

Pope Francis and Ukraine's President Zelenskyy meet at Vatican

By Hannah Brockhaus

Vatican City, May 13, 2023 / 09:52 am

Pope Francis and the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, met at the Vatican on Saturday.

The May 13 encounter — their first since Russia initiated a full-scale war in Ukraine over 14 months ago — was around 40 minutes long.

The two met in a small office off of the Paul VI Hall, which is close to Pope Francis' Vatican residence.



Pope Francis greeted Mr Zelenskyy at the door of the building. The two shook hands and the Ukrainian president placed his hand on his heart and said, in English, "great honour."

The Holy See Press Office said Francis and Mr Zelenskyy spoke about the humanitarian and political situation in Ukraine amid the conflict.

"The pope assured of his constant prayers, evidenced by his many public appeals and continuous invocations to the Lord for peace since February last year," the press office said. "The pope particularly stressed the urgent need for 'gestures of humanity' toward the most fragile people, the innocent victims of the conflict."

Mr Zelenskyy's gifts to Francis were a painting of the Virgin Mary and Child titled "Loss 2022-58," about the death of children in the conflict, and a collage made of bulletproof plate, wood, and paint from a series called "Protect the Defender." The collage also features an image of the Virgin Mary.

The Ukrainian president spent in total about one hour at the Vatican.

He also spoke with the Vatican's foreign minister, Archbishop Richard Gallagher. They conversed in English in the presence of Ukraine's ambassador to the Holy See, Andrii Yurash.

On Saturday morning, Mr Zelenskyy met with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and later with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Ms Meloni and Mr Zelenskyy gave a nearly 30-minute joint press conference in the afternoon before the Ukrainian president proceeded to the Vatican for his meeting with Pope Francis. "We are betting on Ukraine's victory," Ms Meloni said at the press conference. "We will continue to provide support, including military support, so that Ukraine can arrive at the negotiations with a solid position."

Mr Zelenskyy thanked Ms Meloni for welcoming him to Italy and for giving shelter to Ukrainian citizens during the war.

Meloni said Italy was Mr Zelenskyy's first stop in a tour of Europe this month.

The Ukrainian president is scheduled to appear live on one of Italy's state television channels, Rai1, during a special edition of the program "Porta a Porta" on Saturday evening.

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Mary McCormack (1928-2023)



The funeral took place this week of one of our oldest and most active parishioners. Mary (Née McDonnell) a fluent Gaeligeoir, was born in Inagh, Kilnamona, Co Clare in 1928. She move to Dublin in 1950, and later married Thomas (Tommy) McCormack, they had two sons, Paul and Tony, both living in the US, where Mary visited them often.

Living in Percy Place, Mary was a devoted parishioner of St Mary's into her 90s, with a traditional and joyful faith, which she held to the end, sharing and taking immense strength from it.

She was an active and committed parishioner, a community builder. She was a founder member of our very successful **Friendship Club** with Tommy, participating with great humour and enjoyment in all its activities, and encouraging others to do so too.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

To be Recited after All Masses This Week

Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit

for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin

May 21 to 29, 2023

Come, Holy Spirit, revive and renew us
Come, Holy Spirit, inspire and enthuse us
Come, Holy Spirit, unbind and release us

Open our eyes to see God's grace around us
Open our ears to hear God's voice within us
Open our hearts to welcome God among us

Send us out with joy to live the Gospel
Send us out with peace to act as one
Send us out with love to build up hope

Archdiocese of Dublin

*Building Hope through
Prayer, Reflection and Planning*

The River

By Jane Clarke

What surprises me now is not that you're gone but how I go on without you, as if I'd lost no more than a finger. My hand still strong,

perhaps stronger, can do what it must, carving your name on a branch from the beech

by the Suck, letting the river take you,

so I can call myself free. Only sometimes, like yesterday or the day before, last night or this morning, the river flows backwards, uphill to my door.

from *The River* (Bloodaxe Books, 2015)

St. Mary's Summer Diary 2023

22 May, 6:00pm: Alilo: Georgian Music Ensemble

27 May, 11am: First Communion: St Christopher's School

4 June, Croatian Community: First Communion and Confirmation

9 June, 7:30pm: Concert: Catrina Scullion and Maire Ledwith Singers

24 June 11am: St. John's Day Mass: Order of Malta

25 June 5:30pm: Community Hall: Summer Tea Dance

4 July Tacoma Concert Band: Washington State

MASS INTENTIONS

Recently deceased:

Mary McCormack
(Late of Percy Place)

27/28 May

6pm Vigil, Patricia Walsh, Anniversary

9.30, Stephen Magner, Anniversary

11am. Charles Kenny, Anniversary

Masses Times

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm

Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm

French-speaking community mass 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 12.30

Collections Last Week

First Collection: €1090

Share Collection: €705

THANK YOU

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