



## **Last week's news - a reflection**

**Last week's news produced a wide range of images from the opening of the Winter Olympic Games, to the floods in the Somerset levels, and in the streets of Cork and Limerick.**

The image of a canoeist at an ATM of a flooded Cork bank will not be forgotten. The destruction of the railway at Dawlish in the South of England was also a stark unspoken testimonial to the power of a storm driven high tide.

However, the photo which moved me most last week was taken at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast where there was a major emergency as around one hundred young people took ill through what was reckoned to be a combination of alcohol and drugs. With social media the incident soon became widely known.

This image which I will find difficult to forget came well down a report on the BBC news website. Indeed it was not a clear image. It was taken from inside the entrance of the venue looking out towards the steamed up glass entrance doors outside of which were the figures of parents who had come out of concern for their young people.

It was a picture of love and concern. I feel certain too that it included people who would be praying, perhaps even people who may not be regular visitors to so-called places of prayer.

This rare photograph was about basic Christian and parental values - love and concern, worry, fear and hope. It made me think of God, the supreme parent, and wonder what emotions the face of God showed as the events of Calvary afflicted Jesus. I doubt that I could bear to look at photographs of Calvary and the parent God.

*Houston McKelvey*

