

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Praying for Ukraine at St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin

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Image of the day

A prayer vigil involving the Lord Mayor of Dublin, international diplomats and other worshippers was held in St Patrick's Cathedral on the evening of Ash Wednesday

People and places

Saint Patrick's Cathedral Vigil for Peace in Ukraine

On Ash Wednesday evening a beautiful and moving Service of Choral Evensong and Vigil for Peace in Ukraine took place in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.



The vigil was addressed by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland. The Lord Mayor said: "Let us, the people of Dublin,

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stand steadfast in solidarity with our neighbours in Ukraine; for in doing this we show the world the resilience, the tolerance and the neighbourliness that make us what we are.”

Prayer point for Ukraine in Armagh Parish church



It was led by the Dean and attended by the Archbishop of Dublin and representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and local authorities.

Following Choral Evensong, Books of Peace were available for all to sign and they will remain available in the cathedral over coming days.

The Cathedral’s Dean, the Very Reverend Dr William Morton, said: “We find God’s presence in the ancient liturgies of our Church through words, spoken and sung, and in prayers offered personally and collectively to God, especially when we remember those in crisis situations.



“We appreciate those who will come together in Saint Patrick’s Cathedral to offer up prayers for the plight of the people of Ukraine at this time. May those who have been bereaved and injured, and who exist under fear and despair, find God’s peace in response to the prayers

offered on their behalf.”

On the evening, the Irish Red Cross were receiving donations in the Cathedral for those in need of urgent support. Secretary General, Liam O’Dwyer, said: “In reflecting on the day of Ash Wednesday we are reflecting on our own humanity, our strengths and vulnerabilities. Our humanity brings us together with our families, communities and citizens around the world building solidarity and peace.

“For the people of Ukraine, they need this solidarity at this time, to know that people around the world are concerned for them and thinking of them and want to help. If you can, please give whatever you can, to support people in Ukraine and let them know – through the work of Red Cross people on the ground – that you care.”

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The Books of Peace will remain available to sign for the coming weeks

Ukraine : Clogher Diocese parishes helping with donations

Parishes throughout Clogher Diocese have been fundraising or co-ordinating collections of essential supplies for the people of Ukraine.

Some of the parishes include;

The Grouped Parishes of Trory and Killadeas collected £550 from during Shrove Tuesday when Rector, Revd Mark Gallagher made 250 pancakes and served them at breakfast, lunch and after dinner to people who arrived at the Rectory. The money is being donated to the UNHCR Ukraine Fund.

The parishioners of St Finbarr's Church, Carrickacross are supporting 'Sustain Ukraine' through local woman Emilia O'Neill who is organising a collection for Ukraine refugees who have fled to Poland. Those with donations of multiple items can drop them off at the Rectory or at church this Sunday, 6th March. Alternatively the items can be dropped off at the Barn (car park behind Carrickmacross Shopping Centre) on Sunday. There will be a special time of prayer for Ukraine in St Finbarr's on Monday evening, 7th March, at 7pm.

The grouped Parishes of Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk, have been asking their parishioners to use the collection

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point at Lidl Car Park, Lisnaskea for dropping off items such as bed sheets, pillows, blankets, baby supplies, clothes and shoe and healthcare items on Saturday morning, 5th March between 10am -11am.

Colaghty Parish Church have directed parishioners to a collection point at 51 Main Street, Kesh no later than 1pm on Friday for donating items such as bedding, clothes, toiletries, disposable cutlery and cups and plates, ready to eat canned food not requiring cooking or heating, dried foods, tea coffee, bottled water and juices.

Down and Dromore online intercessions for Ukraine

Bishop David McClay has written to the diocese requesting once more that members keep Ukraine and its people in their prayers.

Bishop McClay states, “ May I reiterate the importance of our private and corporate prayers for Ukraine in the face of an escalating situation.

“To this end I have requested that all of our parishes set aside a significant time in this Sunday’s services to intercede for the people of Ukraine and the nations of the world in their response to this crisis.

“If there is no evening service in your parish please consider attending a special prayer service in Dromore Cathedral at 6.00 pm on Sunday 6 March 2022. The service will also be live-streamed on the Dromore Cathedral YouTube channel.”

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[[] <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXJQJ1y8CZKrhNdAPKF1VTA>]

Cork Bells ring for Ukraine

Last night, Thursday 3rd March, at 7pm, bells sounded across Cork City and County to mark the first week of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and to demonstrate solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

Led by the twelve bells of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, the iconic Shandon Bells of St Anne's Church and the Cathedral of St Mary and St Anne, bells were pealed for five minutes.

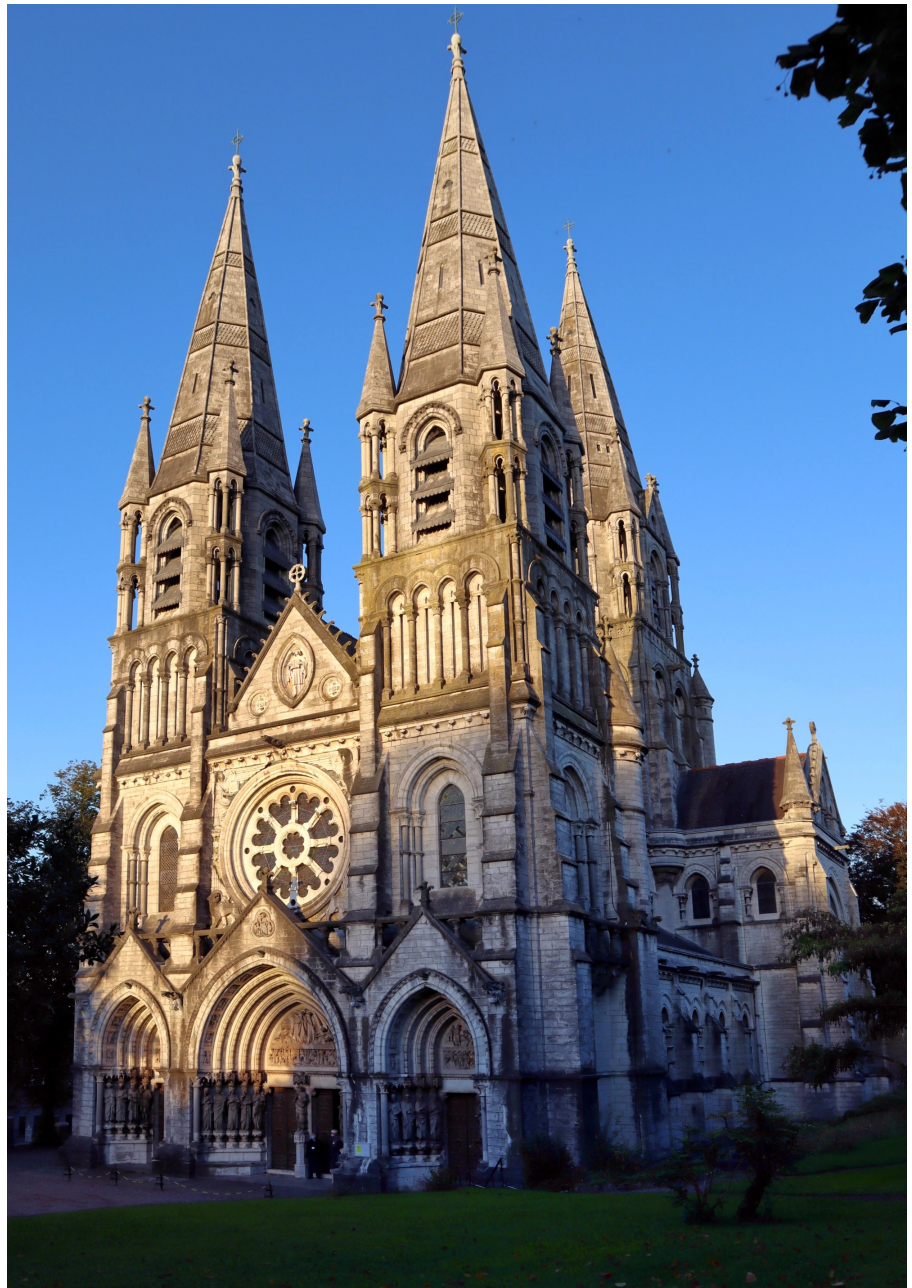
The Dean of Cork, the Very Rev. Nigel Dunne commented:

“Many people are feeling shocked and unable to help in the face of horrific images of the devastation of war in Ukraine coming to them via all forms of media in the last week. As Christians in the City and County, we hope that, at the very least, people can be helped to show solidarity with and pray for the people and leaders of Ukraine by this simple but powerful initiative. We must always be voices for peace, justice, and sustainability in the world, and openly face down the evils of tyranny and war. This small project carries a powerful message to those who are responsible for the right use of power and wealth in our world. “

The chairperson of St Fin Barre's Quarter Development Committee, Eoin Murphy welcomed the event:

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“Like many in our community I have been feeling both helpless and horrified by the situation in Ukraine. I hope that this event will provide an opportunity for communal reflection and that the sound of the bells will symbolise our concern for and solidarity with the whole Ukrainian community. “



Ten more church bells throughout the city were rung, and eighteen through out the county also took part.

Christian Aid appeal for Ukraine

Leaving everything behind, people are fleeing conflict in Ukraine



**UKRAINE
HUMANITARIAN APPEAL**

PLEASE DONATE NOW.
DEC.ORG.UK

 **DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE**

Matching your
donations with

UKaid

The UK Government will match pound-for-pound up to £20 million
donated by the public to this appeal.

Photo: Michael Kappeler / dpa

They need shelter, food and water. @decappeal charities and their local partners are in Ukraine and across the border in the neighbouring countries.

Please donate to: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

St Matthew's, Shankill, celebrates 150th anniversary

Celebrations marking the 150th year of St Matthew's Parish Church, Shankill, continue this Sunday March 6 with an anniversary service attended by special guests, the Archbishop of Armagh; the Most Rev John McDowell, the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison; and Bishop Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor.



A number of events, including an exhibition and concert, will be held in the week following the service.

Earlier this year, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, and his chaplain, the Rev Tosin Oladipo, helped the Rev Tracey McRoberts and parishioners of St Matthew's to mark this 150-year milestone by joining them for worship on February 6.

The Archbishop and his chaplain were in Belfast for the annual 4Corners Festival, and were invited to St Matthew's by Rev Tracey. Since rioting in nearby Lanark Way last April, she and Fr Martin Magill from St John's (Upper Falls), one of the organisers of the 4Corners Festival, have been working together on a weekly basis and have had held more than 60 meetings with a range of people to discuss issues in the Falls and Shankill.

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Fr Magill encouraged Rev Tracey to write and invite the Archbishop to speak to the people in St Matthew's during this, their 150th year of mission and ministry in Shankill Parish. Conor Burns, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, also attended, and Archbishop Welby gave the address.

This Sunday's service takes place at 3.30pm.

Next Tuesday, March 8, St Matthew's is hosting a history exhibition in partnership with Queen's University. Among the artefacts on display will be a 9th Century Bishop's Crozier originally found in Shankill graveyard, on loan from the National Museum Dublin for one day only.

All are welcome and the exhibition will be open from 1.30pm-4pm.



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An incredible day for Queen's Chaplaincy.

Over 1000 students attended Mass and 'Awaken' prayer time at the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University on Ash Wednesday.

"The prayer and presence of so many of our students has given us the kickstart to Lent



that we needed.” Huge thanks to all of our student volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talent.

New elders ordained at Kells

Four new elders were ordained to the Kirk Session at Kells Presbyterian Church, Co Antrim on Sunday, 27th February 2022.

The four are Roderick Frew, John Hughes, Jonathan Reid and Sam Gibson. Rev Noel Mulholland (Moderator of Presbytery) and Rev Brian Boyd, (Minister) took part.. It fell to Rev Brian Smyth minister of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Ahoghill, to preach a challenging and inspiring 'charge' to the incoming elders

News special

Archbishop of Canterbury visits Pakistan's Christians

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited Pakistan last weekend to show support for its Christian community.

During the three-day visit he prayed with Christians, listened to their experiences and offered comfort to those grieving in the wake of attacks. He also met with national leaders to raise the concerns of Christians and discuss protecting freedom of religion or belief for all people in Pakistan.

In a meeting in Islamabad on Monday with the Prime Minister, Imran Khan, the Archbishop informed Mr Khan of his visit yesterday to the city of Peshawar, where a priest from the Church of Pakistan was murdered in a terror attack in January. The Archbishop raised the issue of creating social cohesion and the importance of respecting people's freedom of religion or belief, particularly in education systems.

During the meeting, the Archbishop also said that Russia's invasion of Ukraine was both a tragedy and "an act of great moral evil", and spoke of the need for urgent efforts to build peace.

The Archbishop was visiting the country at the invitation of the Moderator of the Church of Pakistan, the Right Revd Dr Azad Marshall. During the visit he spent time with the



Bishops of the Church of Pakistan, as well as Pakistani faith leaders and religious scholars.

On Sunday the Archbishop travelled to Peshawar in the northwest of Pakistan to spend time with the congregation at All Saints Church, including survivors and bereaved families from the bombing attack on the church in 2013. He also comforted the community following the murder of the Revd William Siraj, who was shot on his way home from a church service in January this year.

The Archbishop prayed with the congregation and assured them “you are not forgotten” by Christians around the world, including Anglicans across the global Anglican Communion. Archbishop Justin was accompanied by Bishop Azad Marshall and Bishop Humphrey Peters, the Bishop of

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Peshawar. While at All Saints Church, the Archbishop unveiled the foundation stone for a new Centre for Interfaith Harmony and Reconciliation to be based at the church.

Reflecting on his visit to Peshawar, the Archbishop said: “It was profoundly moving to visit the Christian community of Peshawar. It’s a community I have longed to visit for many years. I have prayed for them, wept for them and thanked God for them. Many of the community there continue to live with the trauma of the terrible attacks on All Saints Church in 2013. And yet the All Saints community have refused to allow the darkness to overcome the light of Christ among them. They are an inspiration and a blessing to us all.”

The Archbishop’s visit to Pakistan began on Saturday with a time of conversation, worship and prayer with the Bishops of the Church of Pakistan. The Archbishop listened to the challenges faced by the bishops in their dioceses, and praised their “extraordinary” work particularly in healthcare, education, prisons and supporting young people.

On Sunday evening the Archbishop urged a gathering of faith leaders in Islamabad to “be courageous” in their approach to interfaith dialogue and working for peace. The reception, co-hosted by Bishop Azad Marshall and the Prime Minister of Pakistan’s Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, was attended by the British High Commissioner Dr Christian Turner, religious leaders and scholars and diplomats.

In his address the Archbishop encouraged faith communities to pursue robust and genuine interfaith dialogue, particularly

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because of the rise in religious extremism in all the major faiths over recent decades. “We need to be honest with each other and be courageous in speaking about difficult issues. We need to learn to argue and disagree well,” he said.

On Monday the Archbishop had meetings in Islamabad with Pakistan’s Prime Minister, President and Chief of Army Staff, in which he encouraged freedom of religion or belief and the pursuit of peace, interfaith dialogue and human rights.

In his meeting with the Chief of Army Staff, the Archbishop spoke of “the evil of war” and said conflict was always a catastrophe. They also spoke about the need for a serious and holistic approach to tackling radicalisation in all faiths.

Speaking at the end of the visit, the Archbishop said: “At this time of profound trouble, suffering, conflict and uncertainty in our world, it has been a great privilege to visit our brothers and sisters in the Church of Pakistan. Our world needs hope, resilience, courage and a deep commitment to peace: and for that reason the Church of Pakistan is a gift not just to Pakistan but to the world. I give thanks for the way they bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in the most difficult circumstances.

“Christians in Pakistan, along with other communities, face many challenges and struggles – and we must stand alongside them in their call for justice, human rights and freedom of religion or belief for all. Pakistan was founded on a hopeful vision in which every person is free to practice their faith, and we must pray and support everyone who continues to work towards the realisation of this vision.”



Bishop Azad Marshall said: “The visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury and his delegation to Pakistan has been a great encouragement to Pakistan’s Christians. Our meetings both internally as a uniting church and externally with governments and government representatives, has shown us that our voices have significance. It is my hope that the meetings we have had will bear fruit and strengthen the church while building our capacity to speak out against injustice and face the future with transformational hope in not ourselves or our plans but in the plan that God has for all of Pakistan. We look forward to building on these meetings and seeing the practical fruitful outcomes of all that was spoken, shared and sown between brother and sisters and friends.”

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In the media

Tiny chapel near Lockerbie offers Ukraine a helping hand

BBC Alba

More than 70 years ago, an unassuming corrugated iron hut in southern Scotland was transformed into a chapel by Ukrainian prisoners of war.

Now it is providing a focal point for those in the local community who want to help those caught up in the country's current conflict.

The story of the Hallmuir Chapel, near Lockerbie, dates back to 1947.

That was when Ukrainian prisoners of war arrived in Glasgow, having previously been interned in Italy after World War Two.

More than 400 people ended up at the camp in southern Scotland and were sent to work on local farms or forestry in the area.

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-60570427>]

A letter for Ash Wednesday

A letter for Ash Wednesday 2022 from Archbishop Michael Jackson.

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[\[https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2022/03/02/a-letter-for-ash-wednesday\]](https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2022/03/02/a-letter-for-ash-wednesday)

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Doctor of Ministry in Leadership for Social Transformation (DMin)

The application deadline for the new Doctor of Ministry in Leadership for Social Transformation has been extended to April 1st. All admitted DMin students are guaranteed a scholarship and classes begin this summer.

Founded in 1853, Garrett Theological Seminary serves the church, the academy, and the world by preparing public theologians and scholars. “We equip our students to proclaim the good news of the Gospel, to foster deep spirituality in the lives of others, to serve with cultural competence and commitment to racial equity, and to lead transformative change for the wellbeing of all persons and creation”.

Located on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, Garrett-Evangelical offers rigorous, intellectually challenging academics paired with a commitment to intentional spiritual formation that trains the mind, body, and spirit. Through a diverse curriculum students are stretched theologically and exposed to new

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models of ministry that equips them for ministry in the 21st century.

[[] <https://www.garrett.edu/degrees-and-programs/doctor-ministry-leadership-social-transformation>]

Perspective

A reflection and response to the invasion of Ukraine by by Tom Sine

“In a joint statement....the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York said: ‘the horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil. Placing our trust in Jesus Christ, the author of peace, we pray for an urgent cease fire and a withdrawal of Russian forces.’” (Church Times)

Many of us in churches all over America share the sense of dismay at “this act of great evil” expressed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. I would urge us not to be unsettled by the rising gas prices and other consumer discomforts that we are likely to experience in coming months. Rather we need to focus on the ongoing costs of this “horrific and unprovoked attack” on thousands of our neighbors in the Ukraine.

Those of us over 80 may have some greater levels of concerns of the horrific unprovoked invasion because of our memories of another war we experienced in the 40s. It also was started by a European leader who was determined to expand his empire.

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Join me for just a few moments as I invite you to travel back with me to the 1940s. Just before Christmas in 1941, I was 5 years old living in Twin Falls, Idaho with my parents. On a bright morning, December 7, my mother Katherine pulled me up on her bed. She asked me to listen to the small radio near her bed.

I listened to a very dramatic voice declaring “This day will live in infamy!” I was, of course, listening to President Franklin Roosevelt’s announcement. “This day of infamy!” that Roosevelt was announcing was the attack on the US Navy at Pearl Harbor. The reason I am sharing this personal narrative is to convey to younger readers the troubling possibility that we are on the threshold of a new global military crisis that is potentially a much bigger deal than our increasing gas prices.

As for people in Ukraine, they are losing loved ones every single day that Putin continues to seek to invade Ukraine and kill any who stand in his way. Huge numbers of citizens are also becoming refugees fleeing to other countries. Do remember Ukraine is only one of a number of countries in Europe that Putin has stated he intends to capture and dominate.

I encourage Episcopal readers to continue to support the increasingly stronger action that President Biden is now taking in collaboration with the European Union with the strong support of both Democrats and Republicans in the US. We all need to ensure that this aggression in Ukraine does not expand into another larger European war.

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I also urge readers to not only pray for those that are suffering in Ukraine. I also urge you to contribute to Christian agencies, such as World Vision, that are reaching out to families and children in the Ukraine.

Dr. Tom Sine is the co-author with Dr. Dwight Friesen of 2020s Foresight: Three Vital Steps For Thriving In A Decade Of Accelerating Change

Courtesy of Episcopal Cafe 02/03/2022

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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