

Church News Ireland

Prayer for Peace

Lord,
Lead us from death to life,
From falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Let peace fill our hearts, our
world and our universe.
Let us dream together, pray
together and work together,
To build one world of peace and
justice for all.
Amen



Image of the day – Prayer for peace

People and places

Archbishop Martin asks for prayer and sacrifice this Lent for the people of Ukraine

Archbishop Eamon Martin said - The people of Ireland are well aware that we can never take peace for granted. We must always continue work for peace, to pray for peace and to make sacrifices for peace.

The scenes from Ukraine in recent days are distressing and frightening. They remind us how fragile peace in the world is. To think that only days ago the people of that country were getting on with their lives, making plans for their families, their businesses, their education, and now suddenly their lives, homes and futures are under threat. One of the awful things about war is the way that it suddenly destroys everything in its path. It disrupts normal life and overnight introduces death, destruction, violence, fear, sorrow and grief.

Watching our screens from Ireland we feel powerless to help. Our hearts and our prayers go out to the people of Ukraine who didn't ask for this war, and who simply wanted to be left to get on with their lives, their jobs and with bringing up their families. Now they must hide, shelter, and even run for safety to protect themselves and their children.

February 28, 2022

We can never take peace for granted. We must always work for peace, pray for peace and make sacrifices for peace. All of us have the capacity to build peace by our words, our actions and our attitudes to others. We choose to sow peace or conflict, love or hate, to build up, or to tear down, to heal or to hurt, to forgive or to resent, to soothe or to inflame.

The current situation in Ukraine appears to be motivated, at least in part, by abuse of power and by the desire to control and dominate. It is alarming to think that despite the lessons learned last century in Europe about the horrors of war, that our continent could so easily be plunged back into chaos and uncertainty.

Moderator expresses sadness and shock at events in Ukraine

In a letter to Presbyterian ministers the Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. David Bruce, has expressed his sadness and shock at events in Ukraine and encourages congregations to pray for the ongoing situation.

"You will all have been both saddened and shocked at news of the dreadful events in Ukraine as they have unfolded in recent days. The western world has united in condemnation of the actions of Russia's President Putin, in launching a military invasion of his western neighbour. None of us can know where this will end, but it seems certain that there will be great loss of life and suffering for both soldiers and those citizens of Ukraine caught up in this campaign.

February 28, 2022

"I have many friends in both Russia and Ukraine, and messages from them in recent days have expressed their horror, fear and distress at what



has happened. One wrote to me saying, "Please ask our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ in Ireland to pray for us. That is our greatest need – to know that you are praying for us." Another shared news of missiles and explosions near his family home in Kiev."

To read the full letter please visit <https://bit.ly/3JVLT9f>

Archbishop Farrell calls for solidarity with Ukraine through prayer and sacrifice

In a statement issued Archbishop Dermot Farrell calls for solidarity with the people of Ukraine through prayer and sacrifice -

I wish to express my shock and dismay at the tragic events unfolding in Ukraine. Significant diplomatic efforts have been overtaken by a brutal, cynical, and a very violent invasion of Ukraine in recent days. My heart is with the people whose lives and land are being torn apart. The



images on our screens during the week bring home once again the horror and injustice of war, and evoke compassion and solidarity with the people of Ukraine, as well as with the many Ukrainians who have made Ireland their home.

What can we do in the face of such unwarranted, dehumanizing, and immoral aggression? First, this aggression and violence cannot be accepted: there must be an outright and radical rejection of such a way of being present and asserting oneself in the world. As we know from our own history on this island, the way of peace has to be one of dialogue, dignity, and respect. Nothing else

stands the test of time; nothing else endures (see 1 Cor 13:7).

Second: we need to take seriously that this conflict is not just a terrible war in a country far away, but concerns us in many ways:

(i) by changing the way we perceive and relate with other countries in Europe;

(ii) by limiting the possibilities of trade and commerce; and—most importantly;

(iii) by recognizing all those affected by this war as our sisters and brothers.

Our Saviour calls us to be like our Father in heaven— to be compassionate as our Heavenly Father is compassionate. This surely is the hour of compassion.

Third: by following our Lord on the road of peace and true freedom, by rejecting any response forced upon us by aggression: “treat others as you would like them to treat you” (Luke 6:31) is still the way to life — not just for followers of Jesus, but for all people. The rule of law and the need for a stable international system must command the support of all right-thinking people. Change and transformation “cannot happen by breeding discontent ... or coercing people into a new way of life” (Eric Hoffer). These are in the gift of those who know how to kindle and fan generous hope that is founded on making a reality the sharing of our common home.

February 28, 2022

It is in this spirit, and in communion with Pope Francis, that I invite everyone to show solidarity and sacrifice so as “to make, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day.”



A public prayer time for Ukraine has been organised by the Comber Clergy Fellowship on Ash Wednesday at 5.15pm. It will take place in the Square in Comber, Co Down, and all are welcome.

Lichfield visit by Bishop of Cork

Since 2018–19, at the invitation of Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield in the Church of England, the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross has been exploring connections with that Diocese. Some of the Lichfield clergy came on an exploratory visit and in 2019 the Bishop and his wife came to stay with the Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton.

February 28, 2022

Since Bishop Ipgrave's visit, in spite of the pandemic, some connections have been made between parishes in Cork, Cloyne & Ross and parishes in Lichfield, and, no doubt, more are being considered. Exchange encounters and exchange preachments have even



taken place online. The link person is the Revd John Ardis, Rector of Abbeystrewry.

Yesterday (Sunday), Dr Colton was invited by the Bishop of Lichfield and the Dean of Lichfield to preach in **Lichfield Cathedral (Photo above)**, at what, for them, is a major diocesan gathering: the 1350th anniversary of the death of St Chad, who died in 672. Chad of course had his Irish connections and, indeed it was mostly Irish pioneers who brought the Gospel to the north of England in the 6th and

February 28, 2022

7th centuries when the need there was very great. They have unveiled a new statute of Saint Chad at their Cathedral to mark this anniversary.

Some parishioners from Lichfield have been on pilgrimage from Lindisfarne to Lichfield (c. 475 miles) since last July and will arrive in time for St Chad's Day, on 2 March.

However, 2 March this year, is Ash Wednesday; not a day for feasting, so the celebrations have been transferred to the previous Sunday to avoid Lent.

Also travelling with Bishop Colton was a party of ten from St Fin Barre's cathedral. including lay vicars, the Director of Music, Mr Peter Stobart, and the Assistant Director of Music, Mr Robbie Carroll. They were all invited to join forces with the choir of Lichfield Cathedral to mark this occasion. Mr Carroll was invited to play the closing voluntary at the Service.

Home of St Patrick Festival in Armagh highlights choral music at Cathedral

Armagh, home of the first Church of St. Patrick will celebrate the Saint's Day with choral music at St Patrick's Cathedral. You are invited to celebrate St Patrick's life and legacy in this unique place. As part of The Home of St Patrick Festival, choral music is at the heart of a special evening of words, music and dance.

While the world marks this most popular of Saints and Saints' Days, only Armagh can claim the site of his first church as the traditional and classical, ancient and modern,

February 28, 2022



the reflective and exuberant, sacred and secular, all combine to make this a joyous occasion in St Patrick's honour.

A strictly limited number of audience tickets are available for this special event

This event takes place in St Patrick's Cathedral Church of Ireland on Saturday March 12, 2022 at 8pm | Doors open 7:30pm | £10.00

For tickets see -

[[] <https://marketplacearmagh.ticketsolve.com/shows/873623749?>

[_ga=2.20833464.1228243656.1645865795-993185075.1636447845](https://marketplacearmagh.ticketsolve.com/shows/873623749?_ga=2.20833464.1228243656.1645865795-993185075.1636447845)]

Catholic Bishop and Moderator express Churches concern about proposed changes in education in Northern Ireland

Bishop Donal McKeown and Rt Rev Dr David Bruce Moderator of the Presbyterian Church have expressed their Churches' concern about proposed changes in education in N Ireland

The Bishop of Derry defends the right to choose Catholic education

Bishop Donal McKeown has defended parents' right to choose a Catholic education for their children in Northern Ireland following criticism of current education system by President Michael Higgins, Sarah McDonald reports in The Tablet.

Bishop McKeown, who is chair of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, which oversees more than 440 Catholic schools across Northern Ireland, said Catholic schools in the region have shown that they can be active partners in celebrating diversity.

He told The Tablet that they would continue to be chosen by parents from across the community because of the quality of their educational outcomes and their community links.

The Bishop of Derry was responding to comments made by President Higgins in an address to the All-Island Women's

February 28, 2022

Forum and the National Women's Council of Ireland in Enniskillen last week, in which the Irish president said integrated education was a "key element to a successful, inclusive and harmonious future".

Mr Higgins described the current education system as "shamefully" and "overwhelmingly segregated".

However, Bishop McKeown warned against a "simplistic caricature" of bad "segregated schools" and good "integrated schools".

"The fact is that there are many schools outside the 'integrated sector', including a number of Catholic schools, which welcome considerable numbers of pupils from across the community," he said.

He also highlighted that 52 per cent of newcomer children opt to go to Catholic schools and that two of the most racially integrated schools in Northern Ireland are in the Catholic sector in Dungannon and Craigavon.

"Catholic schools in Northern Ireland ask only that they be able to sit at the table as we try to muster all our shared wisdom in the face of many problems. We are part of the solution and expect better than to be told that we are lesser members of the educational family," said Bishop McKeown.

He said education in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland share many challenges such as underachievement, a socially divided society and how to celebrate diversity.

February 28, 2022

Northern Ireland faces specific problems due to the legacy of conflict and division, he said.

The chief executive of the council, Gerry Campbell, described Mr Higgins' remarks as "offensive" and "unhelpful" and told the Irish Times that Catholic schools should not be blamed for sectarianism. - Courtesy The Tablet 22/02/2022

Presbyterian Moderator: Integrated education law will inevitably elevate that school sector above others

Rt Rev Dr David Bruce Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland said "We recognise the value of children encountering differing views and cultures during their education. Integrated schools have their part to play in this alongside, but not at the expense of, controlled, maintained, Irish medium, voluntary grammars and others"

Supporting and participating in education has been part of the DNA of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for over a century.

Rt Rev Dr David Bruce, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, writes in the News Letter -

Having originally formed schools in our quest for social justice with the goal of making education accessible for boys and girls, it remains our passionate desire to this day for children and young people to flourish together.

The focus of much current public discussion in education is the Integrated Education Bill, to be considered again by MLAs tomorrow. Unfortunately, the debate has been

characterised by soundbites and stereotypes rather than substance and proper engagement.

The integrating of education is to be welcomed and encouraged, but it should not be identified solely with one particular sector. It is disappointing that the many proponents of this legislation have failed to publicly recognise that integration and mixing of pupils from different backgrounds occurs across all education sectors. Recent statistics demonstrate that the Controlled Schools' Sector incorporates more than 30% of pupils who do not necessarily identify as 'Protestant'.

The development of Shared Education has further enriched the experience of children and young people. These opportunities for pupils are significant and meaningful, and an integral part of the educational experience. The use of words like 'apartheid' and 'exclusionary' belittle the positive and committed work of many teachers and school leaders in this regard. There has been a lack of generosity displayed towards those who work hard to ensure their pupils, from different backgrounds and experiences, do have opportunities to work and learn together through Shared Education, or even more simply, the make-up of their pupil cohort.

The Bill before the Assembly seeks to significantly change the policy and direction of the Department of Education without adequate consultation with key stakeholders or the necessary Equality Impact Assessment, both of which are required when an Executive minister brings forward legislative proposals. Minus the benefit of these checks and balances, the prospect of this legislation to negatively

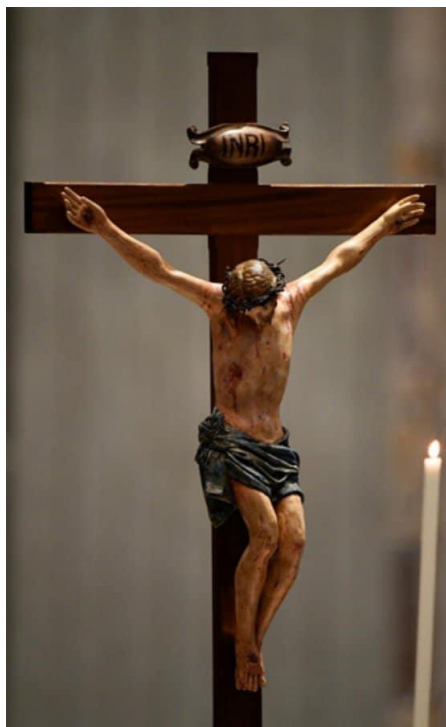
impact children and young people in other sectors – particularly those who need most support – is very real.

Although suggestions that this legislation would elevate the formal Integrated sector above others have been rejected, it is the only logical outcome since the Bill places a duty on the Education Authority to ‘encourage, facilitate and support integrated education’. How then can the Education Authority (EA), with a board comprised of representatives from all education sectors, be asked to support and facilitate one over and above the others? In the context of finite budgets for capital development and school support, how might the EA meet this statutory duty without diverting resources to the formally integrated sector to the detriment of other schools?

As a Church we recognise the value of children and young people encountering differing views, opinions and cultures during their educational experience. Formally integrated schools have their part to play in this alongside, but not at the expense of, controlled, maintained, Irish medium, voluntary grammars and others. Furthermore, with the Independent Review of Education underway, to push for this change in the law at this stage seems hasty and premature.

No one should be in any doubt that we want our children to learn together and build good relations. Both are critical for the future. Ahead of tomorrow’s debate, I have to ask our MLAs to seriously consider - is this the right way and the right time to bring about such significant change in education? Courtesy The News Letter

News reports



Every war leaves our world worse than it was before. War is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil.

Fratelli tutti (261)

Franciscus

#PrayTogether #Ukraine

Pope decries war in surprise visit to Russian embassy

The Pope has made a remarkable intervention in Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Pope Francis visited the Russian embassy on the Via della Conciliazione in Rome on Friday morning to express his concerns about the war directly with country officials.

Vatican press officer Matteo Bruni said he spent over half an hour at the embassy.

At his General Audience on Wednesday, the Pope called on the faithful to join in a day of prayer and fasting for the war on Ash Wednesday, 2 March.

He decried the invasion and called on "those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war".

In a message posted to the Pope's Twitter in both English and Russian, he quoted his encyclical "on fraternity and social friendship" in which he condemned war as a "failure".

"Every war leaves our world worse than it was before," he said.

"War is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil."

As fighting entered day three, Ukraine said 198 civilians, including three children, have been killed.

Ukrainian women and children fleeing the fighting have been streaming into neighbouring Poland, but men between the ages of 18 and 60 are barred from leaving the country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said the country will continue to defend itself.

World Council of Churches calls for immediate ceasefire in Ukraine

“The World Council of Churches denounces any and every use of deadly armed force to resolve disputes that could be resolved by dialogue. We firmly believe that dialogue – based on the principles of international law and respect for established national borders – was and is the proper path

February 28, 2022

for the resolution of tensions surrounding Ukraine. We call for an immediate end to the current armed hostilities, and for the protection of all human lives and communities threatened by this violence. We urge all member churches and all people of good will around the world to join us in prayer for peace for the people of Ukraine and the region.”

The Rev. Ioan Sauca, Acting General Secretary, World Council of Churches

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Zoom lecture from Armagh Robinson Library

On Wednesday at 7.30pm the Armagh Robinson Library will have a Zoom lecture by Brenda Collins (Visiting Scholar in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Queen’s University Belfast, formerly Research Officer at the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum) and Dr Daniel Starza Smith (King’s College London) about the Conway and Rawdon books, now held in the Library.

Edward, second Viscount Conway (1594–1655), was one of the foremost book collectors in seventeenth-century Britain and Ireland. His library at Lisnagarvey (modern-day Lisburn) had some 8,000 volumes. While many of these are believed to have been destroyed during the 1641 Rising, some of them survive as part of the collection at Armagh Robinson Library, along with a handwritten catalogue of Conway’s Irish library. Among this surviving collection are

February 28, 2022

books signed by Conway's friends, the poet John Donne and the dramatist Ben Jonson.

Free places can be reserved for the talks here, by emailing admin@armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk or calling 048/028 3752 3142

Get ready for Lent by downloading the C of E LiveLent app.

From the start of Lent it will offer:

 Daily reflections

 Bible passages

 Prayers

 Audio options

 Family activities

Find out more, and download at cofe.io/LiveLent..

Perspective

A message for the Church from a Europe at War by Mark D. W. Edington

Bishop in Charge. The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

The Episcopal Church has been in Europe for more than two hundred years. Our churches have seen

Europe's wars unfold. They've lived and endured in the midst of the destruction and depravity that war brings.

Our parish here in Paris set up a field hospital during France's war with Prussia in 1870 that treated wounded soldiers. Our parish in Munich created a clinic during World War I that treated wounded German soldiers and fed families who had no income.

And our churches here have been casualties of war. A church of the Convocation worshipped in Dresden, Germany, until it was destroyed by bombing. Our parish in Munich was closed by the Gestapo in 1942, and its library of eight thousand books was burned.

Most of our churches here were closed during the Second World War. And our cathedral in Paris was used as a military chapel by the occupying German forces.

Perhaps more than any other part of the Episcopal Church, our churches in Europe have lived through the horrors of war—and the pointlessness of war, too. The cathedral's cloister, a memorial to the dead of the twentieth century's wars in Europe, is our silent testimony to that truth.

And for a long time—almost eighty years—we have believed that the futility of war was enough to deter it. Today, with war unleashed in Ukraine, we have been proven wrong.

Our faith teaches us that we must stand with the vulnerable and the oppressed. And at the same time, our faith teaches us that we are meant to be followers of the Prince of Peace, of the one who taught us that violence is always a compromise with evil.



From our Chaplain in Moscow Some Requests for Prayer:

For the people of Ukraine and for the 2 million Ukrainians who live in Russia.
For the Russian people and for those particularly who have relations in Ukraine.
For those who have had to flee their homes.
For our foreign community and church here. We don't know what will happen.
For a miracle to happen, and for the tanks to turn round.

With our love and grateful thanks for your love, support and prayer
Malcolm Rogers

(Chaplain at St Andrew's Moscow and Area Dean of Russia and Ukraine)

It is hard for us to reconcile those two teachings today, when innocent people are dying at the hands of a military onslaught. Our prayers feel insufficient to defend those cowering in fear and exposed to bullets and bombs.

But we know that the place where war lives is in the human heart. As the prophet Jeremiah teaches us, the heart is devious above all else; and it is in the devices and desires of hearts resisting God's call to live in love that the first seeds of war take root.

We often begin our prayers with the words "Almighty God." But the deeper truth of our Christian faith is that we believe humanity has been redeemed, and the world forever changed, by an all-vulnerable God—a God whose love is finally victorious through the vulnerability of a naked Man nailed to a cross. It is from that seeming defeat that the victory over death and sin is won forever—even the sin that lies at the heart of war.

And so as we begin our season of Lent, we are called to give up our easy complacency about the durability of peace. We are called to consider again the reminders in our midst of war's relentless cost to human life and God's hope. And we are called to pray, and speak, and to labor for the truth that Christ has called us to transform this broken world through the hard work of love.

God of timelessness,
From chaos and disorder
you brought forth the beauty of creation;
From the chaos of war and violence
Bring forth the beauty of peace.

God of compassion
You saw the humanity of the outcast and the stranger;
Help us to see the evils of our hatreds and suspicions
and to turn them into the embrace of your Beloved
Community.

God of peace,
Through your love on the Cross
You overcame the power of violence and death;
Turn us away from the love of power
That we may transform a warring world
through the power of your love.
Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Mark D. W. Edington is Bishop in Charge
The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

February 28, 2022

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com
