

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – A Good Friday Concert for Ukraine,  
St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin**

## Image of the day



## Donna Nobis Pacem: A Good Friday Concert for Ukraine, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

**In response to the Irish Red Cross' Ukraine Appeal, the Cathedral Choir will be performing a special Good Friday concert on 15th April, at 19.30 in the Cathedral with organist David Leigh, bass Jeffrey Ledwidge and directed by Stuart Nicholson.**

The choir will be performing one of the best loved choral works of all time, Requiem by Gabriel Fauré alongside works by 2 other Parisian composers Maurice Duruflé and Louis Vierne.

Join in supporting those in need by doing what we do best - demonstrating compassion, peace and love through

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beautiful music. Tickets from €30 are available from the link below, proceeds going to the Irish Red Cross: [stpatrickscathedral.ie/ukraine](http://stpatrickscathedral.ie/ukraine)

## People and places

### Multi-million-pound transformation planned for Belfast Cathedral Gardens

**An urban forest, a large multi-use events space and a permanent memorial to the Belfast Blitz are just some of the features included in ambitious plans unveiled today for the multi-million-pound redevelopment of Cathedral Gardens.**

Belfast City Council aims to transform the area between St Anne's Cathedral and Ulster University's Belfast campus into a unique world class public space.

Building upon the historic Cathedral area, other proposed features in the redevelopment include garden 'rooms' located under the canopies of the mature trees in the urban forest, public art, interactive audio-visual water and lighting features, outdoor dining areas and a range of play features for young children.

Councillor Áine Groogan, Chair of Belfast City Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, said: "These are extremely exciting and innovative plans which reflect our aim to create an exceptional urban space for families, students and visitors to enjoy all year round, night and day.



Artist's impression of the multi-million-pound redevelopment plans for Cathedral Gardens. (Image: Belfast City Council)

“Alongside Ulster University's investment in its new campus, the landmark £100million Belfast Stories project which we recently announced and other significant projects already underway in the area, this part of the city centre is undergoing a radical transformation.

“We hope that Cathedral Gardens will play its part in breathing new life into the area.”

The council hopes that the proposed tree-lined events space will in time host numerous small and large-scale events ranging from the annual Culture Night, music concerts, children's festivals, food markets, flower and fashion shows and much more besides, helping to support and boost the city's annual cultural programme.

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Councillor Groogan added: “This project will also address the lack of green spaces in the city centre. It supports our strategic ambitions outlined in the ‘A Bolder Vision’ document, by helping to create a more attractive, accessible, safe and vibrant city centre which is greener, more walkable and better connected.

“In keeping with Belfast’s ambitious climate plan, sustainability also lies at the heart of our thinking. There will be a mix of trees, plants and shrubs which we hope will attract urban wildlife. Rainwater will also be captured, stored and used to water the lawn, trees and other planting within the gardens.”

The public is now being asked to have its say on proposals as part of a consultation exercise before the final designs are completed for the space.

To find out more and to take part in the consultation, visit [yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk](https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk) and complete a questionnaire before 23 May 2022.

## **Prayers for peace in Ukraine St Patrick's College, Maynooth**

**Students and staff of the national seminary of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth joined with the wider seminary community last Friday to pray for peace in Ukraine and across the world.**

The congregation was led by Seminary Rector, Father Tomás Surlis. The community prayed together the Liturgy of





the Hours for the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord and participated with Pope Francis in the Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The seminarians remembered the archbishop, clergy, religious and people of the Archdiocese of Ivano-Frankivsk in a particular way. Father Surlis said, "There is a close association between Saint Patrick's national seminary and the Spiritual Seminary in Ivano-Frankivsk as a number of their seminarians have been in formation in Maynooth in recent years. May the Queen of Peace and Comforter of the Afflicted intercede that the balm of peace and justice may rest upon Ukraine, Russia and the whole world. Amen".

Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, is the National Seminary for Ireland and has been forming men for the priesthood since 1795. The Trustees of the college are the governing body of the college. The current Trustees are the four archbishops of Ireland together with thirteen other senior bishops. The college comprises the seminary and the Pontifical University, which offers degrees in philosophy, theology and a combined arts and theology degree.

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## **Rector to put his Royal collection on display to mark Queen's Jubilee**

**The Rev Canon Derek Kerr will be putting his collection of Royal memorabilia on display in an exhibition running from May 13-May 22 in Drummaul Parish Church, Randalstown.**



The exhibition will celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and will raise funds for the Parishes of Drummaul, Duneane and Ballyscullion, with 10 per cent of monies donated going to the Salvation Army in memory of the late Aurelia Kelly.

Enthusiast Derek has been collecting all things Royal for the past 30 years, and his collection contains around 500 items – the oldest being some jugs dating back to Queen Victoria.

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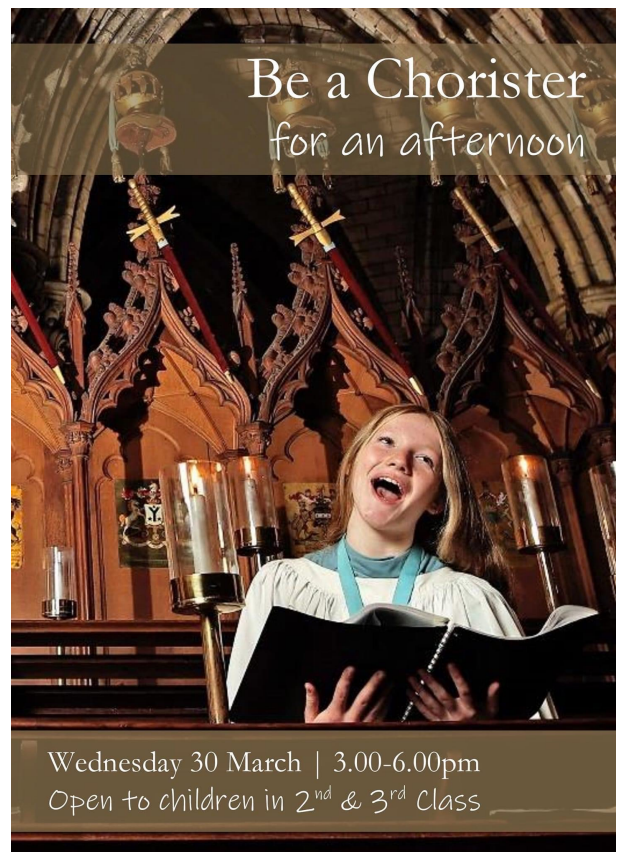
The exhibition will be launched on Friday May 13, and will be open on Saturday May 14 and 15 and 21 and 22 from 2pm-5pm and from 7.30pm-10pm. It will be open in the evenings Monday to Friday May 16-20 from 7.30pm until 10pm, although visits outside of these hours can be pre-arranged.



**A reminder that the 'Become a Chorister' event takes place this Wednesday, March 30th in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.**

Any young singers in 2nd and 3rd class who are interested can sign up and will have the exciting opportunity to experience what the life of a Cathedral Chorister is like for an afternoon!

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There is no cost to attend but it is asked that you book at the link below:

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/sing](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/sing)

## **Archbishop's tribute to the late Bishop James Moriarty**

**Archbishop Eamon Martin as President of Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference following the death of Bishop James Moriarty RIP, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin.**

Archbishop Martin said, "I was very sad to learn of the death of Bishop James Moriarty. Before his retirement as Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin in 2009, my role as executive secretary to the Bishops' Conference briefly overlapped with Bishop Moriarty's tenure. A pastor of deep faith, he encouraged everyone to make the most of their God-given gifts. His honest, humble and courteous nature – along with his ready-smile and ability to engage comfortably with people of all backgrounds – were hallmarks of his warm personality.

"In 1991, Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Moriarty Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Dublin and his Episcopal ministry coincided with a very challenging period in Church history in Ireland, and universally. As a member of the Bishops' Conference he served as an effective Chair of its Commission for Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development. Bishop Moriarty placed great emphasis on evangelising young people, to bring them closer to the person of Jesus Christ. He encouraged active Irish participation in the global World Youth Day gatherings and

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oversaw the launch of the Bishops' framework document on youth ministry Called Together. Making the Difference. Bishop Moriarty also had a prominent role during the national 'Year of Vocation' in 2008.

“Bishop Moriarty served as Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin from 2002 – 2009. An innovative communicator, he established Kandle.ie will be remembered for his pioneering 'Reach-Out' pastoral initiative which sought to reach out to share the light of Christ with the isolated and excluded in the diocese – very much the spirit of the Synodal Pathway currently being undertaken the Church. The 'Reach Out' campaign continues each Christmas.

“In his retirement Bishop Moriarty led a quiet ministry of support in the Archdiocese of Dublin and regularly returned to his beloved Kildare & Leighlin where he is remembered with love and gratitude. Today I will remember in my prayers the faithful of both dioceses and, at this time of heartbreak for his family, friends, brother clergy and parishioners, I invite you to pray for the happy repose of Bishop Moriarty's soul. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.”

Archbishop Eamon Martin is Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland and President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

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## News reports

### Pope condemns 'cruel and senseless' war in Ukraine

**Pope Francis has led a global prayer for peace at the annual Lenten penitential service in St Peter's Basilica, Rome.**

He consecrated all humanity - especially Russia and Ukraine - to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and said the act expressed complete trust in the Virgin Mary in the midst of the "cruel and senseless war" in Ukraine.

In his homily at the Celebration of Penance at St Peter's Basilica in Rome, Pope Francis reflected on humanity's need for God's forgiveness and on the meaning of the Consecration.

"This is no magic formula but a spiritual act. It is an act of complete trust on the part of children who, amid the tribulation of this cruel and senseless war that threatens our world, turn to their Mother, reposing all their fears and pain in her heart and abandoning themselves to her", he said.

In Ireland, the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock joined in the global prayer for peace along with clergy, lay people and the religious around the country.

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During his homily, Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Farrell said history showed that neither war or violence had ever solved problems.

"The story of this island in the last 30 years is the story of people whose feet have been "guided on the way of peace", he said

Archbishop Farrell said the "unwarranted war" unveiled not only the horror of its victims, "but also, and equally frightening for us, all the poverty of the aggressor".

He said: "While, cynically proffering freedom, all that ultimately on offer is violence, gratuitous violence, and the loss that follows in its wake: not just loss of life, but loss of place, loss of dignity, loss of hope."

Students and staff at the national seminary of St Patrick's College in Maynooth, where there is a close association with a seminary in the Ukrainian city of Ivano-Frankivsk, were also led in prayer by Seminary Rector, Father Tomás Surlis.

Fr Surlis said a number of seminarians from Ivano-Frankivsk had been in formation in Maynooth in recent years.

Pope Francis' decision to consecrate Russia, Ukraine and the whole of humanity to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is in keeping with the tradition of the Catholic Church's Magisterium, which has always looked to Mary in difficult times.

Courtesy RTE news



## **Choristers sharing a gift of song to help Ukrainian children**

**Truro Cathedral choir has recorded a fundraising anthem for Ukrainian children, which was released on Mothering Sunday.**

The recording of Ave Maria, by Ukrainian contemporary composer Valentin Silvestrov, was performed at the Cathedral and released as a recording on YouTube on Mothering Sunday last weekend.

The Crowdfunder is in aid of Unicef's emergency appeal 'Protect Children in Ukraine' and will be available for streaming at church services.

The Cathedral's Director of Music, Christopher Gray said choristers wanted to use their talents to help children caught up in the war :

"I'd been talking to plenty of our adults in the choir as well as the boys and the girls who were having the same reactions as everyone to what's happening in Ukraine. There was a real desire to try and turn compassion into some sort of action. So we thought, 'let's sing. We can use our gift which is singing and we can try and raise some money.'

By extraordinary coincidence, Ukrainian refugees Akim, 12, and his mother Tanya Huhnina, who fled Cherkasy in Ukraine to join a family in Cornwall last week, came into the Cathedral as the choir rehearsed.

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The mother and son had been shopping for shoes for Akim's first day in a Cornish school and had felt moved to step inside the cathedral.

When she realised what was happening in the cathedral, Tanya said: "God has led us here tonight."

Christopher Gray says it was a very moving moment :

“That was one of the most extraordinary things I've ever seen in terms of something very poignant and remarkable timing.....they came in and saw us with the Ukrainian colours. We were getting the choristers to position some strands of blue and yellow fabric and they came in and asked what was going on and so we explained that we were about to record a video and they stayed and were with us as we recorded our video in Ukrainian.”

The choir, with 34 children and 12 adult professional singers, received support with Ukrainian pronunciation from Marta Jenkala, Associate Professor of Ukrainian at University College, London.

Dean of Truro Very Rev Roger Bush said: “This was a very poignant Mothering Sunday in the UK. As we celebrated with family at home, our thoughts naturally turned to the plight of millions of Ukrainian mothers, courageously attempting to bring their children to safety, including those who are making their way to our shores.

“Whatever your faith, we hope that this beautiful Ukrainian Ave Maria offers a powerful channel for our feelings, thoughts and prayers.’

Christopher Gray, said: "It has been a joy to discover some of Ukraine's music recently in preparation for our Crowdfunder.

"When I came across the music of Valentin Silvestrov it had a stillness and sheer beauty that stopped me in my tracks."

Marc Gregory, who is one of the bass singers in the choir, said: "Our whole choir community is behind this initiative and we hope people in Cornwall and further afield will help us do something, however small, to support Ukrainian children caught up in this present-day horror."

Josh, 13, Head Chorister, said: "Some of us have given our pocket money and we hope people will give lots, lots more to help us make a difference."

The recording was released on YouTube on Mothering Sunday and the choir will also sang the song live at the 4pm service in Truro Cathedral that day.

You Tube link -

Truro Cathedral Choir Sings for the Children of Ukraine: Ave Maria by Valentin Silvestrov

[\[\[ \] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5uWUHN-m\\_4 \]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5uWUHN-m_4)

You can find out more about Truro Cathedral Choir's Crowdfunder for UNICEF's emergency appeal at Protect Children in Ukraine seeking to support the 7.5 million Ukrainian children currently at risk.

[[] <https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/donate-now-to-protect-children-in-ukraine/?>]

## **Another Pastor arrested in Ukraine as hunt for clerics on Russian 'blacklist' continues**

**A Ukrainian American pastor is reported to have been abducted in the southern city of Melitopol.**

About 10 Russian soldiers are said to have arrived at the home of 50 year old Dmitry Bodyu, bishop of the Word of Life Church in Melitopol city last Saturday and taken him away. NBC News says the troops also confiscated his American passport along with the family's phones and other devices.

The National News says the soldiers returned the following day and asked for his Bible and a sleeping bag.

His eldest daughter, Esther Lily Bodyu Ogawa, said, "They walked in and they just started kind of questioning him right away, like, 'Are you guys American citizens?' — that's one of the first questions they had.

"I am worried. I mean, deep inside, I believe and I want to believe that he's safe and he's going to come home. But of course, from not knowing exactly what's going on and how he is and not getting any information, that's what is, of course, building up that worry inside."



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Pastor Bodyu left Crimea to live in Ukraine in 2014 after the Russian annexation because of his American citizenship.

After the Russian invasion just over a month ago, the pastor had urged residents to seek shelter in his church.

His arrest comes amid fears pastors are being targeted by Russian troops in Ukraine. Last week Release International warned that a hunt for pastors in Ukraine had begun in areas of the country now under Russian control. The charity has issued an urgent call to prayer.

Release International has told Premier that last week Russian soldiers arrested the pastor of the Light of the World Evangelical Church of Mariupol.

Alexander Glushko was arrested at his house in the besieged city. During a search of his home they found his diploma issued by the Theological Seminary of Ukraine.

He is believed to have been taken to territory previously occupied by Russian troops and imprisoned close to Donetsk.

Pastor Alexander's family has been offered no further information, and his wife has been told she has no right and opportunity to see her husband.

Another pastor of a church near Mariupol reports that he was blacklisted for arrest but managed to escape. Release International's partner in Ukraine, 'Pavel' describes that escape as 'a miracle'.

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However, the Evangelical Church building, where that pastor's family lived, has been confiscated, and church meetings are now impossible.

Pavel continues: "The hunt for the pastors of these churches has now begun in Mariupol and its environs.

"I believe that many other pastors of Evangelical churches in Ukraine, known for their patriotism, are also included in such a "blacklist". This is in line with reports published before the invasion of the Russian army that the 'physical liquidation of some religious figures in Ukraine' who openly support their government is expected.

"I ask you to pray fervently for the well-being and safety of the life of Pastor Alexander Glushko. Pray also for the protection of God from the alleged persecution of Evangelical Christians in Ukraine in places where there are fierce battles, as well as in the territories of Ukraine that were previously occupied by Russia."

Courtesy Premier Christian News

## In the media

[\*\*Presbyterian Church in Ireland warns Brandon Lewis 'power grab' may soon overrule ...\*\*](#)

### **Belfast News Letter**

Last year Mr Lewis laid The Abortion (NI) Regulations 2021 in Parliament, giving him power to direct the NI Executive and public health bodies to follow his directions on abortion provision and sex education.

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The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) issued a statement March 25 expressing “deep regret” and “grave concern” at what it termed “the continued undermining of devolution” by Mr Lewis.

[[] <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/health/presbyterian-church-in-ireland-warns-brandon-lewis-power-grab-may-soon-overrule-schools-on-sex-education-3628216> ]

## **Presbyterian ministers discuss the challenges of leading a church**

### **Belfast News Letter**

Going into ministry is unlike entering other professions where you scour the jobs pages, fill in a multitude of application forms and cross your fingers that you’ll get called for at least one interview.

In the case of the church, it is God who gets the ball rolling when He calls you to faith.

Two Presbyterian ministers shared their accounts of receiving the Lord’s call and what that has led them to within the church.

Reverend Graeme Kennedy is minister of Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church in east Belfast, having been based in the Bangor area for more than 20 years at First Bangor and then Ballygrainey Presbyterian Church.

[[] <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/people/big-read-presbyterian-ministers-discuss-the-challenges-of-leading-a-church-3628220> ]

## **Catholic St Anne's primary school applies for integrated status**

### **BBC NI News**

The school is facing a separate proposal from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) to close it.

[ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-60880957> ]

## **Irish Jews 'dismayed' by parliamentary attacks on their community**

### **Irish Times**

UN Human Rights Council told members of Dáil and Seanad being openly anti-Semitic

Ireland has failed to deal with an upsurge in anti-Semitism in the State fuelled by online abuse, the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland has told a United Nations body.

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/irish-jews-dismayed-by-parliamentary-attacks-on-their-community-1.4835553> ]

## **Abortion in NI: Westminster to intervene on services after election**

### **BBC NI**

Secretary of State Brandon Lewis has said he will intervene further on abortion services for Northern Ireland after the assembly election in May.



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Northern Ireland's abortion laws changed in 2020 after Westminster acted during the absence of devolution.

But the commissioning of services had been stalled due to political disagreement.

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-60864729>at medium=RSS&at campaign=KARANG A]

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

### CMSI's Children's Resource for 2022

Kingdom Kids, was recently launched on the CMSI website. Pray that the material will be a blessing to the children, churches and Sunday schools that use it.

## Perspective

### To live is to change by Niall Lockhart

**In 1845, John Henry Newman, one time Anglican Priest and later Roman Catholic Cardinal wrote 'To live is to change'. His comments described both the world as he observed it, and life, as he experienced it.**

Change is all around us in Ireland today. Finton O'Toole gives expression to this reality south of the border in his

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recently published book entitled *We Don't Know Ourselves*. In the northern context Susan McKay portrays a scene epitomized by the phrase 'shifting ground'.

In his 2021 book *The Rise and Fall of Christian Ireland*, Crawford Gribben, examines and demonstrates, how this phenomena of change has had, and is having, a particular impact upon the relationship between Christian people and wider society in recent years. Citing the mid 1990s as a 'tipping point' Gribben argues, those professing faith in Christ, find themselves now living on the other side of an experience of secularization that has been 'sudden, shocking and decisive'.

It was a favourite theme of John Calvin that true wisdom consists of two parts; knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves. Recently in church we have been working our way through the book of Numbers. Numbers is a book that speaks about God, and Numbers is a book that reveals truth about how people of faith are prone to respond to change, for better and for worse.

The narrative of this book starts well, with God's people camped at Sinai preparing for their onward journey 'just as the LORD commanded Moses' (1:54, 8:3, 9:5). However, change experienced brings a different challenge than change anticipated. Three brief episodes illustrate Israel's struggle to keep faith at this moment as their onward journey gets underway.

Chapter 11:1-3 begins with the people stepping out into territory that was unmapped and unknown. The text suggests a sudden reflex of panic, and we are told they

‘complained’. They complained about what was going on around them and they complained about an environment that was new and threatening to them.

Things develop further in 11:4-35. Adrift in their new reality Israel start to find comfort in the certitudes of their, albeit troubled, past. In the words of Sara Groves with selective nostalgia they begin ‘painting pictures of Egypt’, leaving out what it lacked. The future feels so hard and they want to go back.

However, the story always moves on. In chapter 12:1-16 the frustrations of this wilderness generation now morph into a loss of confidence in Moses. Disquiet regarding his leadership of the community of faith merges into cynicism as to where God’s word is to be found and how much weight can be leant upon it.

In any generation, true wisdom is to be found in knowing God and knowing ourselves. The book of Numbers alerts Christian readers to personally reflect upon three faith defeating temptations especially prevalent in times of change.

Firstly, with eyes fixed on the challenges around us there is the temptation to complain, and for such complaining to become a stance, a way of living and speaking, as we engage with our society.

Secondly, with nostalgic retellings of the past, there is the temptation to long for a return to remembered times, when through our eyes God was at work, in ways that we do not see today.

Thirdly, when the ground beneath our feet is rough and the road ahead is narrow, there can be a temptation to slide into cynicism. For people, once of faith, that cynicism can find a ready focus in constant negativity about 'church' or even in a deconstructed loss of confidence in the clarity of divine revelation.

To live is to change. To live in Ireland today is to live in the midst of much change. Of course, events of recent weeks in Ukraine have taken our collective experience of life in an uncertain world to a new level. In a recent piece in the Irish Times Una Mullally describes a world where uncertainty has now become endemic, something that is always with us. Pivoting from the impact of Covid to the realities of war in Europe she writes:

'Predictability has gone out the window. Change is one thing, flux is another. If we conceived that emerging from the pandemic would feel grounding, it appears instead that we are living in the age of the unmoored.'

It is into this 'age of the unmoored' that Scripture speaks afresh with its grounding revelation of a God, who in His Son and by His Spirit, has pitched His tent among us and whose arm is not too short to save (11:23). So, between a known past and a promised, though as yet unrealized future, He calls His people to know themselves, to know Him, and to keep moving forward, one day, one step, at a time.

Niall Lockhart is Minister of Ballyhenry Presbyterian Church. Courtesy Contemporary Christianity.



## Poem for today

### A Prayer in Spring by Robert Frost

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;  
And give us not to think so far away  
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here  
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,  
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;  
And make us happy in the happy bees,  
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird  
That suddenly above the bees is heard,  
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,  
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,  
The which it is reserved for God above  
To sanctify to what far ends He will,  
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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