

James's Street Parish

01-4531143 - Working with Francis Street and Meath Street Parishes



First Sunday of Advent — 03 December 2023

RUSSIA BANS LGBT INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT



fight against Western liberal values. The supreme court handed down the ruling in Moscow, AFP journalists in court reported.

It did not say whether certain individuals or organisations would be affected by the ruling. The judge ruled that "the international LGBT public movement and its subdivisions" were extremist, and issued a "ban on its activities on the territory of Russia". The hearing took place behind closed doors and without any defence present. The judge said the order should be executed immediately - though some rights NGOs said there would be bureaucratic delays. "It's causing a huge panic, because it's completely unclear who will be prosecuted under this ban," Noel Shaida, the head of communication at LGBTQ rights NGO Sphere Foundation, told AFP. If applied to individuals, the "extremist" label means gay, lesbian, transgender or queer people living in Russia could face years in jail. It also opens the way to the criminal prosecution of any group protecting the rights of these communities in Russia. "Authorities could start opening criminal cases against public figures and activists to create a climate of fear," said Maxim Olenichev, a lawyer with Pervy Otdel, which helps victims of repression in Russia.

The ban means "complete censorship and probably difficulties in providing assistance, because we will have to go underground," Ms Shaida, 27, said. Most of her team has left Russia to coordinate support from relative safety abroad, as have other rights organisations since the beginning of the offensive in Ukraine. Ms Shaida said the ban was "quite an obvious continuation of the constant repression against LGBTQ people" in Russia.

The conservative turn in Russia accelerated after the Kremlin deployed troops to Ukraine in February last year. Last December, Putin widened the 2013 law to criminalise any positive public mention of LGBTQ people or relationships. In July this year politicians then banned medical intervention and administrative procedures that allowed people to change gender. Authorities aim to "divert attention from the war, from the failures in the war," Ms Shaida said. And as the Kremlin often paints the military operation in Ukraine as a fight against liberal "decadent" values, Ms Shaida believed Moscow passed the ban to further distance itself from the West. Other NGOs, including transgender rights group "Center T", said they would publish safety guidelines for members of the LGBTQ community. "One day it will be over but for now we need to try to continue to live and save ourselves," the Feminist Anti-War Resistance, which denounces Russia's military offensive in Ukraine, said on social media in response to the verdict.

Courtesy RTE News

Apologies

Our church building feels a little bit like Siberia in winter. Our boilers have broken down. Unfortunately specialist parts have to be procured. Unfortunately, it will be Monday or Tuesday before the repairs can take place.



A Little Lifetime Foundation

are hosting a Special Service for parents whose children have died in St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Francis Street on Sunday 03 December at 7pm in the evening. All are welcome to attend. Archbishop Dermot Farrell will speak at the Service.



Cardinal Burke



Pope Francis is evicting US Cardinal Raymond Burke, an outspoken critic, from his Vatican apartment and revoking his salary. Cardinal Burke is part of a group of American conservatives who have long opposed the Pope's plans for reforming the Catholic Church. A Vatican source told the BBC that Pope Francis has not yet carried out his intention to evict the 75-year-old. And the decision is not meant as a personal punishment, the source added. Instead, it comes from the belief that a person should not enjoy cardinal privileges while criticising the head of the church.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Penitential Rite

Our God is patient and merciful, Slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Let us call to mind that goodness.

You lead us to patience with ourselves and with each other. Lord have mercy

You waken us and help us to prepare for your coming to us each day. Christ have mercy

You call us to live and work in the hope of your final coming. Lord have mercy

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

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like people unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake,

because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Prayer of the Faithful

God, who is Father and Mother, You bestow on us your deepest affection and love. Praise to you. Lord hear us

Lord God, you call us to prepare for the coming of Christ, by a gentle change of heart. Guide us on our journey.
Lord hear us

Lord, in our daily lives, help us to deal with each other with greater patience, understanding and kindness. Lord hear us

May we as a society, accept our responsibility for those, who are poor, and disadvantaged. May our concern be rooted not in a passing sense of guilt, but in a real desire to change our society. Lord hear us

We call to mind all those who have died, and all who mourn for them. As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, we prepare also for that day when we will be united again in your kingdom of love. Lord hear us

May this season of Advent, connect us to memory of the Almighty and all powerful God stepping into time and history as a vulnerable child - entirely for our sake.
Lord hear us

Silently, we remember all who need our prayer and support at this time.....Lord hear us



Reflection

The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before ... What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God's back fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon.

God of hope, I look to you with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for your word and keeping to your precepts. My hope is in you.