



ACN WEEK OF WITNESS

FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

25 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN IRELAND

PONTIFICAL
FOUNDATION





WEEK OF WITNESS

25 NOV – 1 DEC 2019

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The Three states of the Church - Church Militant, Church Penitent, Church Triumphant.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ACN WEEK OF WITNESS AND RED WEDNESDAY



The ACN Week of Witness is an invitation to Christians across the island of Ireland to stand in solidarity with, and bear witness to the heroic example of, our persecuted brothers and sisters in faith across the world.

ACN Ireland, as a Pontifical Foundation, is part of the Church in a most profound way – to help our Church heal our world. Being present with and for the most vulnerable of God's people is vital to achieving this, no matter how perilous the environment. Through the Church's pastoral care, through the Holy Sacraments, through the heroic witness of Christians martyrs, God's Grace provides the Church – and the world – with the means of bringing the Light and Love of Christ to places and people where before there was only darkness and hate.

ACN is blessed to have Our Lady of Fatima as Patroness of our work for the suffering and persecuted Church. Our Lady's prophetic messages of Fatima told of a Church that would suffer greatly in the future: and so it has come to pass that we now find a Church where violent hostility to Christian teaching, culture and even identity has been normalized, if not encouraged, by many governments, corporations and institutions.

The ACN Week of Witness will be held every year from 25 November to 1 December, with many important talks and exhibitions to be held throughout the island of Ireland on the theme of Christian persecution. During the *ACN Week of Witness*, ACN Ireland, with the gracious and prayerful assistance of dioceses and parishes throughout the country, will hold the Red Wednesday Prayer Vigil. Red Wednesday is an opportunity for the faithful to

gather as a community of faithful and pray not only for persecuted Christians – but also for the persecutors of Christians.

Thus, throughout the ACN Week of Witness and Red Wednesday, you and your parish can be a vital witness to the beauty and dignity of Christian culture as well as a testament to the reality of the historic and current oppression and martyrdom of Christian peoples globally.

This year, Red of November will be held on 27 November. In support of your efforts to promote Red Wednesday, ACN Ireland will distribute, free of charge, a parish pack of resources to your participating parish priest.

Resources are also available the ACN Ireland website at www.acnireland.org/witness

You, through your help and support of ACN Ireland, can help make a world in which Christianity can thrive everywhere. In pursuit of this charism and mission, we at ACN Ireland are so grateful for your prayers and donations to help make this reality, by the Grace of God.

May God, through intercession of Our Blessed Mother, continue to bless and keep you all,

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Michael Kinsella

National Director,
Aid to the Church in Need (Ireland)

WAYS TO WITNESS



During the *Week of Witness*, on **Wednesday November 27**, ACN Ireland will also hold our **ACN Red Wednesday** and we invite all Christians to gather as a community of worshippers to publicly affirm their thanks to God, their spiritual union with persecuted Christians and to pray for those who persecute the Church and Her faithful.

During the Week of Witness, you can – even in a small yet profound manner – bear personal witness to God's Love and Mercy for the persecuted Church by:

- **ILLUMINATING** your Church or school in red to show the world that the sacrifice and suffering of the persecuted and martyred Church is an ongoing reality.
- **WEARING** a red tie, scarf or scapular as a mark of the blood lost by Christians in defence of our Faith.
- **PRAYING** for the suffering and persecuted Church at the hours of the Angelus, 1200 and 1800 and during Holy Mass, asking your Parish Priest to consider giving his homily on the theme of persecution and martyrdom in the Church.
- **ATTENDING** a Red Wednesday Prayer Vigil.
- **BLESSING** oneself in public when having a meal, passing a graveyard or Church.
- **DONATING** to ACN Ireland to help in our work for persecuted Christians globally – your donations constitute a powerful corporal work of mercy and, when you order a Mass Card or Mass Offering through ACN Ireland, 100% of your offering goes directly to help support a priest provide pastoral care and ministry to the suffering Church.

'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.'

Matthew 5:11

*Red Wednesday -
St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.*



ACN RED WEDNESDAY

A Prayer Vigil for Persecuted Christians



During Red Wednesday we keep in our minds and hearts not only those who suffer persecution for their Christian faith but for those who persecute Christians also, that their minds and hearts will turn towards the Mercy and Love of Christ.

As a preparation for the Red Wednesday Prayer Vigil, perhaps your parish team could organize a Eucharistic Holy Hour (*Matthew 26:40*) – ever aware that our sufferings and sacrifice only have merit and meaning once united with the infinite Salvific suffering and sacrifice of Christ Himself.

For more information and parish resources on the ACN Week of Witness and Red Wednesday Prayer Service please visit www.acnireland.org/witness

A suggested order for your Red Wednesday Prayer Vigil could be:

- A Opening Hymn of Praise**
- B Welcome**
- C A Red Wednesday Message from a witness from the suffering Church**
- D Intercessions**
- E Benediction**
- F *Tantum ergo* or an appropriate Eucharistic Hymn**
- G Final Hymn of Praise**
- H Final Blessing**

Intercessory Prayers for all Persecuted Christians

Celebrant: Turning to God in faith and trust, we pray for the needs of the Church and of the world.

Reader: Let us pray for the Universal Church, for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our Archbishops, Bishops, Sisters and all those who serve the Church.

Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for Aid to the Church in Need and its work with persecuted and other suffering Christians throughout the world, especially children who have been made refugees or left displaced by war.

Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the faithful departed, remembering especially deceased friends and benefactors of Aid to the Church in Need and for those worldwide who have given their lives rather than abandon the Faith.



Special Petitions

- A** For those suffering because of their Christian faith, that the Holy Spirit may fortify them with the courage to remain strong in faith, as well as with the charity to forgive their persecutors, we pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

- B** For your faithful who suffer for your name's sake, that you would grant them a spirit of patience and charity, that they may be found true and faithful witnesses to the promises you have made, we pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

- C** For those who suffer persecution for their faithful service to you, that they may rejoice to be united to the sacrifice of Christ your Son and may know that their names are written in heaven among the company of the elect, we pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

- D** For those who follow your Son in bearing their cross, that they may, in every trial, glory in the name of Christian, we pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

- E** For Christians in Iraq and Syria, that they may be granted courage, hope, and perseverance as they bear heroic witness to their faith in this time of persecution, we pray to the Lord.

Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

- F** For all our brothers and sisters fleeing persecution and war that they may find haven and protection, and that they may rebuild their lives in dignity, we pray to the Lord. Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

Petition for Christian Persecutors

For those who persecute Christians, that the light of God's truth and mercy may penetrate their hearts, and that they may come to recognize the common humanity of all peoples and cease committing acts of hatred, we pray to the Lord.

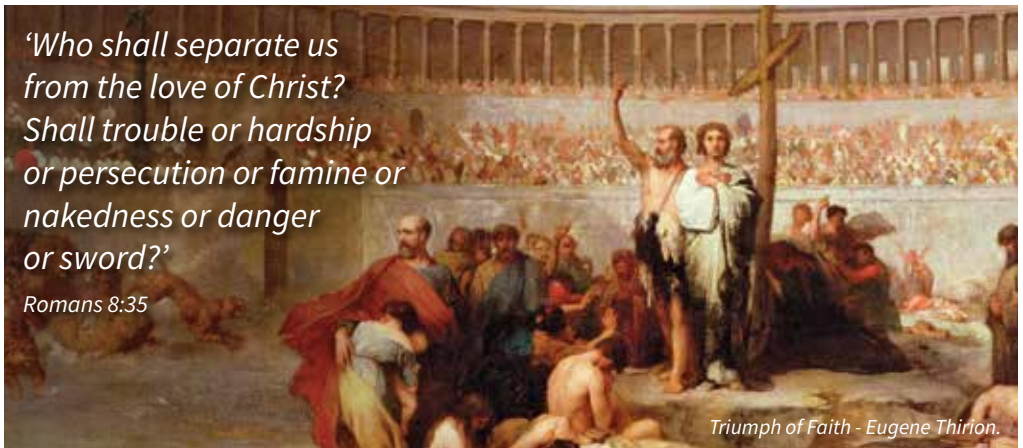
Lord in your mercy: R/Hear our prayer.

CELEBRANT: Lord our God, you have called us to follow you in faith: in faith we also make our prayers to you, trusting in your grace and your mercy. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

R/Amen.

*'Who shall separate us
from the love of Christ?
Shall trouble or hardship
or persecution or famine or
nakedness or danger
or sword?'*

Romans 8:35



Triumph of Faith - Eugene Thirion.

BIBLE QUOTES



On suffering persecution for the sake of the Lord.

ACN Ireland invites those attending Red Wednesday to incorporate the readings from Sacred Scripture below into their parishes Red Wednesday Prayer Vigil. Each quotation is themed on Christian persecution and what it truly means to take up our crosses daily and follow Him (Matthew 16:24).

The Biblical accounts of persecution are not just an historical account of appalling human suffering but a prophetic warning of an ongoing spiritual and existential reality. **Each of us must, ultimately, choose between the way of the world or the Way of the Cross.** In choosing Christ in

this world, it can, and for many millions of Christians does, mean great pain and sacrifice – but we remember that Christ will never ask us to go where He hasn't also, but when we do we are reassured by Him that He has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14:3).

As we navigate our own sin, sacrifice and salvation, we humbly and joyfully call to mind that Christ has always and will always reach out to His children with unfathomable mercy and love, to persecuted and persecutor alike, when we call his name in Faith.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:10 – NIV

“That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10 – NIV

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:12 – NIV

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”

JOHN 15:18 – NIV

“Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.”

LUKE 6:22 – NIV

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?”

ROMANS 8:35 – NIV

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

MATTHEW 5:44 – NIV

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”

MATTHEW 5:11 – NIV

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”

ROMANS 12:14 – NIV

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.”

MARK 10:29-30 – NIV

“My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.”

PSALM 31:15 – NIV

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

1 PETER 5:8 – NIV

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

PSALM 23:4 – NIV

“I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’”

ACTS 22:7 – NIV

RED WEDNESDAY SHORT-FORM HOMILY (5 minutes)



The Irish faithful, through the Penal Laws, became well-acquainted with Christian persecution but many mistakenly hold that Christian persecution is an historical relic never to be repeated again. However, Christian persecution is far more pervasive and insidious in the current era – the Church has never been as persecuted, and there have never been as many Christian martyrs, as there are now. Christian persecution can be both explicit and devious – and the wages of sin become all too apparent in any society where hostility to Christian teaching, culture and even identity become normalized. Indeed, though Christians in the developing world endure existential persecution, Christians in the developed world suffer from spiritual persecution, where many governments encourage – to the point of subsidising – a cultural cleansing of Christianity and Christian teaching from the country's public, political and cultural life. This is precisely why ACN Ireland has established the Week of Witness and Red Wednesday – to publicly hold fast to our faith held in God, our values sourced in His Love, our culture of life formed in His Mercy.

Conscious of this, the ACN Week of Witness and Red Wednesday is ultimately a call to compassion for our fellow Christians, forgiveness of our enemies and the vital importance of prayers for both: time and again we find that those who have suffered most grievously, who have most cause to feel hurt, are the first to forgive – and forgive from the heart. In so doing, the power of the persecuted witness to forgiveness lies in the consequent Divine gifts of peace, hope and joy in often the most desolate and difficult of circumstances – and with an awareness among the faithful that one of Christianity's greatest saints, St. Paul, was once one of its greatest persecutors

The Church thrives when it can be a community of believers peaceably working together for the Kingdom of God, which is why we must work hard to ensure that those Christians who are isolated and alone through imprisonment, torture, harassment or who live under suppression know that they are still united with us in prayer.

UNDER THE PENAL LAWS – IRISH NATIVE CATHOLICS WERE...

- 1 Forbidden from owning or leasing land in their own country.
- 2 Banned from living within 5 miles of a corporate town.
- 3 Forbidden from speaking or writing in their native Gaelic language.
- 4 Banned from practising their Catholic religion.
- 5 Forbidden from educating their children.
- 6 Barred from being the guardian of even their own children.
- 7 Forbidden from entering a profession.
- 8 Banned from holding any public office role.
- 9 Forbidden from engaging in any form of commerce.
- 10 Not allowed to acquire a life annuity policy.
- 11 Deprived of the right to vote in his country.
- 12 Fined for failure to attend Anglican worship.



Sr. Annie Demerjian SJM recently visited Ireland and provided her own testimony to audiences both North and South about the sufferings of Christians in Aleppo. She quoted 1 *Corinthians* 12:26, when she said,

‘...we are all one body — when one member suffers, we all suffer. When one member is rescued and raised, we all rejoice. Persecuted Christians and Christians in the West are not two separate entities, but rather we are the one body! The persecuted Church needs its fellow Christians to support them, yes, but to also pray for them most fervently. Our brothers and sisters are proud of their Christian witness and ask not necessarily that their cross be taken away but that they have help in carrying it.’

The degree of religious freedom is an ethical measure of the respect for freedom of conscience and expression in a society. Our search for the transcendent, for meaning beyond the commercial and ideological, is to a great degree contingent on constitutional protection and cultural acceptance of those whose search is expressed through religion. In charity, we can respectfully disagree with tenets and dogmas and, in prudence, we may provide

limits to religious expressions that could undermine a universal human right – but if the borders of religious expression are defined by intimidation, violence or persecution it is a catastrophe for humanity and a murder of the principles we seek to defend. In all, we must ensure that, whatever our differences, our common humanity is the frame of reference for common resolution to our conflicts. During *Red Wednesday* we remember, in the words of **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**, that when we lose sight of God, we lose sight of our humanity:

We can see from recent world events, and the mobilization of anti-life ideologies worldwide, that Christian persecution can an ideological guise but, in all cases, it seeks to extinguish the beauty of the Christian witness and its unsurpassable affirmation of the dignity of human life. When you next attend Mass, remember the Christian lives martyred, of those who continue to confess their Christian faith even amid the most brutal oppression and of the souls affirmed and saved because of their brave witness. Remember that there are generations of Christians who have never escaped the catacombs, who are still thrown to the lions in coliseums. On *Red Wednesday*, the Irish faithful publicly affirmed their solidarity with persecuted Christians – so that though our brothers and sisters may be persecuted, they will not be forgotten.



RED WEDNESDAY HOMILY – LONG-FORM (10 minutes)



Kindly adapted from Archbishop Eamon Martin's Homily
at St. Patrick's Cathedral Armagh 2018.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the Ascension, before He left them for His place at the Right Hand of the Father, Jesus told His apostles: *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!"* (Acts 1:8)

During this *ACN Week of Witness*, and especially as we gather together this *Red Wednesday*, we are joining many millions of Christians around the world who stand in solidarity with their suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters. Many churches and public buildings in Ireland across the world are being lit up in red, and many people are wearing a red item of clothing, to help bear witness to the reality of Christian persecution. In so doing, we are witnessing to the power and beauty of Christ's Love and Mercy for the human race, even to those who persecute us (*Matthew 5:44*).

The colour Red also points us to the Holy Spirit – the fire of God's love. We wear red vestments on Pentecost Sunday, for the Sacrament of Confirmation and on other Masses of the Holy Spirit. This is fitting; the word martyr means *'witness'*, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives us the courage to witness.

Some of you may be familiar with the Latin phrase:

*Sanguis martyrum semen
Christianorum est:*

the blood of martyrs is the seed of
Christians.

It was written by the historian **Tertullian** more than 18 centuries ago, at a time when the Roman Empire was genocidally determined to extinguish the rapidly growing Christian faith. That era is often referred to as the Age of Martyrs, when the blood of Christians poured out red as hundreds of thousands laid down their lives rather than renounce or compromise their faith in the midst of Pagan culture. But the blood of the martyrs turned out to be the seed of the Church. Far from destroying the faith through fear and intimidation, the cruelty of persecution magnified the powerful witness of these faithful believers. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Christianity was renewing the face of the earth and nothing would stop it.

All that may seem a long time ago, but it is shocking to realise that in the twenty-first century, Christians continue to be persecuted, displaced, intimidated, tortured, and even executed on account of their faith. Places of worship are targeted by violence and destruction. In fact, Christians constitute the largest group of persecuted peoples on the planet, with some 80% of all religious persecution worldwide takes place against Christians. 200 million Christians live in countries where a simple profession of faith in Christ, such as blessing oneself or saying a prayer, can be a death sentence. Indeed, at least 100,00 Christians a year are martyred – many of them children and infants – for simply but resolutely professing in the words of St. Peter – himself a martyr for our Faith – *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."* (*Matthew 16:16*).

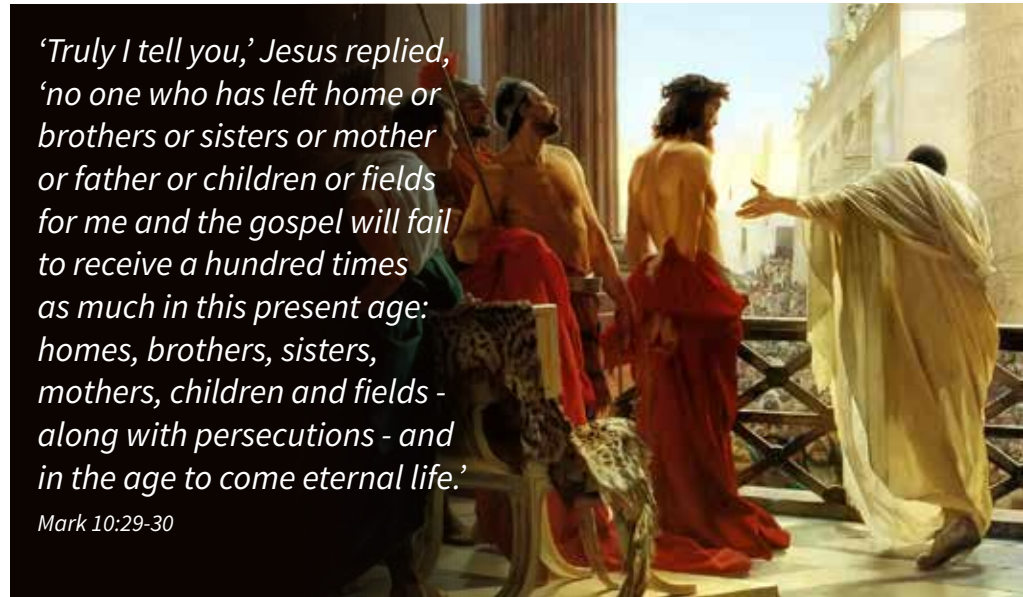
News of some of these attacks on Christians passes fleetingly across our TV screens – e.g. many of you will be aware of the struggle of **Asia Bibi**, whose case was taken up by Aid to the Church in Need, who was imprisoned for 8 years in solitary confinement for simply professing her Christian faith. But sadly, much of this persecution continues without recognition in the mainstream media. Aid to the Church in Need, however, have been working ceaselessly for 70 years to highlight the struggle and challenge of living one's Christian vocation in a world so hostile to the precepts of our faith and the ultimate price so many have had to pay for crying, 'Amen!'

On *Red Wednesday*, we are being invited by Aid to the Church in Need to once more to pause, reflect and raise awareness of this horrific reality in our world and to support their vital pastoral work, where we can, through our spiritual and financial support to priests, religious and the faithful, help make a world in which Christianity can thrive everywhere. In so doing, you can help ensure that the Sacraments – the mediums of God's Grace in our

lives – can be provided to all the members of the Body of Christ, no matter where they are.

The recently published *Religious Freedom Report 2017–2019* by Aid to the Church in Need, highlights some grim realities that might otherwise have remained hidden for many of us, including:

The terrible life-threatening conditions for many Christians trying to live and believe in North Korea, Somalia, Afghanistan Pakistan and Sudan; the reality that in almost all the countries reviewed, the oppression and violence against Christians have increased since 2016; the impact of the displacement and exodus of Christians in countries like Iraq and Syria threatens to extinguish some of the oldest Christian presences in the world; the atrocities of Boko Haram in Nigeria whose genocide has led to the displacement of millions; the hostile treatment of Church communities in China, with widespread removal of crosses and demolition of church buildings; the “*unspeakable atrocities*” against Christians in North Korea.



'Truly I tell you,' Jesus replied, 'no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields - along with persecutions - and in the age to come eternal life.'

Mark 10:29-30

The witness and martyrdom of so many persecuted Christians around the world challenges us this *Red Wednesday* to ask: what does their suffering mean for us? Surely it means more than simply lighting our churches red or wearing a red tie for the day? Let me offer three suggestions:

Firstly, the persecution of fellow Christians reminds us of the importance of reconciliation and peace building between Christians of different traditions – a lesson that is particularly important for Christians here in Ireland. Sadly, many people looking in at Ireland from outside, see a history of division and sectarianism, of intolerance, mutual recriminations, and open hostility within the Christian family – this is a source of scandal, and something which has dimmed the light of the Gospel. Reflecting on our persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world should remind people of faith in the various Christian traditions on the island of Ireland, that we all share the responsibility of leading the way in transforming relationships and in healing the legacy and pain of our troubled past.

Secondly, the plight of persecuted Christians reminds us of the importance of advocating for freedom of conscience and religion which is enshrined in article 18 of the *UN Declaration of Human Rights*. We should all be concerned about the growing incidence of intolerance against Christians in many parts of the world and call on our Governments to do everything they can to prevent this persecution wherever and to whomever it happens. Governments have a responsibility to respect the fundamental right to freedom of conscience and religion of all their citizens.

Those who do not respect freedom of thought, conscience and religion must be held to account. We should call on our Governments, in these islands, to put on the agenda of their foreign policies, respect for the freedom to manifest religion or belief, whether in teaching, practice, worship or observance. The insistence that countries uphold

this freedom should form an important part of decisions to allocate aid funding.

Thirdly, the martyrdom and witness of our fellow Christians invites us to consider how we ourselves witness to our faith in Irish society. Our wounded world needs so much to be healed and enlightened by the Gospel, and we are all called to be prophetic in shining the light and truth of the Gospel into some of the trickiest and most sensitive issues of our time.

Our call to witness compels us to courageously present in public discourse our sincerely held Christian convictions about the dignity of the person and the sacredness of all human life from conception to natural end, about Catholic marriage and the family; about the widening gap between rich and poor and the need for solidarity and a fair distribution of goods in the world; about care for the Earth, our Common Home; about the need to build a society that is marked by peace, justice and care for all, especially the most vulnerable.

We thank God for the freedom of worship and religion but which we should never take this for granted. In many parts of the West, and especially in Ireland, there is a hostility to the profession of the Catholic faith evidenced in our media as well as in our ballot boxes. In many periods of our history, particularly during penal times, the right to be Catholic let alone to express one's faith was never a given. I recognise that to be like Christ in an increasingly secularised world increasingly means being different, counter-cultural, and not easily swayed by the prevailing attitudes and opinions around us.

On this *Red Wednesday* both I and Aid to the Church in Need invite you to pray for the gift of courage, the grace of witness and loyalty to Christ for Christians all over the world and especially for those who continue to be challenged, attacked, displaced or even murdered for the faith we share.

God bless and keep you all.

LIGHTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCHES



The *ACN Week of Witness* will be held every year in participating parishes between **25 November and 1 December**. During this reflective time, the *Red Wednesday Prayer Vigil* is an invitation to all the faithful to gather, giving worship and thanks to God for those who suffer on account of their Christian faith. At participating churches, the church itself will be illuminated in red both as a beacon of hope for the persecuted and as a sign of blessing on all of those who stand in solidarity with their persecuted and martyred brothers and sisters in faith.

There are many ways that we can acknowledge the sacrifice of the martyrs for the Catholic faith – and remind the faithful that there are many Christian communities that never escaped the Coliseum, that could never leave the catacombs.

Q Is your church or building already floodlit?

A If the answer is yes, lighting up Red for Red Wednesday should be straightforward, with the assistance of the person who manages the lighting.

Q Why illuminate with the colour red?

A To remind the Christian faithful, and the wider public, of the blood that has been and continues to be shed by so many innocent Christians across the world – with, most importantly, their suffering and sacrifice united with that of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Saviour.

Q Where can I purchase the red filters for my church?

A ACN Ireland recommends that participating parishes purchase their red filters at:

<http://www.stagelightingcentre.com/>

For those parishes that may have limited resources, ACN Ireland will provide red filters, though supplies are limited. ACN Ireland receives no gratuity for the above recommendation.

Q How long should I light up for?

A To create maximum visual impact, we are asking people to light up their churches and buildings red for the entire ACN Week of Witness – from 25 November to 1 December.

Fitting the Gel

- 1** Cut the gel filter to the size of the light.
- 2** For external lighting (as opposed to theatrical lighting), slide off the external plate of the floodlight and position the gel underneath. This should hold in position when the external plate slides back into position.
- 3** If in doubt, tape the filter beneath the outer plate or in worst case, on top of the plate.
- 4** All of the above should be sufficient for night time use for up to a month – and perhaps longer.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH



St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness and
snares of the devil;
may God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host,
by the power of God, cast into hell
Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl through the world seeking
the ruin of souls.

Amen



St. Oliver Plunkett

Glorious Martyr, Oliver, who willingly
gave your life for your faith,
help us also to be strong in faith.
May we be loyal like you
to the See of Peter.

By your intercession and example
may all hatred and bitterness
be banished from the hearts
of Irish men and women.

May the peace of Christ reign
in our hearts,
as it did in your heart,
even at the moment of your death.

Pray for us and for Ireland.

Amen

Fatima Prayers

My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.

Theological Prayer

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly, I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacriliges and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners.

Pardon Prayer

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.

Eucharistic Prayer

Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee! My God, my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Sacrifice Prayer

O my Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Rosary Decade Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins and save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those who have most need of Thy mercy.

As so beautifully instructed by Our Blessed Mother in Fatima, we at ACN Ireland encourage all of our benefactors and the wider Irish faithful to pray the Rosary reverently with your families every day and make sacrifices in reparation to God for the evils of mankind, the cause of so much suffering and persecution in our Church.

'In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.'

2 Timothy 3:12

Red Wednesday - Sacre Coeur Cathedral, Paris.

THE FAITH WE PROFESS

The Faith that the persecuted live and die for.



The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

The Obligations of the Church

- 1 Attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
 - 2 Confess sins at least once a year.
 - 3 Receive Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
 - 4 Observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.
 - 5 Help to provide for the needs of the Church.
-

The Ten Commandments

- 1 I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before Me.
 - 2 You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
 - 3 Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
 - 4 Honour your father and your mother.
 - 5 You shall not kill.
 - 6 You shall not commit adultery.
 - 7 You shall not steal.
 - 8 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
 - 9 You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.
 - 10 You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.
-

The Great Commandments

- 1 You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul and with all your mind.
 - 2 You shall love your neighbor as yourself for the love of God.
-

What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

The Seven Sacraments

- 1 Baptism
 - 2 Confirmation
 - 3 Eucharist
 - 4 Penance
 - 5 Anointing of the Sick
 - 6 Holy Orders
 - 7 Matrimony
-



The Theological Virtues

- 1 Faith,
 - 2 Hope,
 - 3 Charity.
-

The Cardinal Virtues

- Prudence,
 - Justice,
 - Fortitude,
 - Temperance.
-

The Seven Capital Sins

- Pride,
 - Anger,
 - Covetousness,
 - Lust,
 - Envy,
 - Gluttony,
 - Sloth
-

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Wisdom,
- Understanding,
- Counsel,
- Fortitude,
- Knowledge,
- Piety,
- Fear of the Lord.



*'In the end My Immaculate Heart
will Triumph'*



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN IRELAND



ACN WEEK OF WITNESS

FOR PERSECUTED
CHRISTIANS

25 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER

Christus vincit!
Christus regnat!
Christus imperat!

acnireland.org/witness

*'If the world hates you,
keep in mind that it hated me first.'*

John 15:18

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