

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Lent cross at York Minster

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Image of the day

Lent cross at York Minster

6 metres tall, 3 metres wide and hewn from rough scaffolding wood in the Minster's workshop, the Lent Cross was suspended from the Central Tower at York Minster yesterday. As Lent unfolds we begin to look towards the cross.

People and places

Clogher Cleric 'chef' turns up the heat on Shrove Tuesday

Revd Mark Gallagher tossing a pancake during his charity cook-in.

The Rector of Trory and Killadeas parishes, Revd Mark Gallagher turned chef on Shrove Tuesday to offer parishioners and visitors to the Rectory three different meal



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choices based on pancakes.

He began with a breakfast drive through from 7.30am-9am and then offered a pancake picnic at lunchtime between 12.30pm and 2pm with more pancakes served after dinner from 7.30pm to 9pm.



Revd Mark with his helpers

Revd Mark was supported by a team of helpers in the kitchen. While he cooked the pancakes over the stove, his helpers prepared the ingredients, made up plates of various toppings, greeted visitors to the door and served the meals in the reception rooms of the Rectory.

A retiring collection was taken for charity.

Revd Mark was busy throughout the day, with dozens arriving at breakfast time and by lunchtime, the rooms of the rectory were filling up with people arriving for the tasty treat.

Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics, who make a point of self-examination and confession of sins, the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It is derived from an old English word, “shriven” meaning absolve. It was also a day of pre-fasting indulgence with the use of rich ingredients such as butter, milk, eggs and sugar to make the pancakes.

Irish evangelists stay on in Ukraine

Timothy and Rhoda Sloan were well-known at Gospel halls across north Antrim and County Londonderry before leaving for Norway.

After 10 years in Norway they started to visit Ukraine and they saw an assembly established in Lutsk in April 2002.

In September 2004 they moved to live and labour for the Lord in Lutsk, Ukraine.

Timothy recently posted on Facebook that six large bombs went off this morning in Lutsk just as he was going to the Gospel Hall at 06.50. He rushed back to the apartment and got Rhoda.

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Rhoda and Timothy (above) have bought in generators, fuel, food etc as they would like to turn the Gospel Hall into a place of shelter to help those in need in Ukraine.



Please pray for Timothy, Rhoda and all the people of Ukraine.

Programme for Home of St Patrick Festival, Armagh

The Festival takes place from Thursday 10 – Sunday 20 March 2022

Celebrate St Patrick – St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral:
Saturday 12 March, 8.00pm

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 the 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, the reflective and exuberant, sacred and secular, all combine to make this a joyous occasion in St Patricks honour. A limited number of audience seats are available through The Market Place Theatre Box Office.

St Patrick’s Symposium: Tending our Planet:
Tuesday 15 March, 9.30am – 1pm

“I arise today through the strength of heaven: Light of sun, radiance of moon, splendour of fire, speed of lightning, swiftness of wind, depth of sea, stability of earth, firmness of rock”. St Patrick

After the extremely positive impacts of previous symposia examining the themes of modern slavery, migration, peace-



making and reminiscence within a modern context, this years St Patrick's Symposium will consider our relationship to the planet and the need for us to exercise responsible stewardship of the environment through talks, music, poetry and discussion. The keynote speaker is John Barry, Professor of Green Political Economy at Queen's University, Belfast.

Celebrating St Patrick with Armagh Cathedrals Partnership

- The Market Place Theatre:

Tuesday 15 March, 7.30pm

Free but booking essential through The Market Place Theatre

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Armagh Cathedrals Partnership invite you to a special evening of music, story, poetry and prayer to celebrate St Patrick. The guest speaker will be Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. During the evening, he will reflect on “Patrick the Missionary”. It promises to be a very special evening as we celebrate the St Patrick’s Festival in Armagh and light refreshments will be served afterwards.

St Patrick’s Lecture - The Market Place Theatre:

Wednesday 16 March, 11am -12noon

Free but booking essential through The Market Place Theatre

On the eve of St Patrick’s Day, the Primate of the two principal Churches in Ireland, Archbishop John McDowell and Archbishop Eamon Martin will discuss what St Patrick means to them in a 21st century context and how his words continue to resonate across the world.

CHORAL EVENSONG in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral

Wednesday 16 March at 7.30pm

St Patrick’s Vigil Walk – Wednesday 16 March, 9pm – 10pm

This event has become a popular activity during the city’s Home of St Patrick’s Festival. The Vigil Walk by torchlight is led by the leaders of the city’s two Cathedrals, both called St Patrick’s. Join them in prayer and conversation as the Vigil starts from the Church of Ireland Cathedral and moves to

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the Roman Catholic Cathedral, a symbolic reflection of St Patrick's own journey to unite through Christianity.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Thursday 17 March

10am Eucharist (Irish) Celebrant: Revd Canon David Hilliard

11am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Archbishop

Meet Louis, Dean's Verger and Cathedral Manager at Saint Patrick's, Dublin

Louis Parminter was persuaded to tell his story in a series on Dublin people.

“I am the Cathedral manager and the Dean's Verger. I've been involved with Saint Patrick's Cathedral since 1984. You could say that I am becoming a part of the furniture here.

“My parents split up when I was five, and mam and I moved to Ballymun with my brother and sisters. We used to live in one of the flats there. My dad's parents used to pick me up at the weekends and they would bring me with them to the Cathedral. Later, they got me a place in the Cathedral's school as well and in the choir. I remember my mother would walk me to the bus stop every morning in Ballymun and my grandmother would be waiting for me at the other end and would walk me to school.



“My future plans never really involved working in the Cathedral but somehow, I always ended up being here. There was a vicar here who has long since passed away, who kept encouraging me to stay, giving me all sorts of small jobs at the weekends.

“In my late teens, I was asked to become the Dean’s Verger. I remember there were times when I would lead a ceremony wearing a robe and carry the silver rod to verge and guide the clergy and then, maybe an hour later, I would change and start my shift in the local pub pouring pints, often seeing the same faces. Times were very different back then.

“I am 29 years in as the Dean’s Verger and I’ve been the manager of the Cathedral for a few years now. It’s interesting how life plays out as some of the most important things that have happened in my life were, in some way or

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another, connected to this place. For example, I met my wife here. She was working in the gift shop. Now we have three children and they were all baptised in the Cathedral.

“This place became my second home and the wonderful staff, my second family. The Cathedral always gave me a sense of purpose and a place where I always felt I belonged.”

This story was highlighted by Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Louis also conducts the exclusive Verger tours at the Cathedral.

CNI comment - Louis is one of the good guys in Ireland and the church. Thanks.

News reports

Ukrainian clergy staying to help

The UN estimates that over 520,000 people have now fled the war, crossing into neighbouring Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova.

Bishop Pavlo Honcharuk, the Latin-rite Bishop of Kharkiv-Zaporiyia, has been sheltering in a bunker in Kharkiv with an Orthodox priest.

Speaking to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), Honcharuk said the city was under "constant bombardment".

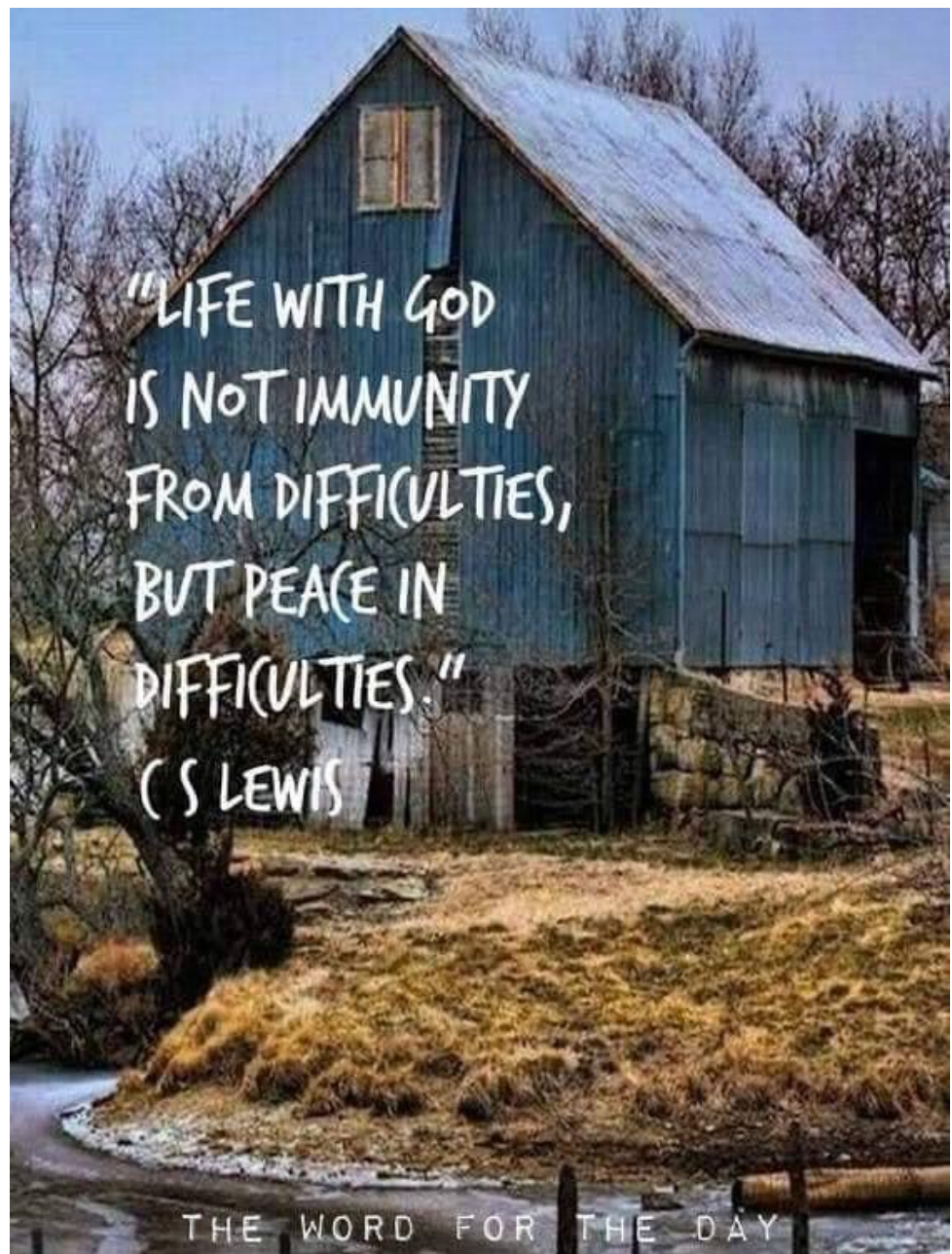
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He praised Ukrainians for the way in which they have come together in recent days.

"I wish for this war to end as quickly as possible. But, while evil has shown itself to be so strong, this has also exposed a lot of good," he said.

"In a way, the evil we are experiencing also squeezes the good juice from the grape, and that good juice is our compassion, mutual support, and love. It shows our true faces."

Lviv, in the west of Ukraine, has so far evaded the fighting but war has nonetheless come to its doorstep, with the city's train station now a transit hub for thousands of women and children desperately hoping to catch a train to safety in



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nearby Poland.

Sister Natalia, a member of the Greek-Catholic order of the Sacred Family in Lviv, told ACN that the nuns are doing what they can to help those who have poured into the city.

"Here, we have been helping the displaced, supplying air-raid bunkers, and welcoming people, especially women and children. Most then head abroad, but here they have the opportunity to rest with us. And we pray together," she said.

She added, "Thanks to the help of the world, Ukraine resists, and we believe it will survive."

Prince Charles pays tribute to Catholic MP as Southend is granted city status

Prince Charles drew comparisons between the murder of Catholic MP Sir David Amess and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in a ceremony granting Southend-on-Sea city status.

The honour was bestowed on Southend in memory of Sir David who was murdered last October. He had spent decades campaigning for Southend to be made a city.

Addressing a council meeting on Tuesday, Prince Charles recalled meeting Sir David Amess with his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall, in 2014.

He said: "During that visit we recall our conversation with Sir David Amess.

"I knew him of course as a renowned and respected parliamentarian and effective campaigner on many national and local issues. Among them was his passionate determination to secure city status for Southend.

"Today we mark the culmination of that dedicated campaign."

He added: "How we all wish we could celebrate the occasion without the shadow of the dreadful event that took the life of such a devoted public servant."

Prince Charles' thoughts also turned to events in Ukraine, where he said the Russian invasion had been an act of "brutal aggression".

The killing of Sir David, he said, was "an attack on democracy".

"We are seeing those same values under attack today in Ukraine in the most unconscionable way," the Prince said.

Former MP and fellow Catholic Ann Widdecombe read out a statement at the ceremony on behalf of Sir David's family.

"Despite a traumatic and tragic journey we have arrived at the city of Southend-on-Sea. How thrilled our husband and father would have been to know Her Majesty the Queen has bestowed such a huge honour to the people of Southend-on-Sea in his name. A dream come true," the statement said.

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"So on his behalf, we the family wish to say thank you to the amazing people in the community who have achieved so much for Southend - this is your day.

"We are all very proud of David and deeply honoured to accept the freedom of the city on his behalf. The very first freedom of Southend-on-Sea ever bestowed.

"A moment in history and a recognition of his love for Southend-on-Sea and its people.

"We are of course filled with sadness he is no longer with us but his legacy is huge and we are so grateful to have had him in our lives and know he will never be forgotten."

Sir David was MP for Southend West from 1997 until the time of his death. He died after being stabbed multiple times inside Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Ali Harbi Ali, 25, has been charged with his murder and will stand trial later this month.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Help from C of E's Digital Labs

In 2022, the social media platforms are prioritising video content on their newsfeed. 🎬

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Next week's #DigitalLabs webinar will give you the confidence and know-how to try live video on your church's social media accounts.

Learn more, and register at cofe.io/DigitalLabsWeb....

Perspective

We cannot let details of atrocities become lost in the fog of war by Tobias Ellwood

Vladimir Putin is feeling the pressure of poor progress on the battlefield, demonstrations in Moscow's Red Square and real economic pain beginning to accumulate from Western sanctions.

This is when he becomes dangerous. Russian fighting doctrine has blurred the lines between attacks on civilians and the military, employing conventional, cyber, space and even tactical nuclear weapons.

We must brace ourselves for a bloody escalation in the war. We've already seen the crushing of defenceless drivers, shelling of people's homes, killing of young children.

We must expect the stakes to rise sharply. War crimes have already been committed and many more are destined to follow.

Triggering war crime investigations now will be another squeeze on Putin and his cronies

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This is not Afghanistan, and it's not Syria. Ukraine is different. Russia is bound by the obligations generated under the ICC for any acts committed on Ukrainian territory.

Ukraine is subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in relation to crimes of genocide; crimes against humanity and war crimes committed on Ukrainian territory.

Article 7 holds a "crime against humanity" as a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, and Article 8 gives the ICC jurisdiction in respect of war crimes in particular when committed as part of a plan or policy or as part of a large-scale commission of such crimes.

While the ICC cannot go and arrest the Russian leadership today, there is one key factor in play here.

Thanks to modern social media, evidence is accumulating before our eyes of the attacks on civilians and disproportionate attack on property, with no military excuse.

The structures must be in place to ensure the details of all atrocities are not lost in the fog of war.

This must be saved, authenticated and archived for future reference as potential evidence.

We must now fund and empower an independent agency to gather and investigate all evidence to enable swift legal action to be taken before the International Court of Justice. We do it already, spending \$2.8 million (£2 million) on Unitad, the United Nations Investigative Team on Da'esh,

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which has already identified over 1,444 suspected war criminals.

We must build on Unitad. The Nuremberg Trials had comparatively little evidence. We must ensure that no aggressor, from a tank driver to a general, can hide behind the crimes committed in his name.

Triggering war crime investigations now will be another squeeze on Putin and his cronies. There is no statute of limitations. Putin is now 69. He will still be liable for them at 79, 89 and 99. The calculation advisers, generals and soldiers have to make is how long will Putin last? How stable is this regime?

With the atrocities being committed in Ukraine, the impact of heavy sanctions and the rancour of the West, does the regime even have a shelf life of a year?

Each day that goes by without victory further humiliates, isolates and impoverishes Russia. I do not believe Putin will lash out with nuclear fury. I believe he will try shock and awe with overwhelming force to end this battle. In doing so, he will shame his country into crimes that must, one day, be brought to justice.

Tobias Ellwood is a Conservative MP and chairman of the defence select committee. Courtesy The Daily Telegraph, March 1, 2022

Prayer for today..

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Prayer for today

Can't get the scenes out of my mind.
Pray for peace in Ukraine

"As the fever of day calms towards twilight
May all that is strained in us come to ease.

We pray for all who suffered violence today,
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.

For those who risk their lives each day for peace,
May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.

That those who make riches from violence and war
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.

That we might see through our fear of each other
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.

That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.

That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
That our swords be beaten into ploughshares

And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain."

John O'Donohue

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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