



NEA NEWSLETTER



APRIL NEWS



APRIL – Emily Dickinson

An altered look about the hills;
 A Tyrian light the village fills;
 A wider sunrise in the dawn;
 A deeper twilight on the lawn;
 A print of a vermilion foot;
 A purple finger on the slope;
 A flippant fly upon the pane;
 A spider at his trade again;
 An added strut in chanticleer;
 A flower expected everywhere;
 An axe shrill singing in the woods;
 Fern-odours on untravelled roads,
 All this, and more I cannot tell,
 A furtive look you know as well,
 And Nicodemus' mystery
 Receives its annual reply.



SPRING - Edna St. Vincent Millay

To what purpose, April, do you return again?
 Beauty is not enough.
 You can no longer quiet me with the redness
 Of little leaves opening stickily.
 I know what I know.
 The sun is hot on my neck as I observe
 The spikes of the crocus.
 The smell of the earth is good.
 It is apparent that there is no death.
 But what does that signify?
 Not only underground are the brains of men
 Eaten by maggots.
 Life in itself
 Is nothing,
 An empty cup, a flight of uncarpeted stairs.
 It is not enough that yearly, down this hill,
 April
 Comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers.

APRIL - Mary Oliver

I wanted to speak at length about
 The happiness of my body and the
 Delight of my mind for it was
 April, a night, a full moon and-

 But something in myself for maybe
 From somewhere other said: not too
 Many words, please, in the muddy
 shallows the

 Frogs are singing.



A REFLECTION/RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE - Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Methodist minister

Contributed by Eleanor

*When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed.....
The gospel must first be preached to all nations. Mk. 13 7,10*

Let your heart break for this world.
Do not be afraid to stay there at the wound of the world,
Weeping with those who weep.
There is infinite strength and blessing there.

But bear your sorrow gently;
It is held by the One who weeps for us.
Into hearts broken open, the light of love shines.

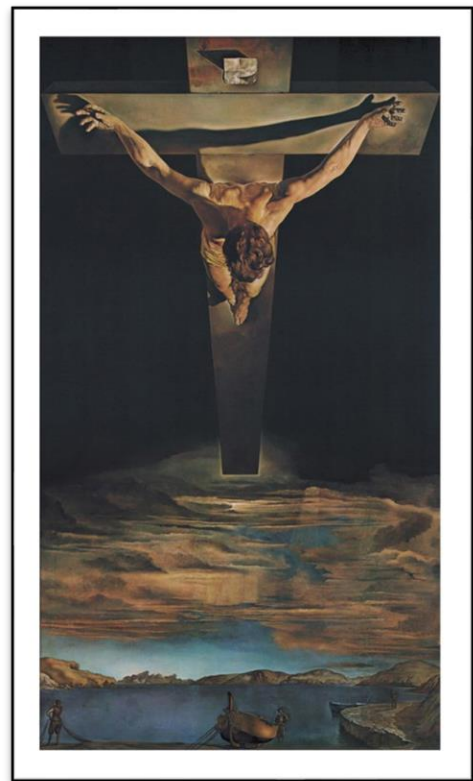
Look clearly on the world's injustice
But look with eyes of mercy.

Take courage. Do not despair at the oppressors,
Who are captive to the spirit of pride and violence.
Bear your outrage lightly; do not cling to it.
Let it lead you to compassion, not anger.
Let every breath be an offering.

We have been sent to make gentle this wounded world,
To dwell as healers among fearful souls,
To shine light in this darkness.

Don't despair that you are unable.
It is not you who does this work: it is God in you.
When you touch the world's pain God enters you.

Let your tears be healing rains that bring life.
You breathe gentleness into the air that all others breathe,
In the earth we all share, you sow peace.
The light shines in the darkness
And the darkness cannot overcome it.



Palm Sunday – Malcolm Guite

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.



The Donkey - G. K. Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

**WHAT WE HAVE NOT SEEN ON THE NEWS... (I don't think we will)
THIS IS YOUR CHURCH, MY CHURCH, OUR CHURCH! FOR THIS CHURCH WE PRAY!**

From Pam via Ellen

More than 6,000 Catholic priests and nuns have stayed in Ukraine to provide shelter, food, treat the wounded, provide spiritual support and administer the sacraments. Some people have gone to confession for the first time, to be prepared for death. They even want to confess over the phone, but the priest



cannot do it. Some have gone to be baptized before going to war and making their first Communion.

Thousands have taken refuge on seminary grounds in two cities; the Church welcomes them and feeds them, gives them a place to sleep and wash, and spiritual support. One shell hit the residence of the Bishop of Kharkiv, but no one was injured, and there they continue to prepare meals to take to two nearby subway stations.

In the diocese of Kyiv, the capital, the supermarkets are empty; there is no bread and water. The auxiliary bishop is in charge of sending what is necessary and even helps to load the vehicles with which they are distributed.

Women and children, about 160, have been welcomed in a seminary; and two Catholic colleges have been converted into dormitories. Seminarians and volunteers serve them. More than a thousand convents and nuns' houses (924 in Poland and 98 in Ukraine) help refugees and those displaced by the war.

They have not seen it because this news does not appear on the news.

Let us be the means of informing everyone.



Joint Holy Week and Easter message from the Archbishops of Armagh

"The truth will set you free." John 8:32 *(extract from 2017 message – still very relevant)*

At the core of the trial of Jesus, Pontius Pilate asks a question, self-servingly and flippantly, "What is truth?" Pilate scoffs at Jesus' idea of bearing witness to the truth. From Pilate's position of power, truth is optional, inconsequential even; truth can be defined how one wants.

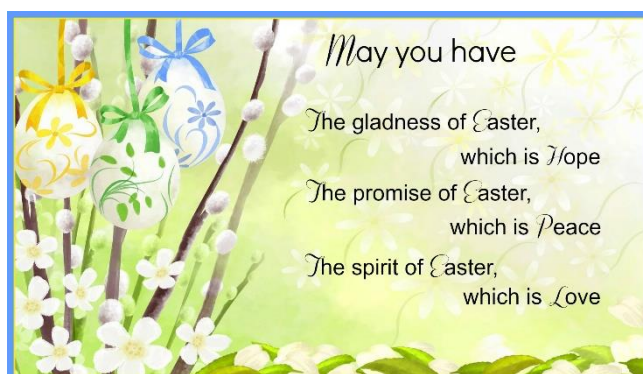
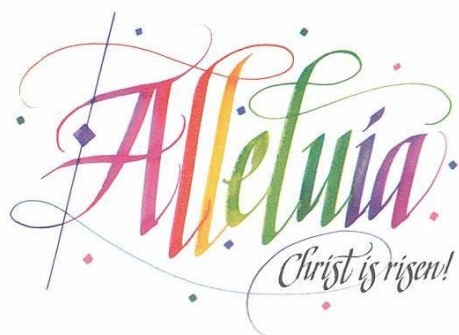
In many ways it seems as though the same attitude to truth prevails in the world of today. People talk of being "economical" with the truth, of "mis-speaking" instead of "lying", and of "fake news" as the news that is inconvenient. The truth, the whole truth about the past can be covered up, manipulated, revised and presented to suit the agendas of the powerful today. But truth matters infinitely. Christians must not be content to keep silent in a world where truth has almost become a disposable commodity – occasionally of value, but capable of being twisted or discarded when awkward, disturbing or embarrassing.

Humanity searches for answers to the truth about our identity and purpose – who are we, where do we come from, how should I live, what is right, what is wrong, what happens when this life is over? For Christian disciples the answers to these questions are ultimately to be found in the dramatic events of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. It is Truth that is at the heart of the story of Holy Week and Easter. Jesus Christ goes to the Cross because he is the embodiment of Truth, betrayed by grubby ambition and squalid self-interest.....

May God in Christ bless you all.

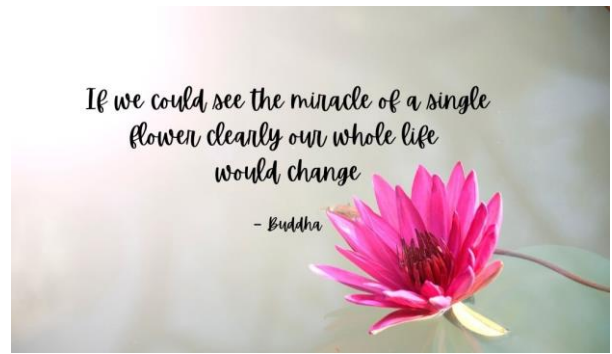
+Richard +Eamon

Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh.



Mysteries, Yes – Mary Oliver,

*Truly, we live with mysteries too
marvellous to be understood.
How grass can be nourishing in the
mouths of the lambs.
How rivers and stones are forever
in allegiance with gravity
while we ourselves dream of rising.
How two hands touch and the bonds
will never be broken.
How people come, from delight or the
scars of damage,
to the comfort of a poem.
Let me keep my distance, always, from those
who think they have the answers.
Let me keep company always with those
who say
“Look!” and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.*

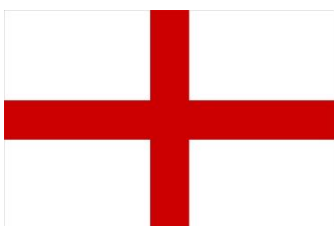


22 APRIL 2022: Today's the day to **TAKE ACTION** not just because you care about the natural world, but because we all live on it. Every one of us needs a healthy Earth to support our jobs, livelihoods, health & survival, and happiness. A healthy planet is not an option — it is a necessity.

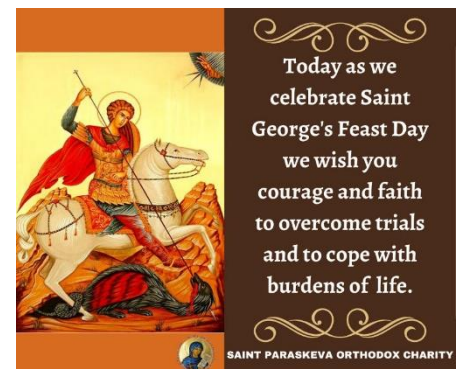
Growing out of the first Earth Day in 1970, our mission is to diversify, educate, and activate the environmental movement worldwide, all year long.

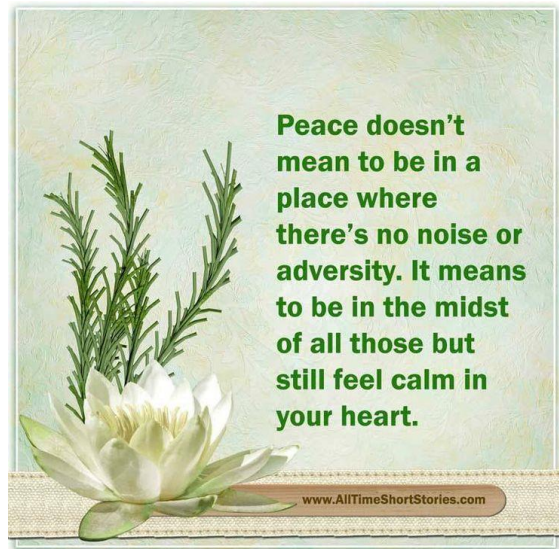


Each year on April 22, billions of people across the globe join together to raise awareness about environmental protection. This global event is known as Earth Day. Earth Day was first celebrated in the United States on April 22, 1970. Today around 1 billion people in 193 countries take part in Earth Day and resolve to protect the environment and biodiversity.



23 April 2022
Feast of
Saint George





Poetry Day Ireland takes place on

Thursday 28 April 2022 and the theme is **'Written in the Stars'**.

Whether you share a poem, read a poem, speak a poem, participate in a Poetry Day Ireland event or programme your own event on the day, everyone is invited to join in and celebrate.

APRIL - James Schuyler

The morning sky is clouding up and what is that tree, dressed up in white? The fruit tree, French pear. Sulphur-yellow bees stud the forsythia canes leaning down into the transfer across the park. And trees in skimpy flower bud suggest the uses of paint thinner, so fine the net they cast upon the wind. Cross-pollination is the order of the fragrant day. That was yesterday: today is May, not April and the magnolias open their goblets up and an unseen precipitation fills them. A gray day in May.



THE WAYFARER – Padraic Pearse

*The beauty of the world hath made me sad,
This beauty that will pass;
Sometimes my heart hath shaken with great joy
To see a leaping squirrel in a tree,
Or a red lady-bird upon a stalk,
Or little rabbits in a field at evening,
Lit by a slanting sun,
Or some green hill where shadows drifted by
Some quiet hill where mountainy man hath sown
And soon would reap; near to the gate of
Heaven;*



*Or children with bare feet upon the sands
Of some ebb'd sea, or playing on the streets
Of little towns in Connacht,
Things young and happy.
And then my heart hath told me:
These will pass,
Will pass and change, will die and be no more,
Things bright and green, things young and
happy;
And I have gone upon my way
Sorrowful.*

A wisdom Story - THE GURU'S CAT

When the guru sat down to worship each evening, the ashram cat would get in the way and distract the worshippers. So he ordered that the cat be tied during evening worship.

After the guru died, the cat continued to be tied during evening worship. And when the cat expired, another cat was brought to the ashram so that it could be duly tied during evening worship.

Centuries later, learned treatises were written by the guru's scholarly disciples on the liturgical significance of tying up a cat while worship is performed.



Source: Anthony de Mello, *The Song of the Bird*

EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS in NODDFA

Photos of the earth day celebration which was held in Noddfa. RSHM from communities in the North of Ireland, Liverpool and Ealing as well as Noddfa - and the staff of Noddfa - were present.

'We started off with RSHM reading the first part of our 2021 JPIC/UN NGO statement (As women of passion.....prophetic response: climate change? care of the Earth.) Then we reflected on the phrases from some of our posters and walked the labyrinth.' Mary Jo McElroy

