



**Col. John Fitzgerald Division #1  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
5115 Little Falls Rd.  
Arlington, VA 22207**

**April 2022**

events, more of a social character, would be desirable – the feeling was “Let’s do something like this again!”



**President’s Message**

**Michael Hines**

Brothers:

Congratulations to each one of you who helped make our annual Gaelic Mass (and the reception afterwards) a success again. A very special thanks goes out to Alex Wilson, Division Vice President and current Chair of our Gaelic Mass Committee. He was again instrumental in arranging for and coordinating the varying logistical, financial, and musical components required to ensure the Mass was possible. Another important shout-out of thanks goes to our Chaplain, Father Val Keveny. His Irish language capability and stirring delivery were shown forth that night like a bright star at the altar as he conveyed the beauty of the sacred words of liturgy and the belief and piety of Irish speakers. He exhorted those present at the Cathedral and remote viewers via the live-stream with an inspiring homily as well as emphasizing the importance of the family in buttressing Christian life and society.

Division members also met for early morning Mass on Saint Patrick’s Day at the Cathedral and then adjourned for coffee, pastry, and spirited conversation at Panera’s in Falls Church. Those who joined me for coffee agreed that similar

The Next Virginia State Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 7 May at nine AM in Leesburg. I plan to attend. Additionally, the State President also indicated that the Brian Boru Degree Team is offering to exemplify the Major Degrees there if at least 20 brothers State-wide sign-up to attend. Check-in for the degree process is 12:30 PM with a 1:30 PM start time. Candidates should dress in a sports coat and dress slacks, present a valid membership card, and pay a \$25 fee. If you haven’t done so yet, please consider participating to receive the Major Degrees.

Our next **division meeting** is set for **Sunday, April 3 at 1:30 PM**. I look forward to seeing you then. We have several special and standing committees that need to gel and help the division move forward. One

example is the special committee planning for a future Saint Bridget's/Saint Kieran's Night dinner. In addition, Brothers have indicated their interest in holding less lengthy monthly business meetings and participating in additional non-meeting social events, which I support, especially now as we continue the transition to a less-restrictive post-COVID public health situation. I am anxious to hear about ideas on (fun) things to do.

There is, however, a more serious topic for our next meeting that we should discuss. That is, what manner of charitable assistance our division may provide regarding the humanitarian disaster buffeting the people of Ukraine. This is not the only charitable activity to consider; extending support to local Seminarians, for instance, is another that has been proposed. Please consider how the division may approach these issues.



## Prayer Corner

Please pray for victory for Ukraine, peace in the world, persecuted Christians, and an increase in vocations

If you would like to include a prayer request in our newsletter please contact Chris O'Connor (703) 283-5720 [chris.oconnor@avendra.com](mailto:chris.oconnor@avendra.com)

