



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

**MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL D. HIGGINS, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND  
TO THE LANSDOWNE CLUB ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH**

May I send my warmest greetings and good wishes to those of you celebrating St Patrick's Day today at the Lansdowne Club luncheon – one of the largest of its kind in the world.

Ireland and the Irish have played a proud role in the development of the political and social fabric of Australia. Irish people are succeeding in every walk of life across the country; in hospitals and schools, public life, as well as at the highest levels of business.

I would like to express my particular appreciation to the Lansdowne Club for the integral role they play in bringing Irish businesspeople together to share and learn from each other's experiences. Irish communities across Australia are stronger and more vibrant for this effort, and the Lansdowne Club plays a vital part in ensuring connections are made and opportunities harnessed that support the Irish diaspora.

Events such as this provide an opportunity to build on the strong bonds and connections already established, and to identify further ways to support the global Irish community.

Over the past two years, our global community has been challenged like never before. The Coronavirus Pandemic called on us to change and adapt our lives, and to demonstrate the values of generous sacrifice and profound compassion that so defined the life of St Patrick.

They are values that are so important at this dark time. We, along with nations across the world, stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they face the shocking destruction, displacement and loss of life caused by unprovoked Russian aggression.

We also remember today those impacted by the ongoing flooding in Australia as they work to salvage their lives from the aftermath of such devastation.

As you gather today I know you do so in the spirit of shared humanity and global connection that has guided us through the difficult days of recent times. I commend you for that and wish you well as you continue to follow the values that will, I greatly hope, lead us forward towards a fairer, kinder and more equal world.

I wish all a very Happy Saint Patricks Day

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir.

Michael D. Higgins  
Uachtarán na hÉireann  
President of Ireland