994 and 1995 and the month-long bombing of Aleppo, Syria, in 2016.

He said Western leaders were realising too late that President Putin could not be trusted. He cited examples of US Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama – as a candidate – and Donald Trump misreading Mr Putin. He said they had no understanding of what it took for a young man to join the KGB and stay in it and "foster its legacy" for the 22 years he has been in power. All of this has convinced Putin of the West's weakness, "and so he will push forward in a devastating way".

The archbishop was interviewed two days before Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was scheduled to address the US Congress"

People think the war began February 24, but it began in March 2014, when Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula, the archbishop added. "We're into the ninth year of this," he said, and it could have been avoided with more decisive action.

Some people have expressed concern that Pope Francis has not specifically mentioned Russia when speaking out against the war, but Archbishop Gudziak said, "I think people understand who he's talking about, and his statements have been incrementally stronger." The same day, in a front-page editorial in *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, and in various language editions of Vatican News, Andrea Tornielli, editorial director of the Dicastery for Communication, explained why Pope Francis has not explicitly named President Putin and Russia in his condemnations of the war.

Silence

"There are those who have accused the Pope of 'silence' for not having explicitly named Putin, forgetting that once a war began, the pontiffs never called the aggressor by name and surname, not out of cowardice or an excess of diplomatic prudence, but in order not to close the door, in order to always leave a crack open to the possibility of stopping evil and saving human lives," Mr Tornielli said.

Archbishop Gudziak told *Catholic News Service* Ukrainians were very grateful to the Holy See, and he wished Pope Francis would "go to Ukraine right now. I think that would save many lives. His unique moral authority could play a role". He noted that Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the Eastern-rite Ukrainian Catholic Church, also has spoken publicly of his wish for a papal visit.

The archbishop was interviewed two days before Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was scheduled to address the US Congress. Asked what he would say if he were to address Congress, Archbishop Gudziak said: "Do you not realise that you are sacrificing Ukraine, its children, its women, its churches, its hospitals? Do you have the moral right to do that?

"Why is every inch of NATO territory worth defending? Are human beings on the other side of the border any less worthy of life, justice, liberty, truth?

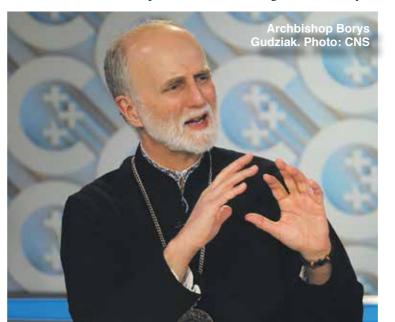
We're actually seeing great faith, especially in those who are defending the innocent, protecting the hospitals, the refugees"

"Can you muster up half the courage that Ukrainians are showing? Our people are giving everything – their lives, their livelihoods, their homes. And they're fighting for peace in Europe and peace in the world."

Throughout it all, Ukrainians have tried to maintain their faith, with priests celebrating services in private homes or in bomb shelters – he said Ukrainians were getting 5-10 bomb alerts every day.

"The rockets' red glare helps people to pray," he said. In those moments, people realise "our sense of great human autonomy is largely an illusion".

"We're actually seeing great faith, especially in those who are defending the innocent, protecting the hospitals, the refugees. There's no greater love than that when one gives their life for one's friend."



Post to: Letters to the Editor, The Irish Catholic,

Unit 3b. Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandvford, Dublin 18. D18 K277 or email: letters@irishcatholic.ie

Letters

Letter of the week Scandalous denigration of Catholic education Dear Editor, Your forthright editorial deeply ingrained coldness to faith, that their deluded thinking that the

[The Irish Catholic - March 10, 2022] concerning what amounts to nothing less than a scandalous denigration of Catholic education, spoke for many.

That those politicians that once came from a Catholic understanding now show their true colours are shameful. The SDLP, in particular, is showing how much there is now a

Covid and war part of Mary's Fatima plan

Dear Editor, We see big demonstrations in our cities in support of the Ukrainians who are suffering so much needless cruelty and great loss of life. But the number killed so far is still much less than the number killed by abortion in our own country since the repeal of the Eighth Amendment, and that with a cruelty that is even greater than that of war because the unborn cannot migrate anywhere. Furthermore, it can be estimated that many of those demonstrating now for the Ukraine were also amongst those who voted 'Yes' for the repeal. This I see as gross hypocrisy on their part.

If these yes-voter demonstrators want to do something really effective to help the Ukrainians let them urge the Irish bishops as a group to add their voice to that of the Ukrainian bishops to ask the Pope to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mary herself explicitly requested the former consecration at Fatima; and especially regarding its expression in education and in pro-life matters. That these politicians gained the three 'Rs' from Catholic teachers so that they could become where they are now is nothing less than ingratitude.

Equally, given that all SDLP members voted against the expression of prayer outside the abortion mills show that their deluded thinking that they are still 'a pro-life party' is a monstrous lie. Is it not now incumbent that they do the decent thing and openly declare their pro-death/anti-faith values and stop this shameful charade to the contrary!

Yours etc., **Fr John McCallion** Coalisland, Co. Tyrone



then let them demonstrate for a repeal of the repeal if they want to avoid the charge of hypocrisy and an escalation of this war into an even greater one engulfing us all.

Covid and this war are parts of Mary's Fatima plan, a plan that can make for lasting

peace or for a great chastisement, depending on how people respond to her pleas to pray, make sacrifices and turn back from sin. Yours etc..

> Fr Richard O Connor, Rome, Italy

Bend to the opportunity for synodal discernment compatible with the obligation

ple to wait until they are married to have

sexual intercourse, the young Canadians

spoke of the emotional difficulties expe-

rienced by young people associated with

and two females in their early twenties

described chastity as the new sexual

revolution that offers a healthy lifestyle

choice. freedom from sexually transmit-

schools this group visited said that they

found the talks educational and interest-

The vast majority of pupils in the many

ted diseases, pregnancy and aids.

The talks delivered by two males

early sexual activity.

Dear Editor, "Mr O'Conaill would like to treat only those articles of faith at the top (or centre) of the hierarchy as true or significant", so declares Dr John Murray [The Irish Catholic - March 10, 2022]

This is not true, and Dr Murray has no reason to say so. It is obvious that every part of a hierarchy of divine truths must be as true as every other. Everything in it must therefore be

Catholic - February 17, 2022]

gotten virtue - that of chastity.

this group.

death of chastity in our culture', [The Irish

too that this article was upholding and

explaining the value of a seemingly for-

a group from Canada called Challenge to

Chastity to come and speak to our second

level students in the Raphoe diocese. As

diocesan advisor, I contacted schools to

determine the interest of principals in

seven consecutive years in the late 1980s

This team came over to Ireland for

I was so impressed and others were

When I returned from the US, I invited

of love. It is the human discern-

ment and living out of this hierarchy of divine truths that will be imperfect in the Church in every era, as proven by, for example, the existence of separate cillíni – graveyards for unbaptised infants in Ireland - and the ghastly clerical mistakes and scandals that Lumen Gentium Chapter 3 did not prevent. Somehow, what lies

always at the summit of the hierarchy of truths, that obligation of love, had come to be, in those instances, misplaced. It follows, obviously, that I

must admit that my own discernment of the truth must be open to question. That is precisely why I welcome the synodal pathway – to test my own vision as well as to allow me to speak my own mind, such as it is.

If Dr Murray cannot bend

to the opportunity for synodal discernment now, is that because he can admit of no possibility that he himself might, like St Paul, ever be seeing imperfectly, as through a glass?

Already quite obviously divided, how could the Church ever find unity, or become truly evangelical, that way? Yours etc.

Sean O'Conaill Coleraine, Co. Derry

Promoting chastity to young people

Dear Editor, I write to congratulate Fr Rolheiser on his excellent article 'The death of chastity in our culture', [*The Irish* students, while encouraging young peo-ting and teachers found reactions to the students, while encouraging young peo-ting and teachers found reactions to the talks very positive. I thank God for the seeds they sewed I thank God for the seeds they sewed and I believe they have inspired our own Irish group Pure in Heart. Due to my intense involvement with NET Ministries in their early years, I lost contact with Challenge to Chastity. Fr Rolheiser's article awakened my good memories of that group.

I am so grateful that 'Pure in Heart' is alive and well, and I would hope to hear more about their good work in this paper. Yours etc.,

Sr Susan Teague, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal **Everything must** be done to prevent mothers opting for abortion

Dear Editor, May I reply to Michael Walsh's reference to significant sensitivities in area of abortion"? He is correct in stating that "a woman minded to seek an abortion might well be in a fragile state and experiencing difficulties in her personal life and see an abortion as the only possible way of resolving her problems".

I am sure many women may do so but surely it behoves us to seek to offer positive options and to point out that the abortion will not solve her problems but most definitely add to them. How is it possible to think that killing her baby could ever be the answer? Those pro-life people who stand outside abortion facilities are more than willing to offer lifesaving solutions to a crisis pregnancy. On what grounds can this be deemed to be a crime? Rather, to refuse to help and refuse to try to save a baby is surely a dereliction of duty and is showing a lack of compassion for both the mother and the baby. It can never be acceptable to see the killing of a baby in the womb as an answer to an unwanted baby. No baby is unwanted and many couples are only too willing to adopt, if that is the wish of the mother, if she feels unable to keep her baby.

Hopefully, legislation will not be passed to prevent assistance being offered to those considering an abortion and to prevent then being made aware of the dreadful consequences of an abortion including the regret afterwards.

Women Hurt by Abortion were prevented from addressing the Oireachtas Committee before the referendum to repeal the Eighth Amendment and the media is most reluctant to facilitate their tragic stories.

> Yours etc., Mary Stewart Ardeskin, Donegal

Religious leaders and times of political crisis gious leader has already

Dear Editor, For how long now has the cry in Europe been going up for Church and State to be separated?

Strange then, that at the time of a political crisis, reli-gious leaders are suddenly called upon to talk to political leaders and influence their decisions.

But what then, if a reli-

viewpoint? In the light of what's happening, Chapter 6 of the Book of Revelation makes

gone over to the secular

interesting reading. Yours etc., Judith Leonard Raheny, Dublin

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.

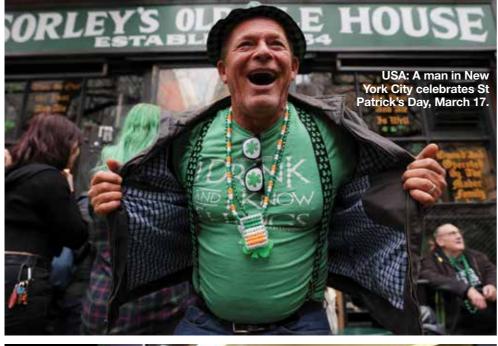
OAround the world





▲ **ROMANIA:** A Ukrainian refugee at North Railway Station in Bucharest, cries as she says goodbye to a family member following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Photos: *CNS*.

◀ UKRAINE: Smoke billows at the site of a destroyed shopping centre after it was hit during a Russian military strike in Kyiv, March 21.





VATICAN: An estimated 30,000 people gather in St Peter's Square at the Vatican for the recitation of the Angelus prayer, March 20.



GERMANY: A mother and daughter from Kyiv arrive at Berlin's central station.



RUSSIA: Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of external relations for the Russian Orthodox Church, participate in a video meeting with Pope Francis and Swiss Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, March 16.



When did we lose basic respect for each other?

hen did we lose it? When did we lose that deeply-engrained, forever-sanctioned sense that however much we might disagree with each other or even dislike each other, we still need to accord each other basic courtesy, respect, and politeness?

We've lost that, at least for the most part. From the highest levels of government to the crassest platforms on social media, we are witnessing the death of respect, courtesy, and basic honesty. Nobody, it seems, is accountable any more for even the most basic manners or for honesty. Things we used to punish our kids for doing (name-calling, ethnic slurs, taunting, lying, and blatant disrespect of another) are now becoming acceptable in the mainstream. Even more worrisome is the fact that we feel justified morally in doing it. To be seen as courteous, respectful, and polite is no longer judged as a virtue but as a weakness. Civility has died.

That same false belief that gave Islamic terrorists moral permission to bracket all the rules of decency is taking root everywhere today"

What's behind this? How did we move from Emily Post to what happens today on social media? Who gave us permission, societal and sacred, to do this?



www.ronrolheiser.com

••••••••

Blaise Pascal once famously wrote that "men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from a religious conviction". Many people quoted that after the September terrorist attacks of 9/11, as they recognised this in radical Islamism where mass murder was justified and deemed as necessary in God's name.

No doubt, it's easier to see this in someone else because, as Jesus says, it's easier to see the speck in your brother's eye than the beam in your own. That same false belief that gave Islamic terrorists moral permission to bracket all the rules of decency is taking root everywhere today. Why? Religious passion for what one believes is right and the belief that one may get ugly in the cause of truth is prevalent everywhere today and is giving us moral permission to become disrespectful, dishonest, and discourteous in the name of truth, goodness, and God. This justifies itself as being prophetic, as armoring us as warriors for truth.

Emphatic

Nothing could be further from the truth. Hatred and disrespect are always the antithesis of prophecy. A prophet, says Daniel Berrigan, makes a vow of love, not of hatred. Like Jesus, a prophet weeps in love over any "Jerusalem" which meets his or her prophecy with hatred. A prophet never brackets the nonnegotiable mandate always to be respectful and honest, no matter the cause. No cause, societal or sacred, grants one an exemption from the rules of elementary human courtesy.

66 To bracket the most elementary rules of love is to be a false prophet, caught up in self-interest and self-serving truth" Many people argue against this, pointing out that Jesus himself could be very harsh with those who opposed him. Harsh he was. Disrespectful and discourteous he was not. Moreover, underneath his challenge to those who opposed him, there was always the emphatic yearning love of a parent for an alienated child, not the ugliness you see today in our government circles, in social media, and in the *stare-you-down* hatred we often see between various ideological factions today.

We do not prepare ourselves nor those we disagree with to take a place at that table by facing off with each other with hatred, dishonesty"

The truth can be harsh and confront us with a very strong challenge, but it can never be disrespectful. Disrespect is an infallible sign that one is not right, that one does not have the moral high ground, and that in this instance one is not speaking for God, truth, and goodness. To bracket the most elementary rules of love is to be a false prophet, caught up in selfinterest and self-serving truth.

It is not easy to keep one's balance in a bitter time. The temptation to slide down the ideological roof on one side or the other and please 'one's base' seems humanly irresistible. However, irrespective of which side we slide down, right or left, there always comes with this a prescribed rhetoric, a prescribed discourtesy, a prescribed disrespect, and not infrequently a prescribed dishonesty. Along with that slide also comes the self-same righteousness of those who opposed Jesus and believed that they were justified in being disrespectful and doing violence in God's name.

Dishonesty

Bitter times, a milieu of hatred and lies, and finding ourselves on opposing sides from each other, tempts us towards what comes naturally: name-calling, disrespect, lack of graciousness, and dishonesty whenever a truth or a lie serves us. Paradoxically, the challenge is in the opposite direction. Given the breakdown in civility today, the call from truth and from God is to be more careful, more scrupulous, and more uncompromising than ever in the respect, courtesy, and graciousness we accord to others.

We hope to be spending eternity with each other, dining at a single table. We do not prepare ourselves nor those we disagree with to take a place at that table by facing off with each other with hatred, dishonesty, disrespect, and coercion, as if that table could be taken by power and violence.

In the end, not everyone at that table will have liked each other this side of eternity, but everyone will be most gracious, respectful, and honest on the other side.

Family& If the second s

Personal Profile

Fostering a missionary Church in the parish Page 34



Drawing closer to God this Lent through fasting

raver, almsgiving and fasting are the three pillars upon which a successful Lenten campaign is built, but today we're going to focus on fasting. The necessity of prayer and almsgiving/charity is evident for all to see for growing in love of God, but fasting can prove a little more mysterious. How does going hungry help us to draw closer to God? Is fasting limited to food? What effect does it have on me? First things first, it's a good idea to see what the Church asks of us in this regard.

The minimum

The Church only mandates two days a year of fasting for Catholics – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition to this, Fridays throughout Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.



For members of the Roman Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from the age of 18 to the age of 59. The Church's idea of fasting consists of one full meal on the day of fasting, as well as two smaller meals that together aren't equal to a full meal. This might look like a big breakfast, lunch or dinner, with the other two meals being considerably smaller than the usual fare. When it comes to abstinence from meat, the norms are binding upon members of the Roman Catholic Church from the age of 14 upwards.

This is the minimum amount of fasting the Church obliges its members to partake of, but the Faithful are more than welcome to take up more. In fact, they'd be joining a long tradition of fasting if they did so, with saints and religious of our own tradition, and many towering figures in other religions, advocating fasting as good spiritual practice down

through the ages.

So back to those questions: How does "going hungry" help us to draw closer to God? Is fasting limited to food, and what effect does it have on me?

Why we fast

There are many, many reasons why the Church, and indeed, Scripture, exhort people to fasting, but following Fr Mike Schmitz's lead (of *The Bible in a Year* fame), four key reasons can be identified:

- Self-mastery
- Obedience and discernmentSacrifice
- Co-redeeming with Christ

The first thing to note is that no, fasting is not limited to food, although forgoing food is a primary and common expression of it. To fast is really to give up sensate pleasures, such as food or whatever other comforts we might be 'attached' to, such as video games or Netflix.

To acknowledge the usefulness of fasting isn't to fall into a gnostic trap of viewing the spirit alone as good and pure, and the created world of food and pleasures as evil; it's more to acknowledge that very often, we're not free to say "no" to these things. You're a slave to that which we can't say "no" to, whether that be the warm embrace of your bed when your alarm goes off, or the lure of an extra snack whenever a slight pang or boredom strikes you.

Self-mastery

We fast to try and develop the ability to say "no" to those things **» Continued on Page 33**



MUSK CHALLENGES PUTIN TO 'SINGLE COMBAT' FOR UKRAINE

Billionaire Elon Musk tweeted out a challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin last week, the challenge being 'single combat' and the stakes being Ukraine.

Writing Mr Putin's name in Russian and Ukraine in Ukrainian, the SpaceX and Tesla CEO said "I hearby challenge (Vladimir Putin) to single combat".

"The stakes are (Ukraine)," he added.

A follow up tweet saw Mr Musk tag the Kremlin's official Twitter account in the hope of getting their attention.

Mr Musk has shared a number of posts related to the war in Ukraine, including a video shared March 5 showing him speaking directly with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Mr Musk gave Ukraine access to SpaceX's satellite internet system, Starlink, a system of around 2,000 satellites designed to bring the internet to underserved areas of the world.

President Zelenskyy thanked Mr Musk for his support of Ukraine, tweeting: "I'm grateful to him for supporting Ukraine with words and deeds."

NEW SPECIES OF STEGOSAUR IS POSSIBLY THE OLDEST DISCOVERED

A new species of one of the most recognisable types of dinosaur is the oldest stegosaur ever found in Asia, and one of the earliest unearthed anywhere in the world, according to research published in the peerreviewed *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

Remains of the stegosaur, which included bones from the back, shoulder, thigh, feet, and ribs, as well as several armour plates, date to the Bajocian stage of the Middle Jurassic period – much earlier than most known stegosaurs.

A team from the Chongqing Bureau of Geological and Mineral Resource Exploration and Development in China and London's Natural History Museum named it *Bashanosaurus primitivus* - "Bashan" in reference to the ancient name for the area of Chongqing in China where the dinosaur was found, and the Latin for 'first' – *primitivus*.

The new dinosaur, which roamed the planet 168 million years ago, plays a part in uncovering how the stegosaurs evolved – of which, to this day, little is known.

ABANDONED ROCKET 'HITS THE MOON'

A discarded part of a rocket should have crashed into the far side of the Moon by now, scientists have said.

The three-tonne rocket part had been tracked for a number of years, but where it comes from has been contested.

Astronomers initially said it belonged to Elon Musk's SpaceX, before saying it was

Chinese – which China denies. The effects of the impact on the Moon are expected to have been minor, with scientists hoping to receive confirmation in the coming days or weeks.

The rocket part is known as "space junk" – hardware discarded from missions or satellites without enough fuel to return to Earth. itamin D has been catapulted into a 'hotspot' of discussion in the field of nutritional health sci-

ence over the last decade. There are now nearly 100,000 published peer reviewed studies on the topic of "vitamin D' and over 1,000 specifically related to vitamin D and Covid. So what's our understanding of vitamin D and how important is it?

Vitamin D promotes the adequate absorption of calcium and phosphate from the gut which are required to mineralise our skeleton"

It has a unique place among vitamins in that about 80% is produced by our skin after exposure to sunlight rather than being mainly derived from diet. Furthermore, it is actually a hormone that when activated by the body appears to have effects in most if not all cells. For most of the last century, focus was on vitamin D's effect on maintaining healthy bones, with its discovery arising from a search for a cure for rickets. Vitamin D promotes the adequate absorption of calcium and phosphate from the gut which are required to mineralise our skeleton. Hence deficiency in adults can cause softening of the bones (osteomalacia) and can exacerbate osteoporosis.

Evolutionary biologists believe that the story of vitamin D began over one billion years ago. When animals moved to land and developed strong skeletons, they also evolved to make vitamin D from the sun. But recent stud-

Medical Matters

Dr Kevin McCarroll

ies suggest that in the earliest days, it wasn't just bone health but also immune function that it regulated. The vitamin D receptor has now been discovered in most cells including in the brain, heart, lung. liver and immune system.

So apart from bone health just how important is it? Well, there is no absolute definitive answer but there is strong evidence of its beneficial effects on immune and other cells in the body. However, maintaining levels required for a healthy skeleton may suffice for most, but possibly not all of the other potential health benefits.

Studies

So what do the studies say? Most are observational with relatively few intervention trials. Evidence suggests that vitamin D supplements given to frail, older adults may reduce the risk of falls and in combination with calcium has been shown to lower fracture risk. It is now widely acknowledged that vitamin D is important in maintaining a healthy immune system - several intervention trials show a reduction in respiratory tract infections with supplements and while largely observational the vast majority of studies show that deficiency is associated with a higher risk of developing symptomatic Covid, severe infection and ICU admission. Numerous studies

point to potential benefits in autoimmune and cardiovascular disease and lowering the risk of cancer, though results are not conclusive.

Don't dodge your vital

vitamin D

However, ensuring a vitamin D replete state for bone health may help to optimise other potential benefits.

So how common is vitamin D deficiency? The TILDA study shows that 13.1% of Irish adults aged over 50 were deficient rising to 21.3% in the winter. However, several other studies show at least similar rates in younger adults. Furthermore, up to an additional 25% have insufficiency where vitamin D status may be suboptimal. In Ireland, from November to March the sun is too weak to make vitamin D and levels typically drop by about 30% - peaking in Autumn after the summer and at their



lowest in February/March. During this period, the only way to get vitamin D is from diet where sources are limited and when overall intake is not enough at a population level to maintain adequate status. Skin exposure for about 10-15 minutes in the sun is generally enough to make vitamin D, though more time is needed with darker skin types. Should I get a vitamin D level

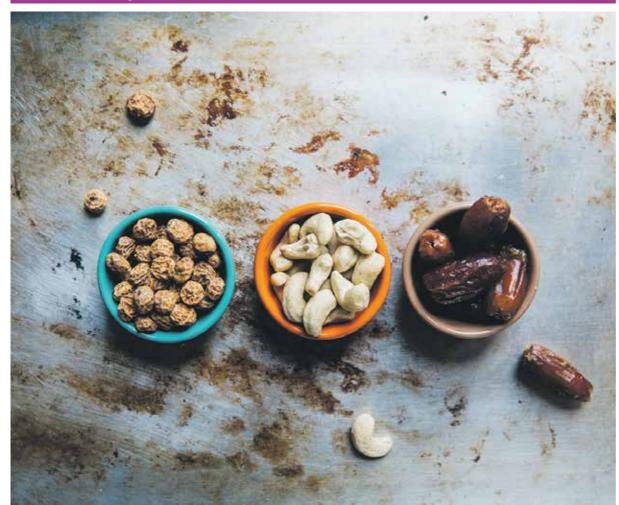
Should I get a vitamin D level checked? There is no need for most people to have a blood test to assess their vitamin D. If you have low bone density or brittle bones or suffer with bowel conditions which could impair vitamin D absorption then a blood test can be useful to assess how low your level may be and to ensure you are vitamin D replete after supplementation. Testing can also be considered in adults at high risk of deficiency, such as due to limited sun exposure (eg frail and older, nursing home residents). However, routine use of vitamin D supplements in such groups is advised so unless there is concern about compliance with tablets, testing is usually not necessary.

Supplements are a practical way to get additional vitamin D and are readily available over the counter and by prescription"

What about supplements? Natural sources of vitamin D are limited and include oily fish (eg salmon) liver, eggs and mushrooms, but unless consumed very frequently are not enough to maintain adequate status. Supplements are a practical way to get additional vitamin D and are readily available over the counter and by prescription. Recommendations vary though the National Academy of Medicine advises a daily vitamin D intake of 600 IU for those aged between 1-70 and 800 IU daily if 70+.

() Dr Kevin McCarroll is a Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine, St James's Hospital, Dublin.

» Continued from Page 31



that threaten to exert too tight a grip on us – even essential things like food.

Christ went 40 days without food in the desert, and when Satan tried to get him to break his fast by turning the stones into loaves of bread, he responded, "Man shall not live by bread alone". The lesson in this is that as Catholics, we understand that there are higher realities than the material, and we should be obedient to one alone: God.

Fasting helps us to break the hold material realities have on us so that we might more faithfully respond to God's call. Again, it is not a gnostic renunciation of the good things God has created – even Jesus ate and drank with the sinners, such that he was called a glutton and a drunkard. Rather, it's a restatement of who our master is: God.

As mentioned, fasting isn't to be limited to developing our self-mastery in our fight against excessive attachment to food; you can fast from hot showers, TV shows, gossip, social media, music and whatever else you might be taking for granted or giving too much attention. The key is that fasting should be accompanied by internal conversion, that we truly repent and follow God anew.

Obedience and discernment

Sometimes it's a good idea to do things simply because the Church says so. This line of thinking can be dangerous when following a government, say, or a charismatic individual, but if you've been convinced of the truth of the Church through sound reasoning, sometimes you have to just trust it.

If the Church and Scripture suggest fasting as a spiritually beneficial practice for you and you take it up, not only do you receive the benefits of fasting, but you grow in obedience to God's voice speaking through his Church. As such, fasting is a practice that opens us up to profitable discernment, predisposing us to the good influence of the Church and also hopefully putting a healthy distance between us and our attachments.

• Fasting gives us the opportunity to sacrifice, and thus participate in the redemption of the world"

Scripture makes the link between fasting and discernment in the Acts of the Apostles. Acts 13:2-3 tells us that the early Christians, "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'. Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off."

The early Christians opened themselves up to God's presence and influence by praying together, and Scripture tells us that it worked, the Holy Spirit's voice guiding them faithfully.



Sacrifice

One of the aspects of fasting that everyone can appreciate is that it's a sacrifice. Whether we're giving up on bigger meals or whether it's getting out of bed when the alarm goes off (fasting from the comfort of a liein!), it's deeply uncomfortable.

Worship and sacrifice are somewhat synonymous, as we sacrifice our time and efforts to that which we hold most dearly. If I spend the vast majority of my free time on social media, I'm really saying with my life that this is what I deem to be most valuable. If I repeatedly hit the snooze button on my alarm when I really should get out of bed and head to the gym, I'm saying with my life that I value comfort more than I do developing myself physically.

Giving up the things we're attached to out of love, that we might better serve God and neighbour, is the definition of a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. Fasting gives us the opportunity to sacrifice, and thus participate in the redemption of the world.

Co-redeeming with Christ

St Paul tells us in the letter to the Colossians:

"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church."

By choosing to fast, we participate in Christ's redemption of the world. Of course, nothing was lacking in Christ's redemptive suffering, but he gives us the chance to experience the redemption of the world in our suffering. By choosing to give up the things we find most difficult to give up in a spirit of love and service, we participate in the salvation of the world. I can't think of a much better reason to give it a go than that.

Dad's Diary Rory Fitzgerald

his generation of children are experiencing things that never marred our childhoods. In just the past two years, they have seen a global pandemic of a sort which had not afflicted the world since 1918. Now, they are witnessing a major European land war, the likes of which this continent has not seen since 1945.

The older children are just reaching an awareness of how the forces of history and politics impact the world. As small children they were sheltered from the bad in the world, but they are now inevitably coming to realise that there are global actors which can be sinister, and which are capable of bringing destruction and death to the world. It's sad to see some of the innocence of childhood fall away, as they become aware of distant shadows that loom over the horizon, beyond their safe and cosy lives in West Cork. Yet it's only natural that we grow up and learn that there is evil in the world, as well as good.

I remember reaching such an awareness at a similar age. At that time, in the late 1980s, the Cold War formed the geopolitical backdrop to our lives. I remember hearing people talk about nuclear war, and what they would do if it suddenly broke out. I remember someone telling me that Cork airport was targeted by Russian missiles, which was just a few miles from my childhood home. I distinctly recall reading a book called On the Beach, by Neville Chute, which poignantly portrayed how the few survivors of a nuclear conflict lived out their final days. It's strange to have such spectres resurrected so abruptly by Vladimir Putin's recent nuclear threats. All at once, a shadow has again fallen over the world.

The EU – including with financial contributions from Ireland – is now sending weapons to Ukraine which are being used to kill Russians. It is new for Ireland to be involved in such a proxy war. I remember, when living in the UK, becoming accustomed to the fact that the armed forces funded by my taxes were killing people on a nightly basis in places like Syria or Afghanistan. I don't think Irish people



are used to this, or that they have yet realised that they actually are in a proxy war with Russia. These are strange times, and things are changing so quickly that we can't keep up.



It's seems to me that the older kids are perturbed by events. They seem to sense that something of great magnitude is happening. I have let them watch some of the more age-appropriate news reports about the war, and they hear about it in school. Ukrainian refugee families with children have already arrived in our locality. Because the new arrivals can speak Polish, but not English, the kids' Polish friends have taken on a particular role in welcoming them to the community.

I feel that the older children have a right to know about the times in which they live. Yet, I'm also reducing their exposure to the news, and the sickening tales of horror and inhumanity which emanate from Ukraine each evening. They are still too young to carry the weight of the world on their shoulders. However, the conflict has prompted some important discussions and we have as a family donated money and goods to help.

The kids feel real compassion for all those impacted. They always remember to pray for the people of Ukraine when they say grace before meals. In these strange times, as a pandemic fades, and a European war erupts, the children seem to sense more deeply the need for foundations built on faith, so that they better imagine a future lit by hope.

Fostering a missionary Church in the parish

Personal Profile



Ruadhán Jones

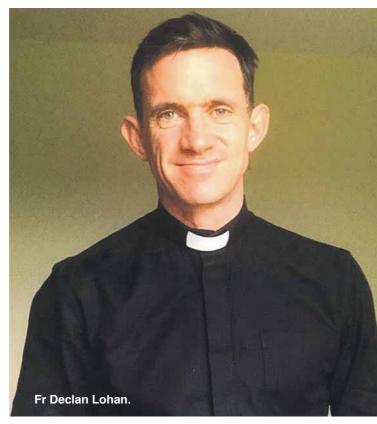
r Declan Lohan, a priest of the Galway diocese, says that he didn't appreciate Christ or the Church in the first part of his life. He developed this appreciation over time, first through the Legion of Mary and Youth 2000, and now through his work as a parish priest in Renmore, Co. Galway.

Fr Declan studied law and, having received his degree, took a year out to teach English in China"

Fr Declan grew up in what he calls a "typical 1980s Catholic home". They went to Mass on Sundays, with an occasional trip to Knock sprinkled in. It wasn't until his later years in university that he developed a greater appreciation for the Faith.

"When I went to university, I spent the first two years wearing myself out on the social scene," Fr Declan recalls. "I got tired of that and started to think more of what's important. I came back to my faith a bit or considered it more as an anchor. I wanted something more. I didn't appreciate my faith for the first part of my life, but I started to then."

Fr Declan studied law and, having received his degree, took a year



out to teach English in China. It was in this unlikely setting that his faith grew.

"The town I was in had a Catholic church. I could see Christians there who practised and who encouraged me. I could see the Catholic faith in not such a narrow way. I could see it as something universal, something all over the world," Fr Declan explains.

"That stuck with me. It was all a process of my faith getting stronger. When I got back to Ireland, I moved to Dublin then to train as a barrister. Most people would think that when you leave home – I had been in Galway all my life, excepting the trip to China, until I was 23 or so – that you would become more liberal or whatever with the freedom and what was on offer.

"But at that point, faith had become a fairly solid part of my life. Whereas my friends were doing a typical thing of the nightclubs and pubs and stuff, I was going a different direction."

Catholic apostolate

That different direction brought him to the Legion of Mary, the lay Catholic apostolate, as well as more regular attendance at Mass. "I was definitely starting to really deepen my faith, to take a different direction," Fr Declan says.

"The Legion for me was very special. Firstly, it gave me a lot of outlets to meet people. And I loved the mission of the Legion. We did a lot of visiting homes in the Meath Street and

Pimlico areas of Dublin. I did that for over two years. I was involved with the Polish praesidium there as well. It was a really exciting time in Dublin in the early 2000s.

"I could really get what the Legion was doing, because I think I could relate to people who didn't know God, because I had been there myself. I had been on a journey earlier on in my life, and I loved meeting people and being able to introduce them in a gentle way to prayer and the thought of God."

He believes it was the combination of these two that brought him to his vocation"

Fr Declan spent two years in that part of Dublin, where he met people who knew the Legion's founder, Frank Duff.

"That had a big influence on me as well, being so close to Duff's thought and to people who knew him. I think that was a really major influence on me. I really came to see my faith from the point of view of mission, that this was the future for the Church in Ireland. Because it was declining, I could see in my own friends who had stopped attending Mass.

"If we weren't missionary, we were going to disappear. I got a lot of joy from the Legion, going on Perigrinatio pro Christi, going abroad to England and France for missions abroad. I was on my own kind of journey compared with where I was growing up," Fr Declan says.

Having finished training as a barrister, Fr Declan moved back to Galway and got involved in Catholic youth group Youth 2000, as well as the Legion. He believes it was the combination of these two that brought him to his vocation.

"I was spending a lot of time with Youth 2000 and the Legion, just volunteering. Then I became really interested, well curious about, the priesthood but not sure. I was 30 by the time I entered the seminary, I had spent a lot of time discerning it," Fr Declan says.

"I think I was waiting for God to point me the way. I was very interested in diocesan priesthood. In the Legion I was dealing with ordinary people in parishes a lot. I just loved that and I still do.

"It's been a joy for me in diocesan priesthood. I got an opportunity to train. I spent two years in the diocesan seminary in France. It was unusual, but it was a great opportunity. The French Church is on the rise to a certain extent.

"It would have gone through what the Irish Church is going through long before us. I found that same idea of mission really important there. I spent two years there and came back to do another four years in Maynooth."

Fr Declan was ordained in the diocese of Galway and his first appointment was to NUIG. A year later, he was posted to the parish of Renmore, Co. Galway, where he still ministers.

"Diocesan priesthood is very people oriented, there's a great love for diocesan priests. They're the local priests for people around the country, for weddings, for funerals, for first Friday or sick calls, for hospital visits," Fr Declan says.

"There's so much, not to mention the Sunday Masses or the daily Masses. There's such a range of activity and opportunity to share faith and to bring God into the every day. I love that. I find it very fulfilling. Then there's the same theme, bringing mission to the parish. In my three years here in Renmore, I've brought in that idea a little more strongly."

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



Jane Mellet



How to make ethical financial decisions for the planet

n *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis says: "Given the seriousness of the ecological crises our world is facing, action is urgently needed. Caring for our brothers and sisters means caring for the home we share. This responsibility is "essential to a life of virtue (*LS*, 217)."

In November 2021, Pope Francis launched the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, a seven-year programme for the Church to live out the call to care more deeply for God's creation. The platform is based on achieving seven *Laudato Si'* Goals (LSGs) across seven Church 'sectors' over seven years – a jubilee for the Earth. This is a response to the call for healing in our relationships with God, our neighbours, and the Earth itself as we build a better future (LS 202).

For the past three months we have been exploring these *Laudato Si'* Goals: Goal 1: Responding to the Cry of the Earth, and Goal 2: Responding to the Cry of the Poor. This month let's have a look at *Laudato Si'* Goal (LSG) number 3 which is 'Ecological Economics'. This goal acknowledges that if we are to live in an ecologically sustainable society then the systems which we use in everyday life must be part of the solution and not the problem. This includes our economic system. So what might this look like? Suggestions under this goal include:

• Purchasing goods from local retailers and reducing the air miles on goods we purchase, especially our food. As a consumer you have a choice.

• Commit to ethical banking and ethical insurance. What does this mean? It involves talking to the banks you do business with and checking if they are investing in fossil fuels or other industries which harm our common home.

• Promote a circular economy: A circular economy aims to keep goods and materials in use for as long as possible. The principals of reuse, recycle, repair are key in a circular economy. Some examples include: donating to and buying from charity shops, upcycling products such as furniture, bikes and other materials, the right to repair appliances, buying second hand where possible. A circular economy can seriously reduce plastic

production, create jobs and ensure that consumer products are better quality and longer lasting.

• Support local businesses who are committed to ecological sustainability and who treat staff fairly in terms of ethical wages etc. Buy fair trade products.

For a diocese or educational institution there are further steps which can be taken to address LSG3. Such as:

• Divesting assets away from the fossil fuel industry. For example, in 2018 the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference was the first bishops' conference in the world to commit to divestment away from fossil fuels. Many Irish religious congregations have also made this commitment.

• Investing in renewable energies is another way to promote an ecological economy.

The *Laudato Si'* Goals offer us a roadmap to a more sustainable future. Go to: www.laudatosi-actionplatform.org to find out more. Perhaps your family, school or parish could consider signing up?

TVRadio Brendan O'Regan Priesthood...an adventure in falling in love

'm not a great fan of most Irish comedians. I find many of them loud, crude and unfunny, but I do realise these are subjective matters...to a point.

I wouldn't be rushing to one of his gigs, but I was impressed by the host on the **Tommy Tiernan Show** (RTÉ One, Saturday) when he interviewed Fr David Vard, Ireland's youngest priest. Apparently Mr Tiernan never knows who the next guest is going to be and, like an angel, he has to wing it. He didn't seem to know who Fr Vard was but he did ease into the interview quite comfortably. Fr Vard seemed relaxed and the whole interview was quite engaging. Mr Tiernan was doubtful when Fr Vard said he came from a normal home ("That's what you think!"), but then Fr Vard said his parents were divorced and that didn't fit the stereotype. His vocation story was interesting - finishing with all things Church after Confirmation (sadly all too common), tired of Church stories being all bad news. However, in transition year he decided to say 'yes' to all opportunities and this included an invitation to join the parish pilgrimage to Lourdes. It was transformative – he met people of faith who were so kind and compassionate, not just to those who were ill, but to him as well. Conversations about



Fr David Vard with Tommy Tiernan

faith continued after the pilgrimage and eventually he joined the priesthood.

Observations

Mr Tiernan's questions and observations ranged from crude to insightful, even waxing poetic. He described joining the priesthood as "an adventure into love...in theory". Fr Vard agreed, that it was "like falling in love". Asked about "the adventure of celibacy and physical attraction" Fr Vard accepted that there were challenges, but said this part of his life was "integrated into who I am".

The two of them got along well – at one stage they ended up swapping Bible quotes – Fr Vard, quoting "Before I formed you in the

womb...", was impressed by Jeremiah – the prophet crying, complaining, yet doing God's will. Mr Tiernan remembered an unnerving quote from the Book of Job where the devil said he was just "walking around" down in the world. A priest-friend of the host had spoken to him about the privilege of being invited into people's lives. Fr Vard agreed and said it wasn't just at funeral times, though these were key moments, especially poignant during Covid-19 related lockdowns. On the abuse scandals Fr Vard saw "a dark cloud on the Church". He lamented that "the sins of a few have darkened the goodness of a lot". At the end Mr Tiernan wished him luck on the "adventure" and said

Fr Vard would be welcome in his house anytime!

Old-fashioned

Meanwhile in Church fiction. there was the Sister Boniface Mysteries (Drama channel, Friday). Old-fashioned but recently made, it could be described as 'cosy crime'. Lorna Watson stars as the perky Sr Boniface, described as "nun...and part-time forensic scientist." The character appeared previously in the Father Brown series, and got her skills working in a security role in Bletchley during World War II - these stories are set in the 1960s. It really is rather corny and cringy, with stereotypes in abundance, including some religious ones, though if you're fed

PICK OF THE WEEK

MASS

RTÉ One and RTÉ Radio One Extra/LW252 11am Sunday March 27, 11am

Msgr Cathal Geraghty celebrates Mass with a congregation and choir from Loughrea Cathedral, Co. Galway on the Fourth Sunday of Lent and Mother's Day.

BANNED! THE MARY WHITEHOUSE STORY

BBC Two Tuesday March 29, 9pm Exploring the work of the anti-pornography campaigner from the 1960s. Questions about the after-effects of the sexual revolution continue to resonate.

STACEY DOOLEY - INSIDE THE CONVENT

BBC Two Friday (night) April 1, 1.35am Stacey Dooley moves into a convent to explore the lives of nuns. Will she cope with the sisters' strict lifestyle, and what can she learn to make her life more meaningful?

up of the 'adult content' in modern dramas you might enjoy the mystery frolics. In last week's episode there are some plot elements with resonance for our times - a real bullet being fired on a film set (like the recent Alec Baldwin case) and a reference to 'sadistic Soviets'. The whimsy is laid on thick, though some uses of the crucifix might be deemed disrespectful. I did notice a policeman praying - you don't see that too often in TV drama.

Using religion for entertainment is one thing, but it turned my stomach to hear Vladimir Putin quoting the Bible during a news report on **Drivetime** (RTÉ Radio One, Friday). At that strange rally to 'celebrate' the annexation of Crimea in 2014, he referenced something about the greatness of giving up your life for a friend. It doesn't say anything about giving up the lives of others! Later, on that programme Steven Pifer, former US Ambassador to Ukraine, said that Mariupol, currently being flattened by Mr Putin's forces, is a Russianspeaking city, with almost half the population being ethnic Russian. And Mr Putin had claimed to be worried about atrocities committed against Russian speakers in Ukraine.

Fictions and contradictions!

boregan@hotmail.com, @boreganmedia



Pat O'Kelly A promising treat to lift our spirits

French pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard's recital at the National Concert Hall (NCH) on Tuesday (March 29) may well fit the axiom "a little of what you fancy does you good" as he devotes his programme to fancies or fantasias from the sixteenth to the twentieth century.

Fantasias

While the programme is built around four of Mozart's Fantasias, it stretches back to the baroque through Dutch organist/composer Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, noted for his brilliant improvisations, and forward to the almost contemporary with America's Elliott Carter (1908-2012) and England's George



Pierre-Laurent Aimard

Benjamin (b 1960). Besides Mozart, the classical period is remembered through Carl Philipp Emanuel (CPE) Bach and Beethoven.

The old reliable Oxford Companion to Music describes fantasia as "a title often given to pieces of no fixed form, implying that a composer wishes to follow the dictates of his or her freely ranging imagination". So, in Pierre-Laurent Aimard's recital one can expect music unrestricted by any particular rule.

The first of Mr Aimard's Mozart Fantasias – K 397 – dates from 1782 but left incomplete at the composer's death in 1791. Its seven distinct sections are said to be a "bundle of mysteries and a labyrinthine minefield of interpretative choices for the pianist".

Dark in mood, the C minor K 396 appears to thrive on dissonance and defiance. Also left unfinished, Mozart's widow Constanze asked family friend, Benedictine Abbé Maximilian Stadler (1748-

The F minor K Anh 32 is a short stormy piece but the

to complete it.

short stormy piece but the imposing C minor Fantasia K 475 is full of sudden and stark contrasts. Modelled on CPE Bach, its mysterious opening chords lead to lyrical interludes and hectic outbursts that show the composer's dramatic insights being readily developed with effects that prefigure Liszt.

1833), an accomplished

composer in his own right,

Beethoven conducted one of his marathon concerts in Vienna on December 22, 1808 with the premières of his Fifth and Sixth Symphonies, Fourth Piano Concerto and Choral Fantasy. In between he managed to slip in a piano interlude, which in time would become his Op 77 G minor Fantasy. This work, also influenced by CPE Bach, is an extraordinary conglomeration of fragments in contrasting moods, which Beethoven assembled with engaging ingenuity.

Writing about his substantial 1980 piece Night Fantasies, Elliott Carter tells us "its continuously changing moods suggests the fleeting thoughts and feelings that pass through the mind during periods of wakefulness during the night".

Developed from a 'shortlong' cell, George Benjamin's 1985 Fantasy on Iambic *Rhythm* covers another wide expanse of temperaments often expressed at great speed. However, a "slow, gentle melody interrupts at a climactic moment and spreads resonantly across the complete range of the piano, before the final build toward a jubilant conclusion".

Beethoven

Finghin Collins brings Beethoven's Fourth and Fifth Piano Concerti to the NCH this evening (March 24) with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra under Kenneth Montgomery. Outside the capital, there is a chance to hear string quintets by Brahms and Dvorák played by the Vanbrugh Trio with Marja Gaynor, violin and Ed Creedon, viola in Bandon's Methodist Church on Saturday evening April 2 and Doneraile's Convent Theatre on Sunday afternoon April 3.

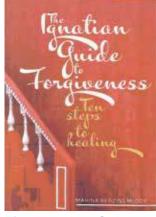
36 **Reviews**

BookReviews Peter Costello

Exploring aspects of Ignatian tradition



Channelling the Inner Fire:Ignatian Spirituality in 15 points by Brendan McManus SJ (Messenger €4.95/£4.50) Publications,



The Ignatian Guide to Forgiveness: Ten steps to healing

by Marina Berzins McCoy (Messenger Publications, €12.99)

Peter Costello

These are two further publications relating to the celebration around the world this year of the 500th anniversary of his wound at the battle of Pamplona that led eventually to his creation of the Society of Jesus and the insights of Ignatian spirituality.

They explore very different aspect of belief, but will be found of great interest to a wide readership. Both are well worth reading for their different approaches.

Brendan McManus may already be familiar to readers from his earlier books. Formerly a farmer and a computer expert (a startling conjunction) before becoming a Jesuit.

Seed

These previous lives may have taught him the need for planting good seed to achieve a harvest, and to make information clear across a communications system, or indeed

across a religious community.

This booklet is a sort of packet of 15 seeds, which though small may a produce a brilliant crop in the end. To introduce his readers to the role that faith and religious belief can play in people's lives, he lavs out these essentials of the Ignation vision in 15 short pages, little more than a long paragraph to a page. But this compression helps to make it all clear, from the first proposition: God is found more easily within than without.

I have always been a great believer in the effectiveness of the short pamphlet: my shelves are still littered with copies of now ancient Catholic Truth Society publications from the last century. This booklet, in its brilliant compression of a creed, recreates their simple but effective manner, though in a rather smarter jacket than was formerly the case.

Religious writers often forget that most people have not been able to devote years and years to study. Life makes demands of them. To open up aspects of spirituality to them there must first be some baby steps. Here are some 15 of them, which will help many of those people on a road which may well end (as it did for Fr McManus) on the experience of the Camino.

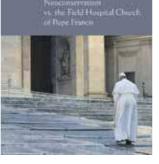
Forgiveness

In contrast, Marina McCoy is a professor of history at Boston College. A theme of the book is forgiveness and healing. She quotes another writer that "there is a fence between the forgiveness of hurt and total healing of a hurt." My mind at this point moved off, I am afraid, to thinking about President Vladimir Putin and forgiveness for his trespasses against others. Many will surely have a difficult moral question. My thought was that hating him will get us nowhere. He is a damaged person, but then so are we all one way or another.

Mr Putin's life has always been a quest for power, and not a search through experience for knowledge. He is a professional spy who has failed to uncover the real secret heart of things - the hidden truth of things.

But as she tells us, despite all that happens, we can still arrive at a place of forgiveness. Let us hope that we can in the not too distant future.

Catholic Discordance



Catholic Discordance: Neoconservatism vs the Field Hospital Church of Pope Francis

by Massimo Borghesi (Liturgical Press Academic, ÙS\$29.95/£23.99)

Frank Litton

wo women shout across the street in angry argument from their tenement rooms. The doctor, poet and wit, Oliver St John Gogarty turns to his companion: "those women will never agree."

"Well, they are arguing from different premises.

Arguments that settle disagreements depend on substantial agreement. We can think of this background of shared assumptions as a horizon: we are looking in the same direction, even if we disagree about what we see and what we should do about it.

It is clear that the Catholic horizon has departed the horizon that orientates our elites. How should we proceed now that it is no longer a matter of presenting and explaining Catholic positions, but of bringing the Catholic horizon into play in an indifferent world?

Having read this interesting what he has to say.

We are accustomed to encyclicals that promulgate Church doctrine. These encyclicals are pastoral"

The kingdom to which we are committed is at once a fact and a task. It is manifested in the Eucharist that calls on us to speed its realisation. In Evangelii Gaudium, Francis calls on us to renew our commitment.

The Church's place is in the world where we endeavour in our thoughts and actions to bring the Gospel horizon into the world. Thomas Merton and

Dorothy Day exemplify this engagement, as Pope Francis told a joint session of the United States Congress in 2015. In this the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Legion of Mary, Frank Duff should inspire us. In his two encyclicals *Laudato* Si' and Fratelli Tutti, the Pope brings Catholic social teaching (CST) to bear on the problems that beset us. The content of the teaching is traditional the Pope relies heavily on the elaborations of his immediate predecessors - but the tone is different. We are accustomed to encyclicals that promulgate Church doctrine. These encyclicals are pastoral. They enter into conversation with the world, seeking to merge the Catholic horizon with that of the world, showing how its perspective throws new light on the problems of climate change, populism, an out-ofcontrol economic system that generates gross inequalities, and mass migration.

Critics

Of course, the Pope's teaching has its critics. The criticism directed at the person of Francis, however, is more virulent, more strident than that to which we are accustomed. We find the centre of the criticism in the United States.

The climate is cold and the temptation to retreat behind barriers, where - united in the face of our enemies we enjoy the warmth of solidarity - is strong. The clearer the boundary between us and them, the more secure the unity. A couple of clear-cut.

'hot button' issues suffice to cut the world desperately in need of the Gospel message, out, while we talk to ourselves. These 'behind-thebarrier' Catholics believe that openness to the world equates to surrender. They fear Francis' call to engage with the world.

The kingdom to which we are committed is at once a fact and a task"

Other American Catholics are angry with the Pope because he undermines their engagement with the world. They have joined sides with the neoconservatives arguing

The Pope and his critics

"How do you know?."

account of Pope Francis' teaching, the answer is clear: thank God he is our Pope, and study

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.



that their position aligns with Catholic social teaching.

Certainly, there are overlaps. For example, many neoconservatives opposed abortion. They share anxiety about the dangers of a powerful state. While CST, however, promotes subsidiarity as a counterbalance to an over-weening state, neoconservatives suppose that a market free from the trammels of state intervention is the guarantee of freedom. CST rejects the individualism that underlies this view.

Disappointed

Dismayed by his critique of capitalism, and disappointed by his reluctance to join their side in the cultural wars that divide the United States, they dismiss him for his 'lightweight' intellect.

Prof. Borghesi casts a wide net. Examination of Francis' formal teaching is supplemented with reference to his sermons, lectures, speeches and interviews. We learn how the Pope's thinking has been shaped by his thoughtful engagement with the debates of theologians and philosophers as they responded to the political and social upheavals of the 20th Century.

The main value of the book lies in its authoritative account of the Pope's teaching in the context of modern Catholic thought. To learn that the criticisms directed against him by groups of United States Catholics are at best misguided, is a bonus.

66 The criticism directed at the person of Francis, however, is more virulent, more strident than that to which we are accustomed"

Mickey Harte: A remarkable sportsman and his shadowed life



Mickey and his siblings

were active members

of Errigal Ciarán, their

local GAA club. As the PE

led the school to a number

of national titles in the All-

Ireland Vocational School

Football Championship. He

took over the management

under-21 football teams in

Ireland titles. Appointed by

the county board manager

of the Tyrone senior team,

he served in that capacity

During his stewardship

had unprecedented success:

the Tyrone football team

winning twelve McKenna

Cups, one National League

Senior Championships. On

departing from the Tyrone

management his enthusi-

asm for preparing teams

remained undimmed and

he took on responsibility for

the Louth senior footballers

in 2020. Mickey is regarded

as one of the best coaches

and tacticians in the mod-

With Jim McGuinness,

the coach of the Donegal

team, he changed the way

GAA followers will be par-

ticularly interested in his

description of the meticu-

lous manner in which he

Apart from his successes

Mickey had to cope with

his own measure of fail-

on the playing fields,

prepares teams.

Successes

the game is played. So

ern game.

for important matches

and three All-Ireland

from 2002 to 2020.

of the Tyrone minor and

1991 and led both to All-

teacher in St Ciaran's he

Devotion: A Memoir by Mickey Harte as told to Brendan Coffey (Harper-Collins Ireland , €24.99/£21.99)

J. Anthony Gaughan

Owing to his role as manager of the Tyrone senior football team, the face of Mickey Harte is one of the most recognisable in the country. This book leaves one in no doubt about the truly remarkable character of the person behind that face.

Mickey was born at Ballymacilroy, near Ballygawley, in Co. Tyrone on October 19, 1954. He was educated at the Christian Brothers Grammar School in Omagh. After qualifying at St Joseph's Teachers Training college, Belfast, he was a member of the staff in De La Salle Boys' School in Kilcubbin, Co. Down, from 1976 to 1981 and St Ciaran's School, Ballygawley, from 1981 to 2003.

Periods

His time attending St Joseph's coincided with some of the worst periods of the conflict in the North. He and his friend Tony Donnelly resided on the Whiterock Road in West Belfast. As they travelled to and from lectures they occasionally heard bombs exploding and saw smoke rising from the distance. And in the course of one day they could be stopped and rigorously searched five times by a police or British Army patrol. Mickey Harte looks back on time past. From their earlier years | ures and disappointments

ures and disappointments and he had to face a more than usual measure of tragedies. There was the tragic loss of his daughter Michaela and the sudden and unexpected death of players Paul McGirr and Cormac McAnallen.

Injured

Paul was a member of Mickey's Tyrone minor team of 1997. He was injured in their match with Armagh, stretchered off and taken to hospital. After the match Mickey went to visit him in the hospital. He found him laid out dead still wearing his Tyrone gear, with his stunned parents holding each other beside the bed. Cormac McAnallen was shaping up to be an outstanding Tyrone footballer and died with a suddenness that startled everyone.

Mickey has never, it seems, got over the loss of his daughter Michaela, murdered in Mauritius, while on her honeymoon. His loss is compounded by the failure to ensure that the crime was properly investigated and resolved. So his struggle to get justice in the matter continues.

In this inspiring memoir Mickey relates much about the Harte family and the Tyrone footballing family. He records the reasons for his personal boycott of RTÉ. And throughout the narrative he shows that for him the most important element of his life is his Catholic Faith.

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



The Gift Of A Lifetime

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.

Email Anna Sadlier at anna.sadlier@hospicefoundation.ie or call 01 679 3188	Hos Fou
www.hoopioofoundot	ionio

pice ndation

w.hospicefoundat

MO Merchants Quay Ireland Your heart for the homeless

Merchants Quay Ireland reaches out with kindness to people living on our streets, sleeping in doorways, suffering and alone.

Your legacy, of any amount, can enfold the most vulnerable and lonely in wrap-around supports. You may wish to keep the details confidential. But we want to give you this little wooden keepsake, made by a client, for you.

This is your heart for the homeless and those on the road to recovery.

To receive your little wooden heart and information on remembering erchants Quay Ireland in your will, ring Emma Murphy, Legacies Manager at 01-524 0965 or email emma.murphy@mqi.ie

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

Will the MSC Missions

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

Please help us with a gift in your Will

Contact: MSC Missions Office, PO Box 23 Western Road, Cork. Tel: 021-454 5704 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

trocaire

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.

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

Leisure time

Crossword Junior Gordius 425 10 12 4 Across Down 1 This person will help you 1 Three-sided shape (8) plan a holiday (6,5)

2 Person from the USA (8) 7 A frozen block you might put

in a drink (3,4)

10 Meddle, 'poke your nose

stopping work, they go on

(6)

18 Trip in an aeroplane (6)

8 Enjoyment (3)

Autumn (6)

16 Tart, cake (3)

in' (9)

foot (6)

- 3 Blow up, like a volcano (5) 4 Beer (3)
 - 5 Pixie (3)
 - 6 A bicycle built for two (6)
- 12 These fall from trees in the 9 High-up members of the 14 Twelve of these make one
 - army (8) 11 Simplest (7)
- 13 Seven days (4) 17 When workers give out by
 - 15 This bird hunts by night (3)
 - 16 Farmvard animal. sup-

posed to be greedy (3)

SOLUTIONS, MARCH 17 GORDIUS NO. 550

Across - 1 lke 3 Californium 8 Decade 9 Ten to six 10 Saint Patrick's Day 11 Sweep 13 Flint 15 Insured 16 Lucifer 20 Shock 21 Sadat 23 Break 24 Digestif 25 Almond 26 Dromedaries 27 Nay

Down -1 Industrious 2 Etchings 3 Cadet 4 Introit 5 Rates 6 Issued 7 Mix 13 Flees 14 Trunk 17 Forenoon 18 Conifer 19 Adagio 22. Taste 23 Bills 24 Dad

CHILDREN'S No. 424

Across - 1 Agriculture 7 Honesty 9 Aim 11 Hose 12 Leo 14 Jam 15 Limping 18 Oasis 19 Chops 20 Appear 21 Tyre 22 Railway

Down - 1 Achill 2 Ransom 3 Cash 4 Lays 5 USA 6 Elm 8 Town 10 Imaginary 13 Eighty 16 Pepper 17 Gospel

Sudoku Corner

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



Across

- 1 Bath (3) 3 Disturb clay for tomb? With ease! (11)
- 8 Sign up (6)
- 9 It's crystal one sliced the tumbler (3,5)
- 10 Baking or roasting compartments (5)
- 11 Oil reservoirs in vehicles (5)
- 13 Earn, deserve (5)
- 15 Is it a weapon or a lengthy curtain-call? (7)
- 16 Asian organization that might bail Nat out (7) 20 Pixie-like (5)
- 21 Region in Spain famous for wine (5)
- 23 Steam-bath (5)
- 24 French president Georges gave his name to a Paris cultural centre (8)
- 25 Extremely religious (6) 26 Previous incumbent or
- ancestor (11) 27 Bronzed skin-colour (3)
- Down
- 1 Abstainer (11)

- 2 Notice, brief statement (8)
- 3 Throws a cardinal among felines (5)
- 4 Manufacturing plant (7)
- 5 Garments worn by senators in Ancient Rome (5)
- 6 His is the most famous lullaby of all (6)
- 7 Affirmative word (3)
- 12 & 18d The patron saint of excursions? (5,6,2,5)
- 13 American elk (5)
- 14 Locomotive (5)
- 17 Move the ref about, naming a wind scale (8)
- 18 See 12 down
- 19 Women's hospital in Dublin (6)
- 22 Not dead (5)
- 23 Weapon you throw (5)
- 24 The young seal provides money from the govern-
- ment during a pandemic (3)

La	st	W	ee	ek'	's l	Ea	isy	4
9	2	1	8	3	7	5	4	6
4	5	7	9	2	6	3	8	1
6	3	8	4	1	5	2	9	7
2	6	5	1	8	9	7	3	4
8	7	4	6	5	3	9	1	2
1	9	3	7	4	2	8	6	5
5	4	9	2	6	8	1	7	3
3	8	6	5	7	1	4	2	9
7	1	2	3	9	4	6	5	8

Last week's Hard 424

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

40 Comment

Notebook

Young comedian turned courageous wartime leader He is waiting for his moment. Surely

I HAVE BEEN THINKING again recently about my friends, Monica Brown and Hilary Musgrave who introduced me to the whole experience of sacred clowning. Hilary and Monica lead retreats all over the world and the sacred clown 'Naofa' is an integral part of their unique approach to spirituality. Sacred clowning must be experienced because trying to define or explain the concept is difficult and risks trivialising something which is very profound and moving. While the unannounced arrival of the sacred clown into a gathering can cause shock and laughter in equal measure, he or she is not a party clown or a trickster who comes to embarrass or even entertain. As those present gradually experience the sacred clown's depths of silence, gentleness, and vulnerability, they feel less threatened and are able to connect with this most unexpected visitor. The clown draws them, through his or her silence and reverence, into a deep and sacred place and manages to highlight what is most important and significant.

Interesting

I recently read an interesting piece about the significance and power of the clown: Clowns are dangerous to those that want to control masses



President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

because they are so honest and seemingly unafraid of judgement. Clowns train to see life through the eyes of a child, and because of this, they are able to spot those that are inauthentic from a mile away. Clowns are sometimes called destroyer of heroes. It is the reason why white invaders hated them, of course, so it was either be killed or find a way to hide. Those who were killed are remembered with much respect by their people. Those who survived did so by learning to be tricksters, to change their form, to become invisible if necessary... The sacred clown gives us this paradox: The weakest can be the most powerful. The dumbest can be the wisest. "In a clown's craziness, she can be obscene or test any of the existing structures and ideas to see if they are true and real.

Dreadful

What brought all this back to me recently was what is happening in Ukraine. Without a doubt the hero that emerges from this dreadful war is the young and courageous President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The president is a very interesting character and has an interesting background. Mr Zelenskyy is not your typical politician, ways he plays the part of the sacred clown and his desire to be president of his country was to confront the

A Russian soldier who was home for a short break during World War II, pile of bodies being loaded onto a cart to be taken away.

outcome.

the wisest."

heap belonged to his wife. He demanded that they uncover her but the men told him that she was dead. His father said she was his wife. After an argument, they let him take the body. She was alive and the soldier took her back upstairs to their home and nursed her back to health. Eight years later in 1952, that woman gave birth to a son called Vladimir Putin.

and she recorded the anecdote in her book Hard Choices.

LITTLE WAY EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

Hundreds of thousands of families have been displaced in Ukraine and many more have sought refuge by crossing international borders. A bishop in south-western Ukraine, whose identity we must protect, has written that his diocese has already taken some 300 displaced women and children into their seminary, youth centre and retreat house. These refugees all need food, clothing and hygiene products. The

diocese is also providing free medical examinations. Another 100 refugees are in a church school and the bishop writes: "The refugees sleep in the classrooms. We have provided mattresses, blankets, etc., we prepare the food in the kitchen and the refugees get three meals in the dining room. In the basement there are 10 shower cabins. People are very grateful." He adds: "We collect food in our parishes of our diocese - some food we keep for refugees in our archdiocese and some food we send to the [Russian occupied] east of Ukraine." The bishop sends his blessing on all who would help him.

Iryna Havryshkevych, head of projects for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic church, writes: "I am very grateful for all your prayers for Ukraine and for your initiative to support us in these difficult times. The war in Ukraine affected foremost the priests and religious serving in the eastern territories of Ukraine. Many priests and religious stay at the frontline with their parishioners (for today - estimated 110 priests and 70 religious). We are searching for the funds to support them. Would The Little Way Association be able to provide emergency existence aid for them?

Please give what you can for the families, clergy and religious of this war-torn country. Every penny you send will be gratefully received and sent without deduction to help the suffering people of Ukraine.

Please join us in praying the rosary for peace in the Ukraine and for her afflicted people.

A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,

Fr Martin Delaney

the best time is when Ukraine is

clown. The contrasting images of

these two presidents could not be

courageous war time leader is not

only refusing to abandon his post

his fellow citizens to stand up and

fight for their homeland. Putin sits

isolated at ever longer tables further

believing he has all the power. As we

"The sacred clown gives us this

pray desperately for this conflict to

come to an end we wait to see the

paradox: The weakest can be the

most powerful. The dumbest can be

and his country but is inspiring

and further away from reality

greater. The young comedian turned

being ruled by a comedian, a sacred

We pray for the people of Ukraine,

for all those suffering or afraid.

that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis. we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways

so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.





In 1893, St Therese of Lisieux wrote to her sister Celine. "Jesus wills that we give alms to Him as to one poor and needy. He puts Himself, as it were, at our mercy. He will take nothing but what we give Him from our heart. The very least trifle is precious in His sight."

MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

In these fraught times, missionary priests rely more than ever on stipends for their daily subsistence and for helping the poorest of their communities. The Little Way Association will convey your stipends and your intentions to the clergy overseas.

We like to send a minimum of €5 or more for each Mass.

In Lent, we can serve **Christ and help the** destitute with our almsgiving.

• • • • • • • • •



he made his name in Ukraine as hugely popular actor, comedian, and creator of cartoons. In many

corruption of the establishment Enter Mr Putin, the powerful trickster next door who wants to rule Ukraine by fair means or foul.

The twists of history

was coming down the street where their apartment was and saw a huge

The soldier looked at the pile and realised that a pair of shoes in the President Putin shared this story with Hilary Clinton at a state dinner