

Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

Parish Priest: Very Rev Joseph Gunn St Comgall's Presbytery, 27 Brunswick Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT20 3DS
T: (028) 9146-5522 E: bangor@downandconnor.org W: www.bangorparish.com Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30pm to 1pm.

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT, 26/27 March 2022

The Synod 2021-2023 – Listening Process

Quote from the handbook: "In this sense, it is clear that the purpose of this Synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission (PD, 32). Thus the objective of this Synodal Process is not only a series of exercises that start and stop, but rather a journey of growing authentically towards the communion and mission that God calls the Church to live out in the third millennium." *Found on the Vatican website.*

Cards containing 4 Questions were offered on Ash Wednesday to each person to fill in. These questions when answered should be left back to the parish office. Please find the a copy of the original card online under the page 'Bulletin'.

- Q1. As a Diocese we aspire to 'Open wide the doors of the Church to all without exception'. Who finds welcome and support for their Christian journey and who might feel left out?
- Q2. Every baptised person is called to participate in the mission of the Church. How is dialogue and participation in the life of the Church enabled and how is it hindered?
- Q3. We are called to mission; to put our faith into action. What enables or hinders us in speaking up for the Gospel and acting courageously in society?
- Q.4 What steps is the Holy Spirit calling all of us to take at this time?



BANGOR PRAISH PODCAST

You can listen to the Parish Podcasts by clicking on the audio files on the website or by searching for "Parish of Bangor Podcast" in the apple or google podcast

Apps. Then subscribe to our channel so that you will receive all the latest podcasts straight to your device.

Your prayers are requested for Recently Deceased: Terence Taylor

Anniversaries:

Margaret Hall, Kathleen McLaughlin, Marie Jenkins, Patrick Delargy, Molly McCloskey, Catherine Rooney, Roma Ryan, Francie Farley, Theresa Donaghy, Anthony Donaghy

Mass is Live Streamed and can be accessed via the Parish Website

www.bangorparish.com

FULL COPY OF THE SUNDAY MISSALETTE CAN BE FOUND ON THE PARISH WEBSITE UNDER "NEWS"

Pastoral Community - SYNODAL WAY –

An event is being held in the **Parish Centre** in **Newtownards** on **6 April 2022** from **7pm-9pm**.

The main objective is to obtain feedback from our wider Parish Community regarding the way forward following on from the Question Cards which Parishes were asked to distribute and complete recently. Places are limited and can be booked by contacting the Parish Office in Newtownards on 028 91812137.

Special Collection for Ukraine: The Irish Bishops have asked for a Special Collection to be taken up at Masses on the weekend of **26/27 March** to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and especially the families and children who have had to flee their homeland in advance of the Russian invasion. The proceeds of this Special Collection will be directed to Caritas Internationalis, which is the helping hand of the Church on the ground in the Ukraine and the surrounding region. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.

St Vincent de Paul
Helpline 077 0367 9384

Bethany Bereavement Support Group
we are here to support and listen.
Confidential. **075 1085 2157**

This is an 7 Page Bulletin
so please scroll down!

BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Evenings only until further notice at 6pm.
Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Please register online SIDE BAR under
'Sacramental Preparation'

PRAYING WITH THE ICONS

under **The Four Saints** found in
'Parish Today'

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES

For all children not attending
Catholic Schools.



1ST PENANCE & HOLY COMMUNION

Classes to be held in the
Parish Centre on

Sunday mornings at 9:15am.

Please register by contacting the parish
office by email stating the Child's(rens)
Name(s), Primary School, Year Group
and Age.

CONFIRMATION 2022 - Confirmation

Classes continue in the Parish Centre
every Sunday morning
@10.30am-11.45am.

Please register by email to the parish
office Email:

bangor@downandconnor.org

SUNDAY MASS TIMES THIS WEEKEND

[ST COMGALL'S CHURCH, DONAGHADEE](#)

Sunday 27th March @ 9.00am

[ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD](#)

Saturday vigil 26th March @ 6.30pm

Sunday 27th March @ 10am & 12noon

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED

*Please note that the Covid sanitising regulations have not changed and will
continue to be strictly observed.*

DAILY MASS NEXT WEEK – 28TH March – 1ST April

Morning Mass: Monday to Friday at 9.30am

[Brunswick Rd ONLY]

During Lent there will be Evening Mass:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 7.30pm

[may be changed at short notice due to a funeral]

We have a number of Masses including funerals recorded.
These can be accessed when you click on the link below:

www.churchservices.tv/bangor

Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed from
Monday 7th March 2022 and on every Monday thereafter. Adoration
will last from after Morning Mass until 4.00pm with the intention of
prolonging it later until 9.00pm as heretofore subject to there being
sufficient adorers on the rota.

Diocese Directories on sale from Sacristy - £4

The Society of St Vincent de Paul offers practical and confidential help to those in need
throughout the North Down Area. We know it can be hard to ask for help but please,
if you need help call us on **our Helpline: 077 0367 9384.**

To help us to help others you can make direct payments to Conferences Bank Account.
St Comgall's, Allied Irish Bank. Sort Code 93-82-03. A/C No is 25302098.
Most Holy Redeemer Ballyholme, Allied Irish Bank. Sort Code 93-82-03. A/C No. 06885061.

Donations can also be made to SVP Giving Page at www.svp-ni.co.uk. If you are a UK income tax payer please
consider Gift Aiding your donation, which will enhance your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Gift Aid
forms are available on the Parish website, or on request, via SVP Helpline number, as above.

The Society wishes to thank you for your tremendous response to our Annual Appeal, on the theme of "Impossible
Choices" Through your generosity St Comgalls Conference were able to assist over 150 families in the month of
December, and Most Holy Redeemer Conference Ballyholme provided assistance to 108 families and individuals over the
same period To include those donations enhanced by Gift Aid, the Appeal raised over £10,000. We thank you on behalf of
the Society, and on behalf of those we assisted.

The Society is always on the lookout for new Members, and if you are interested and can spare a few hours
per week please speak to a Conference Member, or leave your name and contact number on the Helpline and
we will return to you promptly. You will be warmly welcomed and full training will be given.

***We can now accept donations of Good quality furniture –
please call our Helpline or speak to a member of the Society.***

Storehouse North Down - Storehouse continues to help St Vincent De Paul provide non-perishable food for those in need. Storehouse welcomes donations of foodstuff at their premises, 12 Balloo Avenue, Bangor on Mondays and Thursdays between 10.00am to 3.00 pm. Cash donations are also very acceptable.

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT – 26 & 27 March 2022

Lord Jesus, you have said, 'Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.' I come to you in faith and trust, in love and hope. Let me know your closeness to me and your care for me and for all who are dear to me.
My intention: Hear my prayer (*mention intention*); grant what I ask, and may I always trust that in all that happens in life, you will be close to me as my friend, guide and saviour. And so, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

Penitential Act: I confess to the almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

PRAYERS AT HOLY COMMUNION

Spiritual Holy Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present
in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things and
I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you have already come,
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.
composed by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

ANIMA CHRISTI

Prayer to the Most Holy Redeemer

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, embolden me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
From the evil enemy defend me.
At the hour of my death call me
and bid me to come to you,
that with your Saints I may praise you
for age upon age. Amen

CALENDAR OF SAINTS DAYS

MARCH / APRIL 2022

Thursday 24th March Saint Macartan, Bishop	Thursday 7 April Saint John Baptist de la Salle, Priest
Friday 25th March The Annunciation of Our Lord	Sunday 10th April PALM SUNDAY – PASSION OF THE LORD
Sunday 27th March 4 TH SUNDAY OF LENT	HOLY THURSDAY 14th April
Friday 1st April Saint Celsus, Bishop	GOOD FRIDAY 15th April
Saturday 2nd April Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit	HOLY SATURDAY 16th April
Sunday 3rd April 5 th SUNDAY OF LENT	EASTER SUNDAY 17th April

Prayer Online: Come and join us at... www.soulparemission.com Who are we? We are a new interactive prayer website created by Jacinta Crockford DipTH, Spiritual Director living in Down and Connor. What's on offer? A variety of PDF meditations on Mother Teresa, St John Paul II, Ignatius Spirituality to name but a few. Lots of content to Dive into! There you will find - Podcasts on Faith, Friendship & Knowledge; Rosaries, Prayers and Marian Consecration. Come and join us and be part of the prayer movement online!

TIME CHANGE - Saturday at 3.30pm: Live recitation of the Most Holy Rosary. **Saturday at 8.30pm** I will be leading prayer with Eucharistic Adoration on the Catholic Internet TV – Shalom World.org Just click on the following link to access this time of prayer. www.swprayer.org Please be assured that I will be including all the parishioners and their families during this live Eucharistic Adoration.

Knock Shrine - Daily Masses continue to be broadcast on the Knock Shrine website and Facebook page at 12 Noon and 7.30pm, with Rosary at 7pm. Sunday Mass is broadcast at 12 noon, Rosary at 2.30pm and Mass at 3pm. For further details, please see www.knockshrine.ie

"Walking Together Towards Easter"

Residential Easter Triduum at Drumalis, Larne (14-17 April 2022) led by Fr Perry Gildea CM and Drumalis Team. An opportunity to reflect and participate in the Liturgy of Holy Week – the Triduum will commence with registration from 5 pm on Holy Thursday and end on Easter Sunday morning with Mass followed by breakfast. Cost: £295 per person. For further details or to book a place, please contact Drumalis during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm) – 028 28272196/28276455 or email drumalis@btconnect.com

See poster on Bangor Parish website under 'Bulletin Notices' or 'News'

TRÓCAIRE thank you for your help. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.trocaire.org.
2. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, 10 King Street,
Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI).

Donations to Ukraine will go to support our partner, Caritas Poland, who are working on the border. Poland has received 400,000 refugees from Ukraine over the past week and volunteers from Caritas Poland are providing food, blankets, hygiene kits and other essentials to people at the border as they arrive. We are already working in partnership with Caritas Poland and have supported their response in Yemen. We are now also extending financial support to their work on the Polish/Ukrainian border to support those arriving from Ukraine.

We will continue to engage with Caritas Europa to identify how Trócaire can best support the local Caritas organisations in their response.

Please note, however, that the Trocaire Lent boxes cannot be used to collect money for Ukraine and donations made to Ukraine will not be matched by UK Aid Match as the scheme is specifically tied to our Lent campaign.

South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust Carer Support Service Are you an unpaid carer who cares for a family member or friend?

You are invited to come along to the Carer Support Service Carer Hub in Bangor.

When: 1st Wednesday of every month

Where: North Down Community Wellbeing Hub, Main Street

Time: 10.30 – 1pm

No need to book, just call in at any time during the morning for carer information advice and guidance. Join us for tea/coffee and scones, we would love to meet you.



LENTEN PIONEER PLEDGE

Many people choose to abstain from alcohol during Lent. Why not take this opportunity to perhaps help yourself or someone you know with an alcohol or drug problem by offering your sacrifice for freedom from addiction? Please consider taking the short- term Lenten Pledge and make a difference to someone's life and say the following daily prayer. **PRAYER:** "I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink during Lent."

The Lough Derg Pilgrim Path on the lough shore is now open daily. The full route is a 12km loop, with a shorter 8km option, and several information boards highlight features of particular interest. Leaflets are available at the Visitors Centre. For bookings and further information email info@loughderg.org or telephone 0(0353) 71 9861518.

Preparing for Marriage? Catholic Engaged Encounter

A Marriage Preparation course is planned for **9/10 April 2022** in **The Drummond Hotel**, Ballykelly, Co. Derry. This 2-day **non-residential** course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. Information/Booking: marriageencounter.ie or 028276 38512

We are delighted that the **2022 Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's University**, Belfast, will be given by renowned scholar, theologian, author and communicator, Professor Alister McGrath. Professor McGrath is the current Andreos Idreous Professor of Science and Religion in the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Oxford, and the title of his address is 'Theology: Why it matters to the academy and the churches'.

The lecture will take place on **4th April 2022 at 6pm** in the Isdell Courtyard at Riddell Hall, 185 Stranmillis Road, Belfast, with reducing covid restrictions permitting, tea & coffee on arrival from 5.15pm.

More information can be found on our website

<https://thehubbelfast.org/2022/02/22/tickets-available-for-theological-lecture-at-queens-2022/>

Of you can do directly to reserving seats here

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/theology-why-it-matters-to-the-academy-and-the-churches-tickets-261838825977>

We would love to see you there, and please feel free to share the invitation or publicity found on any of our social media channels (simply search for 'The Hub Belfast') with others.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/629759561452493>

Bangor group of Alcoholics Anonymous has restarted our Open Meetings. Open Meetings are, as the name suggests, open to everyone and anyone who wishes to know more about alcoholism, how it effects the individual and how they can recover. Bangor AA Open Meetings, The last Friday of the month, every month. Doors open at 8pm for an 8.30pm start. **Bangor Community HUB**, Hamilton Road, Bangor. BT20 4LF.

GREETINGS FROM DROMANTINE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

NEW WORKSHOPS 2022 - BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

HELLO YOU

Finding the joy, purpose and happiness you deserve
Saturday, 9 April (9.30am - 4.30pm)

NO VISIBLE SCAR

Comfort for those bereaved during the pandemic
Friday, 20 May (5pm) - Sunday, 22 May (2pm)

ALONE TOGETHER

Finding our way back to connection
Saturday, 18 June (9.30am - 4.30pm)

THE LONG GOODBYE

Practical advice for caregivers of people living with dementia
Friday, 19 August (5pm) - Sunday, 21 August (2pm)

WHEN IT IS DARKEST

Understanding suicide
Saturday, 24 September (9.30am - 4.30pm)

CHURCH ABUSE: A UNIQUE BETRAYAL

A call to listen, a call to action, a call to change
Friday, 4 November (5pm) - Sunday, 6 November (2pm)

Workshop Facilitator: Father Hugh Lagan SMA

Fr Lagan is a priest with the Society of African Missions and a chartered clinical psychologist. He has led retreats, workshops and trainings internationally on psychological and spiritual well-being, positive change, trauma, mental health and resilience.

Please contact Jacinta or Louisa to reserve your place:

TEL: 028 (048 from ROI) 3082 1964

EMAIL: admin@dromantineconference.com

DOWN and CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST VACANCY INTERNAL AUDITOR We are looking to recruit an Internal Auditor who will develop and execute a structured audit methodology across the Diocesan Trust network of Parishes, ensuring that financial accuracy, internal controls and regulatory compliance are continually challenged and maintained. The post holder will report to the Chief Operating Officer and will play an integral part of the Diocesan Trust Finance Team. This is an excellent opportunity and challenge for an individual who is ready to make their mark in the establishment of this new and exciting role, where the terms are based on a permanent appointment requiring 35 hours attendance each week, Monday to Friday. Salary: £25,000 - £34,000 - salary offer will be commensurate upon qualifications and experience. If interested in making application for this post, please download an application form from the Diocese of Down and Connor website at: <http://www.downandconnor.org/job-vacancies> where details of the role are also available by way of an Application Form, Role Profile and Person Specification, and Diocesan profile. **Closing date for applications will be 12 noon on Thursday 31st March 2022**

Down and Connor Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer

OFFICIAL GUIDE OF COLUMBAN WAY IN ITALY

The Italian members of the European Association of the Way of St Columba are pleased to announce the release in bookshops from 3 March 2022 of the official guidebook of the Way of St Columba published by Terre di Mezzo Editore, by the authors Caterina Barbuscia and Valeria Beretta with the collaboration of the Associations of the Friends of San Colombano per l'Europa of San Colombano al Lambro, the Friends of San Colombano of Bobbio and the Friends of the Cammino di San Colombano of Vaprio d'Adda who act as points of reference and support along the entire route. It was a great work of synergy between the three associations and the 62 municipalities, the two regions and the Diocese of Piacenza-Bobbio, crossed by the route, and other public and private bodies. 330 kilometres on foot or by bicycle from the Swiss border to Bobbio. The route of the Cammino di San Colombano winds its way along 18 stages, from Villa di Chiavenna, along the Sentiero del Viandante to Lecco and Milan, where the final 8 stages begin, leading to the last abbey founded by Saint Colombano in Bobbio. This is the last stretch, on Italian territory, of a European Cultural Itinerary of over 5,000 km that crosses another 7 countries and follows in the footsteps of a man who helped build Europe. *An additional stage from Bobbio to Coli leads to the cave of San Michele.*

https://www.terre.it/prodotto/il-cammino-di-san-colombano/?utm_source=google&utm_campaign=Google%20shopping&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=229726&qclid=EA1aIQobChMIk9al5_aQ9qIVAeN3Ch3S2ACrEAYYASABEgJXhvD_BwE

THE WAY OF SAINT COLOMBAN, EUROPEAN CULTURAL ITINERARY AND PILGRIMAGE ROUTE IN ITALY 330 KM FROM THE SWISS BORDER TO BOBBIO IN 18 STAGES.

The years around the turn of the second millennium were characterised by the rediscovery of St. Columbanus, which brought him up to date after 14 centuries. Starting from the town of San Colombano al Lambro, where the interest for a deeper knowledge has been rekindled and devotion has never waned, this desire for rediscovery has gradually spread to many other places touched by his passage and his work, through studies, research, publications and initiatives of all kinds that have highlighted the importance that this figure has had and continues to have for Europe.

A dense network of links that has been created between the various civil and religious realities inspired by Columbanus has given rise to ideas and projects in many sectors, but it is thanks above all to the associations of the Friends of St. Columbanus, active in the places of ancient Colombian memory, that we have the idea of re-proposing to today's Europeans the path that the Irish monk travelled on foot or by boat between the 6th and 7th centuries from his native Ireland to Bobbio. With the European Association of the Way of St. Columbanus, founded in 2014, the idea took shape and after 7 years has become reality.

The idea was to repurpose one of the oldest pilgrimage routes in Europe, which winds through eight countries (in order Ireland, Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, Italy), traced by one of the most venerated figures of the Middle Ages, an exponent of the migratory monastic phenomenon, typical of Ireland, which played a fundamental role in the birth of Western civilisation and Europe itself. For the part of the itinerary that winds through Italian territory, thanks to the Associazione Amici del Cammino di San Colombano of Vaprio d'Adda (for the area north of Milan), the Associazione Amici di San Colombano per l'Europa of San Colombano al Lambro (across the southern Milanese plain), the Association of Friends of San Colombano di Bobbio with the GAL Ducato di Parma e Piacenza (for the Piacenza Apennine section), which has mapped and reported on this journey in 18 stages, 330 km long, which will take all those who wish to travel along it from the Alps to the regions furrowed by rivers and lakes, to then reach the modern metropolis and, across the Po Valley, enter the valleys of the Piacenza Apennines, reminiscent of glimpses of Ireland.

The research work started from the few localities identified by Jonah in the Vita Sancti Columbani and then identified other localities that were the result of research and studies carried out in later periods or deduced from documents that formed the basis of their history, or supported by centuries of tradition, or imprinted in geographical places by popular beliefs handed down to the present day. Alongside the route probably followed by Columbanus, it has been decided to follow, in some places, paths already identified later on the ancient Roman roads (as in the case of some stages of the Sentiero del Viandante or the recent Via dei Monaci).

The Way of St. Columbanus is one of those routes proposed to the walking public that refer to the figure of saints who were travellers and pilgrims, whose tomb became a traditional pilgrimage destination. Columbanus is unanimously recognised as one of the most famous pilgrims; he was one first and foremost in his deeds, having travelled more than 5000 km on foot, but no less so in his state of mind, his inner attitude. The 140 km stretch from Milan to the tomb of Saint Columbanus in Bobbio was structured in 8 stages on the model of the Way of St James, with credentials and the issuing of the testimonium. So those who walk the last few kilometres in this spirit will be able to recall the work of a great evangeliser who combined prayer with work and study, embodying the Irish vocation for pilgrimage understood as the definitive abandonment of one's land and one's people, which entails a voluntary exile in the name of faith and therefore the choice to live forever without a homeland, as strangers in one place, as they are always on the way to their true homeland which is not of this world.

In addition to the historical and religious reasons for this journey, there are also important attractions in terms of the environment, landscape, culture, music, crafts and food and wine, which are so varied even though they are concentrated in just two regions, Lombardy and Emilia Romagna.

The invitation to those embarking on this adventure is therefore to rediscover, through the varied beauty of nature in its many forms, that "common home" which Columbanus conceived as such from its very beginnings, and to walk through it with the same spirit in grateful memory of a man who made history, who has not been forgotten and who gives us the opportunity, with this experience, to become protagonists of the history of Europe today.

AID TO THE CHURCH

<https://www.acnireland.org/n-donate>

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MIRROR

Archbishop Shevchuk praises those advocating for peace

THE HEAD OF THE UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH, UKRAINE'S LARGEST CATHOLIC CHURCH, HAS PRAISED RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO HAVE ADVOCATED FOR AND ARE WORKING FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE.

By Filipe D'Avillez

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

The leader of the largest Catholic Church in Ukraine, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, has expressed his gratitude to all those who, at an international level, are doing what they can to put an end to the "horrific" war in his country.

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need) Since the beginning of this conflict the leader of the **Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC)** has been publishing daily videos to encourage his faithful and compatriots during these difficult times.

In his video of Friday 11 March, **Major Archbishop Shevchuk especially thanked all those, including international religious figures, who have been trying to find paths to peace.**



"Today I wish to sincerely thank all those who, at the international and inter-religious level, are doing everything to stop the war. I thank the Orthodox brethren, particularly in Germany and Western Europe, and the Russian Orthodox Church abroad, **which is trying to serve refugees and which is appealing to the church hierarchy in Russia for the need to end the war immediately.**"

The Major Archbishop also thanked the World Council of Churches, which wrote a letter to the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church asking him to mediate to try and stop the war, but as yet to no avail.

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

In a second video message, published on Saturday 12 March, the primate of the UGCC decried war as a failure for humanity. **"War is always a failure for humanity. War**

is always a moment of shame, a moment in which man's dignity is humiliated. When we strive for peace, everything is possible. When war breaks out, we can lose everything."

"In Ukraine, today, we are seeing great contempt for human dignity. With war, man loses his humanity, especially he who starts war, he who starts war diminishes himself in his humanity. **He who kills his neighbour, before all else, destroys the humanity within himself, destroys his own dignity**", says the Major Archbishop.

As the war approaches its 20th day, civilian casualties have been increasing and the difficulties of the conflict prevent proper burials. **"Our heart aches to see thousands of people buried without a prayer, without Christian respect, in mass graves, with no identification."**

"How important it is for us today to show respect for the bodies of the dead, be they military or civilian", concludes Major Archbishop Shevchuk, who **asked all the priests in Ukraine to pray especially for the victims of this war, regardless of their nationality or religious affiliation.**

In response to the outbreak of war in Ukraine the international pontifical foundation **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is sending an aid package of 1.3 million euros.** According to a statement from the President of ACN, Dr Thomas Heine-Geldern, the money is for priests and religious, who are working across the country in parishes, with refugees, in orphanages and homes for the elderly.