



23rd Sunday Ordinary Time – 10 September 2023

## POPE MEETS HIERARCHY OF THE UKRAINIAN GREEK-CATHOLIC CHURCH



Insisting that there is “a need for more prayer, for conversion, and an end to the conflict” in Ukraine, and in a response to a request from Ukrainian Bishops, Pope Francis “expressed his desire that during the month of October, especially in [Marian] Shrines, the Rosary be dedicated to peace and reconciliation in Ukraine.”

The appeal to dedicate October to prayers for peace in Ukraine came during a meeting with the Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, who are holding their annual Synod in Rome.

At the beginning of the nearly two-hour encounter, the Pope was greeted by Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, “who recalled the painful situation in which his country finds itself, with an increasing number of dead, wounded and tortured people, and who thanked the Pope for the affection shown in so many ways and on so many occasions.”

The Press Office noted that the Holy Father “listened attentively” to their testimony, and “with some brief interventions, expressed his feelings of closeness and participation in the tragedy that the Ukrainians are experiencing, with a ‘dimension of martyrdom’ that is not spoken about enough, subjected to cruelty and criminality.”

He also spoke about “his sorrow for the sense of helplessness experienced in the face of war,” which he ascribed to “the devil, who desires to destroy.”

Pope Francis turned his thoughts especially to the Ukrainian children he has met. “They look at you and have forgotten their smile,” he lamented. “This is one of the fruits of war: taking children’s smiles away from them.”

Finally, the statement noted, Pope Francis “recalled the example of Jesus during the Passion, who did not remain a victim of insults, torture, and crucifixion, but bore witness to the courage to speak the truth, to be close to the people so that they would not be discouraged.”

“This is not easy,” the Pope said. However, he continued, “This is holiness, and the people want us to be saints and teachers of this way that Jesus taught us.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, Pope Francis confided to the Bishops “that he remembers the Ukrainians every day in his prayer before the icon of the Virgin,” which the Major Archbishop had given the Pope before he left Buenos Aires.

*Courtesy Christopher Wells  
Vatican News*

## Retired Archbishop Diarmuid Martin—Some Thoughts

Retired Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin has said there is “a huge amount of resistance among the Catholic education establishment” to pluralism in schools’ patronage. He does not believe there will be women priests in the Catholic Church in his lifetime and described as “bad theology” the banning of condoms in the fight against Aids. The clerical child sexual abuse scandals had “badly damaged the church,” he said and, in particular, “the faith of young people”. (Full Article: Irish Times)

## Culture Night 22 September

An exciting programme for Culture Night Dublin 2023 has just been unveiled. The annual nocturnal celebration of culture and creativity in the capital will be held on Friday, 22 September, and boasts an impressive lineup of over 250 participating venues and more than 300 captivating events. As ever, The Liberties and Historic Quarter are well represented. Find full details of the programme at [www.culturenight.ie](http://www.culturenight.ie)



## Kilmainham Mill

The Kilmainham Mill Group are hosting a series of talks to mark the completion of the stabilisation repair works of Kilmainham Mill, recently carried out by Dublin City Council, and to inform and engage the local community in the history and the environs of the Mill and the opportunities for its future.

Weds 27 Sept @ 18.00-19.15

Presentation of stabilisation and repair works carried out at Kilmainham Mill and summary of the updated Conservation Plan and future plans for the Mill.



## A Reminder

The Sunday Mass times for our 3 parishes have changed:

James’s Street 10am

Meath Street 11am

Francis Street 12noon

Sat Mass James’s St. 6.30pm

Sat Mass Francis St. 6pm

Spread the word!

## 23RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Penitential Rite

As we enter into the mystery of our faith, let us remember God's tenderness and compassion.

Lord, you seek us when we are far from you.  
Lord have mercy

Lord, you open our eyes to your presence with us.  
Christ have mercy

Lord, you free us and heal us and give us new life.  
Lord have mercy

May our ever gracious God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

### Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

### Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow human beings you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Alleluia, alleluia!  
God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled Alleluia!

### Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples:  
'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, is between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in

heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

### Prayer of the Faithful

Father, Son and Spirit, you are the communion of Love. Praise and thanks to you. Lord hear us

Lord, may we be your community; a community of understanding, compassion and forgiveness.  
Lord hear us

We remember, with joy and thanksgiving, all those who have died. May we be re-united in the Kingdom of God's Light and Love. Lord hear us

May this celebration of the Eucharist, be reflected in lives of service to one another. May our communion, be a communion of heart, spirit and mind, amid the wonder of our diversity. Lord hear us

We ask your blessing, Lord, on all in our society who are suffering. May your love for them be reflected in the way we reach out to them. Lord hear us

In quiet we call to mind, all who need our prayer and support .....Lord hear us



### Reflection

Forgiveness is one of the really difficult things in life. The logic of receiving hurt seems to run in the direction of never forgetting either the hurt or the hurter. When you forgive, some deeper, divine generosity takes over. When you can forgive, then you are free. When you cannot forgive, you are a prisoner of the hurt done to you. If you are really disappointed in someone and you become embittered, you become incarcerated inside that feeling. Only the grace of forgiveness can break the straight logic of hurt and embitterment. It gives you a way out, because it places the conflict on a completely different level. In a strange way, it keeps the whole conflict human. You begin to see and understand the conditions, circumstances, or weakness that made the other person act as they did.

*John O'Donohue*