

Taoiseach to discuss Ukraine crisis with Biden and Johnson amid St Patrick's Day events

Taoiseach Micheál Martin and President Joe Biden are also expected to discuss the strong cultural and economic ties between Ireland and the US and ongoing support for the Good Friday Agreement



Taoiseach Micheál Martin will travel to London on Friday to kick off a programme of events to mark St Patrick's Day in both the UK and Washington DC. Photo: Gareth Chaney/ Collins

FRI, 11 MAR, 2022 - 12:56

ADIFE MOORE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Taoiseach Micheál Martin will travel to London on Friday to kick off a programme of events to mark St Patrick's Day in both the UK and Washington DC.

Mr Martin will meet British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Joe Biden in the coming days where they will discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

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On Friday evening, the Taoiseach will attend a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Vincent Keaveny, where he will meet members of the business community from the UK as well as Ireland. On Saturday, the Taoiseach will attend an Enterprise Ireland business event and roundtable at the Embassy of Ireland.

Mr Martin is also to attend the Six Nations match between Ireland and England at Twickenham, which will include a bilateral meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. It is understood the leaders will discuss Irish and British relations amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Wednesday, March 16, will feature a series of economic engagements including a Women in Business Executive roundtable, a US Chamber of Commerce and Science Foundation Ireland event, and the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala.

Belfast Telegraph

Irish premier Micheal Martin to hold meeting with Boris Johnson

Following his trip to the UK, Mr Martin will travel to Washington DC where he will meet US president Joe Biden.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson (right) and Taoiseach Micheal Martin (Brian Lawless/PA)

By Cate McCurry, PA

March 11 2022 02:57 PM



Irish premier Micheal Martin is to meet Prime Minister Boris Johnson over the weekend as part of a programme of events to mark St Patrick's Day.

The leaders will discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine as well as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Following his trip to the UK, Mr Martin will travel to Washington DC where he will meet US president Joe Biden.

On Friday the Taoiseach will attend a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London Vincent Keaveny, where he will meet members of the business community from the UK and Ireland.

On Tuesday a cultural programme will include a ceremony in honour of the late former SDLP leader and civil rights campaigner John Hume, a Tourism Ireland reception and a performance of Riverdance.

A spokesman for the Government said Wednesday will feature a series of economic engagements, including a Women in Business Executive roundtable, a US Chamber of Commerce and Science Foundation Ireland event, and the Ireland Funds' 30th National Gala.

On St Patrick's Day, the Taoiseach will attend a series of events at the White House and Capitol Hill, including a breakfast hosted by US vice president Kamala Harris, the Speakers Lunch on Capitol Hill, a bilateral between the Taoiseach and Mr Biden, as well as the traditional Shamrock Ceremony and Ambassador's St Patrick's Day Reception.

In meetings, the leaders are expected to discuss the cultural and economic ties between Ireland and the US, as well as the situation in Ukraine and ongoing support for the Good Friday Agreement.

Taoiseach to travel to US to begin a week-long trip to celebrate St Patrick's Day

Last year, due to Covid-19, the Taoiseach held virtual meetings with US President Joe Biden.

3 hours ago  7,616 Views  28 Comments

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TAOISEACH MICHEÁL MARTIN is to travel to the United States today to begin a week-long trip to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

Last year, due to Covid-19, the Taoiseach held virtual meetings with US President Joe Biden as well as Vice President Kamala Harris and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Biden still received the traditional bowl of shamrock in the Oval Office



The Taoiseach is traveling to the United States today to begin his week-long trip to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

The US president is expected to address the Ireland Funds reception, made up of 800 plus guests at the sold-out event.

Every year, the Taoiseach attends the fundraiser for the philanthropic network, which seeks to support peace, culture, education, and community development throughout the island of Ireland.

Martin will receive The International Leadership Award at the event for his longstanding commitment to public service.

Other guests at Wednesday's event will include Daniel Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to the U.S, Claire Cronin, the US Ambassador to Ireland, Dame Karen Elizabeth Pierce, who is the British Ambassador to the US, Andrew Elliott, Director/Counselor of the Northern Ireland Bureau and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi.

"It is an extraordinary honor to have both the President of the United States and the Taoiseach with us for this milestone gathering," said Caitriona Fottrell, President & CEO of The Ireland Funds.

Laois Nationalist

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TAOISEACH MICHEÁL MARTIN TO HOLD MEETING WITH BORIS JOHNSON

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022



Taoiseach Micheál Martin is to meet British prime minister Boris Johnson over the weekend as part of a programme of events to mark St Patrick's Day.

The leaders will discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine as well as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Following his trip to the UK, Mr Martin will travel to Washington DC where he will meet US president Joe Biden.

On Friday the Taoiseach will attend a reception hosted by the lord mayor of the City of London Vincent Keaveny, where he will meet members of the business community from the UK and Ireland.

The Taoiseach will then travel to Washington DC for a series of engagements.



A green fountain at the White House in the US for St Patrick's Day (Niall Carson/PA)

On Tuesday a cultural programme will include a ceremony in honour of the late former SDLP leader and civil rights campaigner John Hume, a Tourism Ireland reception and a performance of Riverdance.

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IRISH DAILY STAR

BIG GAME HAS BONUS POINTS...

Taoiseach fits in key talks on rugby trip

■ Keith FALKINER

ONE of the biggest weeks in the Irish sporting calendar kicks off today as the Irish rugby team take on the old enemy England in a crunch Six Nations match at Twickenham.

Thousands of green-clad fans have made the march on London for the huge pre-St Patrick's Day week clash — with Taoiseach Micheál Martin amongst them.

Today's crucial tie comes just three days before the start of Cheltenham, when thousands more will make the exodus from Ireland to England for the four-day racing festival.

But it won't be all fun and games for the Taoiseach, as he will also be meeting up with British counterpart Boris Johnson for talks around the Northern Ireland protocol and Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

Yesterday, the Taoiseach attended a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London Vincent Keaveny, where he got a chance to meet members of the business community from the UK and Ireland.

Today, he will attend an Enterprise Ireland business event and roundtable at the Embassy of Ireland.

Mr Martin will then watch the Six Nations match between Ireland and England at

Twickenham, which will include a bilateral meeting with Mr Johnson.

It is expected the leaders will discuss Irish and British relations and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

A spokesman for the British Prime Minister said: "You can expect both to be raised in that meeting."

"The Prime Minister has been speaking to many world leaders about the ongoing situation in Ukraine and you can expect that to be raised as well as the ongoing talks around the Northern Ireland Protocol."

Team

Asked who will the Prime Minister support considering Northern Ireland making up part of the Ireland team, the spokesman said: "The Prime Minister has said before around these sorts of events that he is obviously English and will support the England team, but he always wishes the home nations the best in their tournaments."

The day will conclude with a dinner at which the Taoiseach will be guest of honour of the St Patrick's Day Ball Committee.

Tomorrow, the Taoiseach will attend London's St Patrick's Day festival and parade, which this year will celebrate

"community" and key workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Taoiseach will then travel to Washington DC for a series of engagements.

On Tuesday a cultural programme will include a ceremony in honour of the late former SDLP leader and civil rights campaigner John Hume, a Tourism Ireland reception and a performance of Riverdance.

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On St Patrick's Day, the Taoiseach will attend a series of events at the White House and Capitol Hill, including a breakfast hosted by US vice president Kamala Harris, the Speakers Lunch on Capitol Hill, a bilateral between the Taoiseach and Mr Biden, as well as the traditional Shamrock Ceremony and Ambassador's St Patrick's Day Reception.

In meetings, the leaders are expected to discuss the cultural and economic ties between Ireland and the US, as well as the dire situation in Ukraine and the US's ongoing support for the Good Friday Agreement.

Press release

Taoiseach Micheál Martin travels to London and Washington for St. Patrick's Day Events

From [Department of the Taoiseach](#)

Published on 11 March 2022

Last updated on 11 March 2022

Taoiseach Micheál Martin will travel to London today (Friday) for the start of a programme of events to mark St. Patrick's Day in both the UK and Washington DC.

Culminating in the traditional visit to the White House to meet US President Joe Biden on Thursday March 17, the 8-day trip will look to celebrate and deepen the strong cultural and economic ties between Ireland and the US and UK.

This evening, the Taoiseach will attend a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London Vincent Keaveny, where he will meet members of the business community from the UK as well as Ireland.

On Saturday, the Taoiseach will attend an Enterprise Ireland business event and roundtable at the Embassy of Ireland.

He will then attend the Six Nations match between Ireland and England at Twickenham, which will include a bilateral meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

It is expected the leaders will discuss Irish and British relations and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

The day will conclude with a dinner where the the Taoiseach will be guest of honour of the St. Patrick's Day Ball Committee.

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News > Politics

Martin to hold meeting with Boris Johnson over Protocol



Irish premier Micheal Martin is to meet Prime Minister Boris Johnson over the weekend as part of a programme of events to mark St Patrick's Day.

By The Newsroom

Saturday, 12th March 2022, 1:34 am



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The leaders will discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine as well as the Northern [Ireland](#) Protocol.

Following his trip to the UK, Mr Martin will travel to Washington DC where he will meet US president [Joe Biden](#).

On Friday the Taoiseach attended a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London Vincent Keaveny, where he met members of the business community from the UK and Ireland.

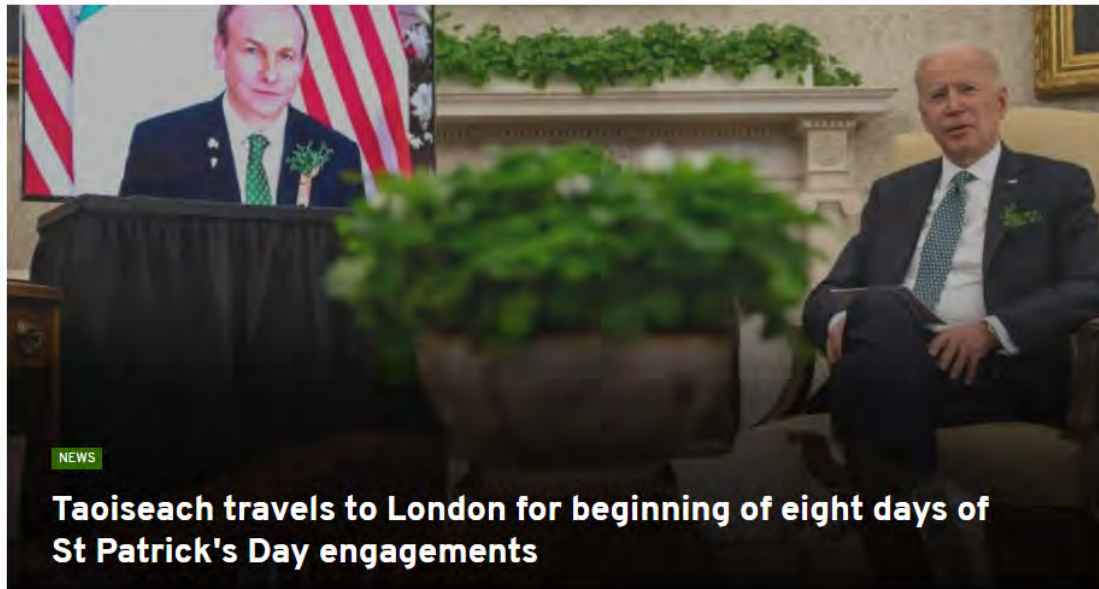


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NEWS

Taoiseach travels to London for beginning of eight days of St Patrick's Day engagements



BY: Connell McHugh
March 11, 2022

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TAOISEACH MICHEÁL Martin will today, Friday 11 March, travel to London for the start of a programme of events to mark St Patrick's Day in both the UK and Washington DC.

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News Letter

Martin to hold meeting with Boris Johnson over Protocol

Irish premier Micheal Martin is to meet Prime Minister Boris Johnson over the weekend as part of a programme of events to mark St Patrick's Day.

The leaders will discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine as well as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Following his trip to the UK, Mr Martin will travel to Washington DC where he will meet US president Joe Biden.

On Friday the Taoiseach attended a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London Vincent Keaveny, where he met members of the business community from the UK and Ireland.

On Saturday, the Taoiseach will attend an Enterprise Ireland business event and roundtable at the Embassy of Ireland.

Mr Martin will then watch the Six Nations match between Ireland and England at Twickenham, which will include a bilateral meeting

with Boris Johnson.

It is expected the leaders will discuss Irish and British relations and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

After the bilateral meeting they will attend the England versus Ireland rugby match in Twickenham.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister said: "You can expect both to be raised in that meeting."

"The Prime Minister has been speaking to many world

leaders about the ongoing situation in Ukraine and you can expect that to be raised as well as the ongoing talks around the Northern Ireland Protocol."

Asked who will the Prime Minister support considering Northern Ireland making up part of the Ireland team, the spokesman said: "The Prime Minister has said before around these sorts of events that he is obviously English and will support the England team, but he always

wishes the home nations the best in their tournaments."

The day will conclude with a dinner at which the Taoiseach will be guest of honour of the St Patrick's Day Ball Committee.

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The Taoiseach will then travel to Washington DC for

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On Tuesday a cultural programme will include a ceremony in honour of the late former SDLP leader and

civil rights campaigner John Hume, a Tourism Ireland reception and a performance of Riverdance.

A spokesman for the Government said Wednesday will feature a series of economic engagements, including a Women in Business Executive roundtable, a US Chamber of Commerce and

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On St Patrick's Day, the Taoiseach will attend a series of events at the White House and Capitol Hill, including a breakfast hosted by US vice president Kamala Harris, the Speakers Lunch on Capitol Hill, a bilateral between the Taoiseach and Mr Biden, as well as the traditional Shamrock Ceremony and Ambassador's St Patrick's Day Reception.



Micheal Martin

Sinn Féin advert to run in New York Times as Mary Lou McDonald heads Stateside

McDonald will travel to New York today as well as Washington DC where she will raise issues such as Northern Ireland and Brexit.

23 hours ago  39,996 Views  55 Comments

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Political Correspondent

Christina Finn reporting from New York

SINN FÉIN LEADER Mary Lou McDonald and deputy leader Michelle O'Neill will travel to the US today where they will reiterate calls for a united Ireland.

McDonald will travel to New York as well as Washington DC where she will hope to garner support from Irish-American political

heavy-weights on issues such as Northern Ireland and Brexit.



Image: Alamy Stock Photo

St Patrick's Day events

During the visit to New York, the Sinn Féin leaders will also meet with Irish American community organisations in New York before travelling to Washington to meet with Congressional leaders and members of the Biden Administration.

The leaders will also attend a number of events to mark St. Patrick's Day.

McDonald will also attend the Ireland Funds dinner which the Taoiseach as well as high-profile American politicians.

DublinGazette

Martin leads St Patrick's Day travels

Paul Hosford

Political Correspondent

The Taoiseach will fly out today for his first St Patrick's Day visit to the US since assuming office.

Government formation talks and the Covid-19 pandemic ensured that Micheál Martin's meeting with US president Joe Biden was a virtual one last March, but Mr Martin is part of a full cabinet contingent that will cover the globe in the coming days.

He spent the weekend in London, where he met with British prime minister Boris Johnson, and today heads for Washington.

Tomorrow, Mr Martin will take part in what the Government calls "a cultural programme", including a lunch ceremony for congressman Richie Neal, a ceremony in honour of former SDLP leader and civil rights campaigner John Hume, a Tourism Ireland reception, and a special performance of Riverdance.

On Wednesday, the Taoiseach's itinerary is focused on business and includes a Women in Business executive roundtable and a US Chamber of Commerce and



Taoiseach Micheál Martin at the head of the annual St Patrick's Day parade in central London yesterday. Picture: Stephen Chung/LNP

Science Foundation Ireland event before attending the Ireland Funds 30th national gala.

On St Patrick's Day, Mr Martin will visit both the White House and Capitol Hill, including a breakfast hosted by US vice-president Kamala Harris, the speakers lunch on Capitol Hill, before a meeting with Mr Biden, as well as the traditional shamrock ceremony and the Irish ambassador's St Patrick's Day reception.

Mr Martin and Mr Biden are expected to discuss the

links between Ireland and the US, the situation in Ukraine, and the Good Friday Agreement.

Meanwhile, Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald and the party's deputy leader, Michelle O'Neill, will also travel to the US this week.

During the trip, they will brief members of the US administration and senior political leaders on Capitol Hill and Ms McDonald will address the US Council for Foreign Relations in New York and an Irish unity

event in Fordham University.

Sinn Féin will also run a series of adverts in US newspapers, calling for a referendum on Irish unity. The first will run today in the *New York Times*.

However, Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney said the advertisements were "not helpful" in the midst of the ongoing Brexit uncertainty around the Northern Ireland protocol, saying tensions remain high in the unionist community in particular.

"To be calling for a border poll effectively, which is what Sinn Féin seems to be now doing in the middle of all of that uncertainty, all of that tension, all of that polarisation, is unhelpful but not surprising," Mr Coveney said.

Last year, adverts which were organised by Friends of Sinn Féin and had the support of a number of Irish-American groups including the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish-American Unity Conference, and the James Connolly Irish-American Labor Coalition, appealed to the Government to promote and plan for unity.

Taoiseach to meet Johnson as part of events to mark St Patrick's Day

Updated / Friday, 11 Mar 2022 21:02



The leaders will discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine as well as the Northern Ireland Protocol

The Taoiseach has said the situation in Ukraine will be "upmost" during discussions with Boris Johnson this weekend.

Micheál Martin is to meet the British Prime Minister tomorrow during the Six Nations rugby match between Ireland and England at Twickenham.

Arriving at a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London Vincent Keaveny, Mr Martin joked that he hopes Ireland can beat England while he is sitting alongside Mr Johnson.

He continued: "We will have some discussions obviously because right throughout the weekend the plight of the people of Ukraine is upmost in our mind.

"The relationship and the very constructive partnership between the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States has been vital for standing up for democracy."

The leaders will discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine as well as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Following his trip to the UK, Mr Martin will travel to Washington DC where he will meet US President Joe Biden.

THE IRISH NEWS

14 March, 2022



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Taoiseach Micheál Martin to hold meeting with Boris Johnson



Taoiseach Micheál Martin is to meet British Prime Minister Boris Johnson over the weekend as part of a programme of events to mark St Patrick's Day.

The leaders will discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine as well as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Following his trip to Britain, Mr Martin will travel to Washington DC where he will meet US president Joe Biden.

To Friday the Taoiseach will attend a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London Vincent Keaveny, where he will meet members of the business community from the UK and Ireland.

Tomorrow, the Taoiseach will attend an Enterprise Ireland business event and roundtable at the Embassy of Ireland.

Mr Martin will then watch the Six Nations match between Ireland and England at Twickenham, which will include a bilateral meeting with Mr Boris Johnson.

It is expected the leaders will discuss Irish and British relations and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

The day will conclude with a dinner at which the Taoiseach will be guest of honour of the St Patrick's Day Ball Committee.

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/republicofirelandnews/2022/03/11/news/taoiseach-micheal-martin-to-hold-meeting-with-boris-johnson-2612627/>



Taoiseach travels to Washington to meet US President Joe Biden ahead of St Patrick's Day

Ciara Phelan · 1 day ago



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Taoiseach Micheál Martin is travelling to Washington DC on Monday where he will meet President Joe Biden.

Mr Martin will meet President Biden at the White House for St Patrick's Day for the first time after he could not travel to the US last year due to the pandemic.

The leaders are expected to discuss the economic ties between Ireland and the US, as well as the situation in Ukraine and ongoing support for the Good Friday Agreement.

But President Biden is also expected to say whether he and the first lady, Jill Biden will visit Ireland during his presidential term.

Taoiseach Micheál Martin has previously spoken of how President Biden has said "try stop me" when he has spoken of travelling to Ireland.

On Tuesday, there will be a cultural programme which will include lunch for Irish-American Congressman Richie Neal, a ceremony in honour of former SDLP leader and civil rights campaigner John Hume, a Tourism Ireland reception and special performance of Riverdance.

On Wednesday, Mr Martin will attend a series of economic engagements, including a Women in Business Executive roundtable, a US Chamber of Commerce and Science Foundation Ireland event, and the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala.

On Thursday, Mr Martin will spend the majority of the day at the White House and Capitol Hill.

He'll attend a breakfast hosted by US Vice President Kamala Harris and the Speakers Lunch on Capitol Hill.



Taoiseach travels to US to meet Joe Biden

Last year's St Patrick's Day celebrations were scaled back because of the coronavirus pandemic.



Taoiseach Micheal Martin is travelling to Washington DC for a series of engagements to mark St Patrick's Day (Julien Behal Photography/PA)

By Cate McCurry, PA

March 14 2022 11:02 AM



Taoiseach Micheal Martin is travelling to Washington DC on Monday for a series of engagements to mark St Patrick's Day.

He will meet US President Joe Biden as part of his four-day trip.

It will be the first time the Fianna Fail leader has met Mr Biden at the White House after last year's celebrations were scaled back because of the coronavirus pandemic.

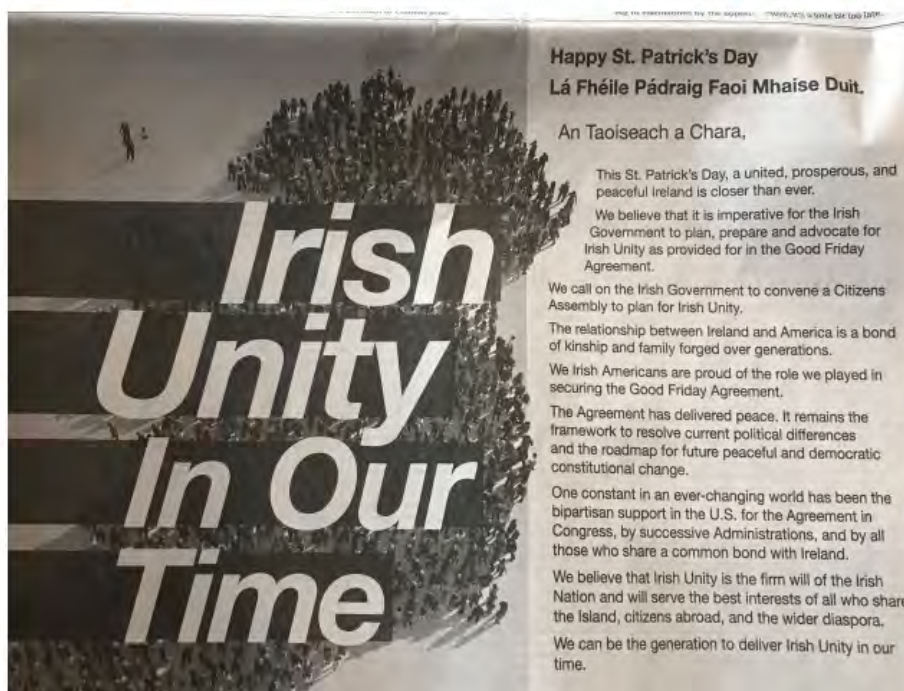
On Wednesday he will carry out a series of economic engagements, including a Women in Business Executive roundtable, a US Chamber of Commerce and Science Foundation Ireland event, and the Ireland Funds' 30th National Gala.

Sinn Féin runs advert in The New York Times calling for 'Irish unity in our time'

Mary Lou McDonald sat down with The Journal in New York today where she said criticism of the ad was 'nonsense'.

22 hours ago  17,283 Views  59 Comments

 Share 22  Tweet  Email



Political Correspondent Christina Finn reporting from New York

SINN FÉIN HAS run an advertisement in The New York Times newspaper today calling on the Irish Government to convene a Citizens' Assembly on Irish unity.

The half page ad addressed to the Taoiseach, which is paid for by the Friends of Sinn Féin Inc, calls for "Irish unity in our time".

"We believe it is imperative for the Irish Government to plan, prepare and advocate for Irish unity as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

"We call on the Irish Government to convene a Citizens' Assembly to plan for Irish unity. The relationship between Ireland and America is a bond of kinship and family forged over generations," states the advert.

During the visit to New York, McDonald will meet with Irish American community organisations, while in Washington DC she is due to meet with Congressional leaders and members of the Biden Administration.

McDonald will also attend the Ireland Funds dinner which the Taoiseach as well as high-profile American politicians.

IRISH DAILY Mirror



RELATIONS:
Martin speaks
outside the
Irish Embassy,
in Washington
and (inset)
Joe Biden

Micheal over for dinner

TAOISEACH Micheál Martin will meet US President Joe Biden tonight at a \$1,000 per plate gala dinner.

It was expected Mr Martin would meet President Biden at the White House on St Patrick's Day but the US President in an unusual turn of events, will now be attending the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala.

Speaking in Washington, Mr Martin said that it is not about "getting anything out of" President Biden and more so a meeting "with one Irish man to another Irish man."

■ **Clara PHELAN**

Although the two leaders will meet tonight, the bilateral meeting between the pair tomorrow in the White House will be official where Mr Martin is expected to raise a number of issues including the war in Ukraine and Irish-American relationships.

Issue

He said: "We will be raising the issue of the undocumented but also how can we continue to

work the existing channels of legal migration through to the US and Ireland.

"We have to develop newer mechanisms that facilitate the way we exchange between the two countries, that are legal.

"We also want to discuss the economic relationship between Ireland and the United States which is a powerful relationship not just in terms of the American multinationals that are present in Ireland but also the number of Irish companies that are allocated in America that are creating jobs."

IRISH DAILY Mirror

Taoiseach in Washington for Patrick's Day events

■ Cate McCurry

TAOISEACH Micheál Martin travelled to Washington DC yesterday for a series of engagements to mark St Patrick's Day.

He will meet US President Joe Biden as part of his four-day trip.

It will be the first time the Fianna Fáil leader has met Mr Biden at the White House, after last year's celebrations were scaled back because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Today, Mr Martin will take part in a cultural programme, which includes lunch for Congressman Richie Neal, a ceremony in honour of former SDLP leader and civil rights campaigner John Hume, a Tourism Ireland reception, and a special performance of *Riverdance*.

Tomorrow, he will carry out a series of economic engagements, including a Women in Business Executive roundtable, a US Chamber of Commerce and Science Foundation Ireland event, and the Ireland Funds' 30th National Gala.

On Thursday, there will be a programme of events at the White House and Capitol Hill, including a breakfast hosted by US vice-president Kamala Harris, the Speaker's Lunch on Capitol Hill, a meeting between the Taoiseach and Mr Biden, as well as the traditional shamrock ceremony and ambassador's St Patrick's Day reception.

In meetings, the leaders are expected to discuss the strong cultural and economic ties between Ireland and the US, as well as the situation in Ukraine and ongoing support for the Good Friday Agreement.

In a statement, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the two men will reaffirm the "close and historic partnership" between the United States and Ireland and the "extraordinary bonds be-

tween our people".

"They will discuss their countries' contributions to the international effort to support the people of Ukraine and to impose costs on Russia for its unprovoked and unjustified war.

"They will also talk about a range of global issues and shared priorities, including combating the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide, strengthening global health security, tackling the climate crisis, and working together on the United Nations Security Council."

MON, 14 MAR, 2022 - 11:06

Taoiseach travels to the United States to meet Joe Biden

Last year's St Patrick's Day celebrations were scaled back because of the coronavirus pandemic.



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The Nationalist

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TAOISEACH TRAVELS TO THE UNITED STATES TO MEET JOE BIDEN

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022



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Taoiseach to meet US President at Ireland Funds dinner the day before White House meeting

Christina Finn · 17 hrs ago



Like 1 Comment 4

TAOISEACH MICHEÁL MARTIN will meet US President Joe Biden one day before their scheduled meeting in the White House on Thursday.

Updated Mar 14th 2022, 8:23 PM

TAOISEACH MICHEÁL MARTIN will meet US President Joe Biden one day before their scheduled meeting in the White House on Thursday.

Biden will make an appearance at The Ireland Funds 30th Annual National Gala in Washington DC on Wednesday evening.



The Taoiseach is traveling to the United States today to begin his week-long trip to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

The US president is expected to address the Ireland Funds reception, made up of 800 plus guests at the sold-out event.

Every year, the Taoiseach attends the fundraiser for the philanthropic network, which seeks to support peace, culture, education, and community development throughout the island of Ireland.

Martin will receive The International Leadership Award at the event for his longstanding commitment to public service.

Other guests at Wednesday's event will include Daniel Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to the U.S, Claire Cronin, the US Ambassador to Ireland, Dame Karen Elizabeth Pierce, who is the British Ambassador to the US, Andrew Elliott, Director/Counselor of the Northern Ireland Bureau and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi.

Taoiseach travels to US to meet Joe Biden

Last year's St Patrick's Day celebrations were scaled back because of the coronavirus pandemic.



Taoiseach Micheál Martin

Cate McCurry

March 14 2022 12:06 PM



Taoiseach Micheal Martin is travelling to Washington DC on Monday for a series of engagements to mark St Patrick's Day.

He will meet US President Joe Biden as part of his four-day trip.

It will be the first time the Fianna Fail leader has met Mr Biden at the White House after last year's celebrations were scaled back because of the coronavirus pandemic.

On Tuesday, Mr Martin will take part in a cultural programme, which includes lunch for Congressman Richie Neal, a ceremony in honour of former SDLP leader and civil rights campaigner John Hume, a Tourism Ireland reception, and a special performance of Riverdance.

On Wednesday he will carry out a series of economic engagements, including a Women in Business Executive roundtable, a US Chamber of Commerce and Science Foundation Ireland event, and the Ireland Funds' 30th National Gala.

Broadcast:

The Ireland funds coverage

U 105.8, Lunchtime Bistro, 16/03/2022, 13:02:16, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Q 102, Andy Preston, 16/03/2022, 12:03:15, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Q 102, Andy Preston, 16/03/2022, 11:02:35, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Cork 96 FM, The Opinion Line, 16/03/2022, 11:02:04, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Tipp FM, Fran Curry, 16/03/2022, 11:02:24, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Today FM, Dermot and Dave, 16/03/2022, 10:54:16, 5:0

Repeated Clips:

The Ireland Funds coverage

Kildare FM, The Breakfast Show, 16/03/2022, 08:00:58, 5:0

Program Synopsis: Waking you up with The Greatest Hits and all the traffic, news and sport info you need to start your day

The Ireland Funds coverage

Red FM, Ray and Jay, 16/03/2022, 08:00:41, 5:0

The Ireland Funds coverage

Clare FM, Breakfast Show, 16/03/2022, 08:04:29, 5:0

Program Synopsis: News and current affairs programme, also including local sports news and local features of interest

The Ireland Funds coverage

Northern Sound, The Breakfast Roll, 16/03/2022, 08:04:07, 5:0

The Ireland Funds coverage

Cork 96 FM, KC and Ross in the Morning, 16/03/2022, 08:03:20, 5:0

The Ireland Funds coverage

Mid & North West FM, Breakfast Show, 16/03/2022, 08:02:47, 5:0

Program Synopsis: News and current affairs programme, also including local sports news and local features of interest

The Ireland Funds coverage

U 105.8, Breakfast Show, 16/03/2022, 08:02:43, 5:0

Program Synopsis: News and current affairs programme, also including local sports news and local features of interest

The Ireland Funds coverage

Sunshine FM, Nick Jones in the Morning, 16/03/2022, 08:01:52, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Shannonside, The Joe Finnegan Show, 16/03/2022, 09:08:15, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Cork 96 FM, The Opinion Line, 16/03/2022, 09:04:05, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

U 105.8, Breakfast Show, 16/03/2022, 08:33:37, 5:0

Program Synopsis: News and current affairs programme, also including local sports news and local features of interest

The Ireland Funds featured

Tipp FM, Fran Curry, 16/03/2022, 10:04:51, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Cork 96 FM, The Opinion Line, 16/03/2022, 10:03:45, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Red FM, Neil Prendeville, 16/03/2022, 10:02:20, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Sunshine FM, Mark Edwards, 16/03/2022, 10:01:23, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Q 102, Andy Preston, 16/03/2022, 10:02:57, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Galway Bay FM, Keith Finnegan, 16/03/2022, 09:04:39, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Clare FM, Morning Focus, 16/03/2022, 09:04:33, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

LM FM, Main Breakfast News, 16/03/2022, 09:04:12, 5:0

The Ireland Funds featured

Red FM, Neil Prendeville, 16/03/2022, 09:04:10, 5:0



Joe Biden to address Ireland Fund, White House reception for Irish American leaders

President Biden will attend March 16, Washington DC dinner and a reception for Irish American leaders at the White House.

IrishCentral Staff @IrishCentral Mar 15, 2022



The President will attend two Irish events over the St. Patrick's Day period, the Ireland Fund's 30th Annual National Gala, at The National Building Museum, in Washington, DC on Wednesday, March 16. He will also attend a [White House reception](#) on St. Patrick's Day in honor of the Irish American community and visit of Irish leader, [Taoiseach Micheál Martin](#).

Biden is expected to address both gatherings, the 250-person reception and the Ireland Funds' 800+ guests at the sold-out event. President Biden, whose family traces its ancestral roots to County Louth and Mayo, has long been known for pride in his Irish ancestry.

He is also set to discuss Ukraine with the Irish leader in an Oval Office meeting.

[Joe Biden to address Ireland Fund at White House reception \(irishcentral.com\)](https://irishcentral.com/news/joe-biden-to-address-ireland-fund-at-white-house-reception)

thejournal.ie

Taoiseach to meet US President at Ireland Funds dinner the day before White House meeting

🕒 Updated 12 hours ago

TAOISEACH MICHEÁL MARTIN will meet US President Joe Biden one day before their scheduled meeting in the White House on Thursday.

Biden will make an appearance at The Ireland Funds 30th Annual National Gala in Washington DC on Wednesday evening.

The Taoiseach is traveling to the United States today to begin his week-long trip to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

The US president is expected to address the Ireland Funds reception, made up of 800 plus guests at the sold-out event.

Every year, the Taoiseach attends the fundraiser for the philanthropic network, which seeks to support peace, culture, education, and community development throughout the island of Ireland.

Martin will receive The International Leadership Award at the event for his longstanding commitment to public service.





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Ukraine top of the agenda when Taoiseach meets Biden

Micheál Martin said he will also raise the issue of undocumented Irish in the US



Taoiseach Micheál Martin is set to meet US president Joe Biden in the White House on Thursday. Picture: Maxwells

TUE, 15 MAR, 2022 - 17:57

ELAINE LOUGHLIN, DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

The response to the war in Ukraine will be top of the agenda when the Taoiseach meets US president Joe Biden in the White House on Thursday.

While the Russian attack on Ukraine is expected to dominate discussions between both men, Micheál Martin has said he will raise the issue of undocumented Irish in the US as well as new mechanisms to allow for greater legal migration between both countries.

Asked what he hopes to get out of the St Patrick's Day discussion which will take place in the Oval Office, Mr Martin said: "Meeting president Biden is not about getting anything out of it in one sense, because it's going to be first of all a pleasant meeting of one Irishman with another Irishman."

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Taoiseach and ministers promoting links between Ireland and US

Updated / Wednesday, 16 Mar 2022 14:16



Taoiseach Micheál Martin and other political leaders are continuing their visits to the United States for St Patrick's week.

In Washington, the main emphasis of the programme will be on business and economic links between the two countries.

The Taoiseach and Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan will continue their meetings with senior US congressional figures, and Mr Martin will present Science Foundation Ireland awards to John and Patrick Collison, the founders of financial services firm Stripe at a US Chamber of Commerce event.

Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald, and Michelle O'Neill, are also meeting the Congressional Friends of Ireland group on Capitol Hill.

Tonight the main event is the 30th anniversary of the Ireland Funds Gala, at which President Joe Biden is expected to make an appearance.



News > Irish News

TAKING OFF Ireland set for summer tourism boom as air travel with America nears pre-pandemic levels, tourism boss claims

Adam Higgins

7:52, 16 Mar 2022 | Updated: 7:53, 16 Mar 2022

At a Tourism Ireland reception in the Kennedy Centre in Washington last night, chief executive Niall Gibbons said they are expecting a big summer boost for tourism in Ireland.

He told the reception that air connectivity between the US and Ireland has returned to 90 per cent of what it was before the pandemic in 2019.

Tourism Ireland's Green Button campaign encourages U.S. tourists to start planning a trip to Ireland and features attractions such as the the Wild Atlantic Way, Titanic Belfast and the Giant's Causeway.

The focus of the Taoiseach's St Patrick's week trip to the U.S will turn to the economy today as he is due to meet with Irish companies investing in the States including the Collison brothers who run multibillion euro tech company Stripe.

The Fianna Fail leader will also address the U.S Chamber of Commerce before meeting President Joe Biden at the Ireland Funds Gala Dinner.

This is the first time a [US President has attended the Ireland Funds dinner in over 20 years](#) - underlining President Biden's commitment to Ireland.



News > Irish News

STRUCK DOWN U.S Ambassador Claire Cronin cancels St Patrick's Day trip to Washington after testing positive for Covid-19

Adam Higgins

14:38, 16 Mar 2022 | Updated: 14:38, 16 Mar 2022

IRELAND'S new U.S Ambassador Claire Cronin has been forced to miss her first St Patrick's Day trip to Washington after testing positive for Covid-19.

Ambassador Cronin was due to fly out to DC this week to attend a series of events with the Taoiseach including [Micheal Martin's](#) visit to the White House to meet President Joe Biden.

Former Massachusetts politician Claire Cronin was appointed as the U.S Ambassador to Ireland by President Joe Biden in December.

Ambassador Cronin was due to attend the Ireland Funds Gala event tonight where Taoiseach Micheal Martin will meet President Biden.

The Taoiseach is being honoured at the dinner with an International Leadership Award for his longstanding commitment to public service.

President Biden is the first sitting American leader to attend the annual Ireland Funds gala dinner in more than 20 years.

M News ▶ Irish News ▶ St Patrick's Day

Taoiseach to meet US President at \$1,000 a plate gala dinner ahead of St Patrick's Day White House celebrations

It was expected Mr Martin would meet President Biden at the White House on St Patrick's Day but the US President in an unusual turn of events, will now be attending the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala.

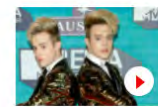
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By **Ciara Phelan** Political Correspondent
09:20, 16 MAR 2022 | UPDATED 11:09, 16 MAR 2022

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Taoiseach Micheal Martin will now meet US President Joe Biden at a \$1,000 per plate gala dinner on Wednesday night.

It was expected Mr Martin would meet President Biden at the White House on St Patrick's Day but the US President in an unusual turn of events, will now be attending the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala.

Speaking in Washington, Mr Martin told reporters that it is not about "getting anything out of" President Biden and more so a meeting "with one Irish man to another Irish man."

Although the two leaders will meet on Wednesday night, the bilateral meeting between the pair on Thursday in the White House will be official where Mr Martin is expected to raise a number of issues including the war in Ukraine and Irish-American relationships.

He said: "Meeting President Biden, it's not about getting anything out of it in one sense because it's going to be first of all a pleasant meeting, with one Irish man to another Irish man.

"We will be raising the issue of the undocumented but also how can we continue to work the existing channels of legal migration through to the US and Ireland.



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'One Irishman with another Irishman' - Taoiseach to meet Joe Biden in Washington



Sean Defoe

07.08 16 MAR 2022

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Taoiseach Micheál Martin will meet the US President Joe Biden on Wednesday night as he is presented with a leadership award in Washington, DC.

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Taoiseach Micheál Martin will meet the US President Joe Biden on Wednesday night as he is presented with a leadership award in Washington, DC.

Mr Martin will be presented with the International Leadership Award for his time in public service and efforts during the pandemic.

With prices starting at US\$1,000 (€910) a plate, the Ireland Funds dinner is one of the most exclusive annual events on the Taoiseach's calendar.

This year it will raise more than US\$1m for charities across the island of Ireland, with Mr Martin being honoured with a leadership award.

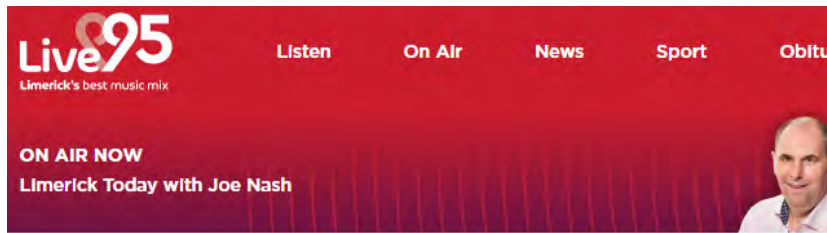
This year he will not be the sole guest of honour however, with US President Joe Biden attending.

It is a rare move for a President and is seen as a sign of Mr Biden's intentions to charge up the relations between Ireland and the US.

President Biden and the Taoiseach will meet at the event ahead of their bilateral meeting and the shamrock ceremony on Thursday.

Mr Martin says it is not about demanding things from the US, but adds he will be again raising issues for the undocumented Irish in America.

"Meeting President Biden is not about getting anything out of it in once sense, because it's going to be - first of all - a pleasant meeting with one Irishman with another Irishman.



\$1,000 a plate for Taoiseach's dinner in Washington DC

< All Live95 News

Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 8:06am

By Live95 News Team



Taoiseach Micheál Martin will meet US President Joe Biden tonight as he's presented with a leadership award in Washington DC.

Micheál Martin will be presented with the International Leadership Award for his time in public service and efforts during the pandemic.

With prices starting at \$1,000 a plate, the Ireland Funds dinner is one of the most exclusive annual events on the Taoiseach's calendar.

This year it will raise more than a million dollars for charities across the island of Ireland, with the Taoiseach Micheál Martin being honoured with a leadership award.

This year though he won't be the sole guest of honour, with US President Joe Biden attending.

It's a rare move for a President and is seen as a sign of Biden's intentions to charge up the relations between Ireland and the US.

President Biden and the Taoiseach will meet at the event ahead of their bilateral meeting and the shamrock ceremony tomorrow.

Micheál Martin has said it isn't about demanding things from the US but adds he will be again raising issues for the undocumented Irish in America.

Some worry the ship has sailed on getting a deal done with current attitudes in the States towards immigrants, but the Taoiseach says he wants to build new, legal routes to citizenship.



News > Irish News

STATESIDE Taoiseach to meet with US President Joe Biden at sold out \$1,000 per person charity event in Washington

Adam Higgins, Political Correspondent
in Washington | 7:00, 16 Mar 2022



TAOISEACH Micheal Martin will today meet with U.S. President Joe Biden at a sold out \$1,000 per person charity event in Washington.

The Fianna Fail leader will be receiving an international leadership award at the black tie Ireland Funds National Gala.

TAOISEACH Micheal Martin will today meet with U.S. President Joe Biden at a sold out \$1,000 per person charity event in Washington.

The Fianna Fail leader will be receiving an international leadership award at the black tie Ireland Funds National Gala.



Taoiseach Michael Martin speaks during a press conference outside the Embassy of Ireland, Washington DC, during his visit to the US for St Patrick's Day

Credit: PA:Press Association

Covid

The Vaccination Clinic Manchester/ PCR Test (

Taoiseach tests positive for COVID during Washington, DC St. Patrick's Day visit

Taoiseach Micheál Martin has tested positive for COVID-19 the night before he was set to meet US President Joe Biden at the White House for St. Patrick's Day.

Kerry O'Shea @kerry_oshea Mar 16, 2022



Taoiseach Micheál Martin tested positive for COVID-19 late on March 16, the day before he was to meet with US President Joe Biden on St. Patrick's Day.

After initially testing negative, the Taoiseach took another COVID test after a member of the Irish delegation visiting Washington, DC tested positive. His second, precautionary test came back positive on Wednesday night.

The Taoiseach was already at the Ireland Funds Gala in Washington, DC on Wednesday night when his positive test came through.

Home / Photos

Joe Biden at Ireland National Gala in Washington DC



U.S. President Joe Biden is greeted by President and CEO of The Ireland Funds Caitriona Fottrell at The Ireland Funds 30th National Gala in the National Building Museum in Washington, DC on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Photo by Yuri Gripas/UPI

[Photo: Joe Biden at Ireland National Gala in Washington DC - WAX031622755 - UPI.com](#)

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President Biden Delivers Remarks at The Ireland Funds 30th National Gala

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[President Biden Delivers Remarks at The Ireland Funds 30th National Gala - YouTube](#)



BRIEFING ROOM

Remarks by President Biden at the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala

MARCH 16, 2022 • SPEECHES AND REMARKS

National Building Museum
Washington, D.C.

7:39 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, hello, hello. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Really. Please. Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you. Please. Thank you very much.

Caitriona, thank you for that introduction. And it's good to be back at this wonderful event to see so many friends — from members of Congress to leaders of faith, business, philanthropy, and the arts and the sciences.

I've — to everyone at the Ireland Funds: Thank you for deepening the ties of the Irish diaspora throughout the world. Your work proves that the Irish are home everywhere — everywhere. And as — Taoiseach and Mrs. Martin I hope feel at home here in America. It's an honor to welcome you back, Taoiseach. (Applause.) It's an honor to welcome you back.

In 2009, at the White House Shamrock Ceremony, when you were foreign minister and I was vice president. The following year, my wife Jill and I were honored to host you both at the — at the Naval Observatory at a St. Patrick's Day breakfast. And I look forward to continuing our friendship and discussing our partnership tomorrow at the White House when we both have come full circle. You're Taoiseach and I'm President; what the hell are we going to do? (Laughter and applause.) Well, it's — it'd be pretty personal for me.

It's been 165 years, like many of you — 165 years since my great-great-grandparents left County Mayo and County Louth aboard coffin ships to cross the Atlantic. Not sure all what — they knew what they were leaving. They weren't sure what they were going to be seeing.

The Blewitts and the Finnegan's eventually settled in Scranton, Pennsylvania. And — and that's where my parents met and were married. It was where my mother, Catherine Eugenia Finnegan Biden, was born and later met — married my father, Joseph R. Biden, Sr. He has — he had the saving grace, on his mother's side, of having a Hanafee from Galway. That's the only thing that saved him. And you all think I'm kidding. I'm not. (Laughter.)

And it was in Scranton where I was born, and I inherited my mother's side of the family's overwhelming pride — overwhelming pride in being Irish — a pride that spoke to both continents' heart and soul, and drew from the old and the new.

THE WHITE HOUSE

One of my great-great-uncles wrote his “Amerikay” letter back to his loved ones in Ireland, yearning to be home. And he said — he wrote, “If the road was made of furze...” — which is a yellow flower with thorns — he said, “If a road were made of furze from America to Ireland, I’d walk it in my bare feet.”

My great-grandfather, Edward Francis Blewitt, was only the second Catholic in the history of the state of Pennsylvania to be elected to the State Senate at that time in 1906 — at a time when many Catholics weren’t elected to office, especially coming out of the coal mine regions of Scranton.

You know, we had a — he had an engineering degree from Lafayette College and the heart of an Irish poet. In 1919, one of his over 100 poems that he wrote — and thankfully my uncle left them to me — he wrote of “his Ireland.” And the concluding stanza he wrote was:

*“From the fairest land, except my own,
‘Neath stars and moon and sun,
a citadel of liberty,
My mother’s land, a rún.”*

A lot has happened since his “mother’s land, a rún.” Things are so much better in Ireland today.

Like so many Americans, that pride has been passed down in every generation of our family. And I might add, my family — I don’t know where they’re sitting — my brother Jimmy; his wife, Sara; and my niece, Missy. Where are you guys? They’re here. What table are you at? (Applause.) There you go.

Unfortunately for Jimmy, we’re often mistaken as the same person. (Laughter.) Early on when I was Vice President — true story — there was a threat as I was driving from — from the Vice President’s Residence to the White House, to work. And they suggested that Jimmy ride in the front limousine. (Laughter.) You’re a hell of a brother, Jim. (Laughter.) You’re a hell of a brother.

As a matter of fact, Taoiseach, Micheál — I — when I was Vice President, I hosted one of your predecessors, Enda Kenny, who I got to know in the Naval Observatory. I’d always have a St. Patrick’s Day breakfast. And afterwards, I took him to the Oval Office to meet with Barack, which was the usual deal, which will — and he turned to Barack after — I think it was the fifth year or sixth year in. And he turned to Barack and said, “God, Barack, let the boy come home. Send him home, will you?” (Laughter.) And Barack said, “Get the hell home to Ireland.”

I’d been to Ireland many times but never to make a connection with my heritage and my family. In fact, six years ago, three generations of my family walked along Garden Street in Ballina, in County Mayo, like our ferbea- — our forebears, the Blewitts, did. We visited a church in County Louth, where the Finnegan’s were baptized, at Cooley Peninsula, down at the tip near Carlingford, where they made their living in both the land and the sea. And we also went to Lily Finnegan’s pub — (laughter) — for spirits and to meet some of my distant relatives.

(Audience member whistles.) (Laughter.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE PRESIDENT: You know it.

And I got to speak to the Irish people at Dublin Castle and thought about my Grandpa Finnegan. We also visited Trinity College. And my Grandpa Finnegan was a student of Irish history — a magnificent place — but he always would point out to me Trinity College was built to wipe out Catholicism in the island.

And so, I had the great honor of being — being given an honorary degree — an honorary doctorate degree. And I spoke to the graduating class at a magnificent place, and I must admit I started — I said, “Grandpa Finnegan, forgive me but it’s no longer — no longer a mortal sin. It’s okay.” (Laughter.) And I received the honorary doctorate so I could catch up with my wife, Dr. Jill Biden. (Applause.)

And a great and unexpected honor: I was inducted into the University Philosophic Society, the oldest one in the world. And that night, the Ireland Fund — you guys hosted the dinner for my family in Ireland. And — and I just want to thank you. A hundred thousand welcomes. I never pronounce it correctly, but it’s *Céad míle* — I got to remember it now — *Céad míle fáilte*. Is that right?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: *Céad míle fáilte*.

THE PRESIDENT: *Fáilte*. Thank you. A hundred thousand welcomes. I have trouble speaking Gaelic and English. (Laughter.)

But it was a trip I’ll always remember. Even made — it even made clear what my mother imbued in her children and her grandchildren: an absolute certitude that we were equal to every person, and every person was equal to us. That was my mom — the Speaker has heard me say this before. My mom would say, “Remember, nobody is better than you. And everyone is your equal.” That everyone deserved to be treated with a word, I think, the Irish use more than any other group of people — treated with “dignity.” Dignity.

My father would no more walk by the Chairman of the Board of the DuPont Company or the shoeshine guy in the DuPont Hotel without saying “hello” to both.

It’s a certitude built on both our nations that we’ve always shared a deep spark. Everything between us runs deep — the literature, the poetry, the sadness, the joy, but, most of all, our resilience. Despite everything, we’ve never stopped being dreamers. And I think we Irish are the only people in the world who actually are nostalgic for the future. (Laughter.)

Think about it. You think I’m kidding. Think about it. (Applause.)

But, of course, that means dealing with the present. At this time, in our time, we’ve seen more change and challenge, I believe, than any time in generations. A once-in-a-century pandemic. An economic unease and anxiety. An existential threat of the climate crisis. And what we see today in Ukraine: an unprovoked war of aggression and just a vicious, vicious, vicious treatment of the Ukrainian people — bombing hospitals and homes and nurseries.

THE WHITE HOUSE

A march of reactionary forces of nationalism, nativism, and isolationism; of autocracies, not just in Europe — we've see it around the world; we've seen it here in America.

But I also see this: the strength, necessity, and endurance of democracy. That we, the people — we're the most unique nation in the world because of our backgrounds. We're the only nation built on the notion of an idea — not ethnicity, not geography, but an idea that we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal, endowed by their Creator. (Applause.) I really mean it.

We've never lived up to it completely, but we have never walked away from it. Wa- — opportunity, the rule of law of equal rights and dignity for everybody.

And while terrible things have happened on both sides of our shores — violence, civil unrest, racial and religious discrimination — we're nations and a people that are self-reflective and self-corrective. Nations where hope runs deep and optimism reigns. Optimism that's brave and digs deep.

My mother used to have an expression — for real. She'd say, "Joe, remember: As long as you're alive, you have an obligation to strive. And you're not dead until you've seen the face of God." That was her anthem. And I can tell you, every one of my siblings and cousins — it was beat into our heads.

That's what I see in the Republic of Ireland today — a global force in culture and in the arts; leaders on the world stage; members of the United Nations Security Council; a country with a past that tugs at our hearts and a future that's going to shape the world.

Eavan Boland, the late Irish poet, who fought — who taught here in America at Stanford University, she wrote of today's Republic of Ireland. She said:

*"Our island that was once
Settled and removed on the edge
Of Europe is now [the] bridge
To the world."*

It has that capacity.

Tonight, let us salute that bridge to the world. A bridge that for generations has gone back and forth between Ireland and the United States, and that grows stronger and more necessary as every year passes. And I mean it. I mean it.

We feel it across America, especially during the week of St. Patrick's Day in cities and towns big and small.

And the White House tomorrow will be decked in green. And I'll also be thinking about the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Day event in Scranton and Lackawanna County, which my great grandfather helped found — where it started for my family here in America.

I'll be thinking about the annual morning mass at St. Patrick's Church in Wilmington, Delaware, where my son Beau and my son Hunter were members. And we called it St. Patrick's Day Society that supported the church and community. The society was started in 1990 by a dear friend, late Father Jim Trainor, who gathered a group of friends in a tough neighborhood. It used to be an all Irish neighborhood back at the turn of the 18- — excuse me — in the turn of the 20th century, but it's now a minority neighborhood; it's in trouble.

THE WHITE HOUSE

And in his home — he'd invite us — we found a way to ground a day of celebration with a greater sense of purpose. And we built a sense of community to restore hope in those struggling, to thread that common bonds of respect, dignity, and love for — among all people, in every station.

Over the years, our St. Patrick's Day Society in Wilmington, Delaware, has raised millions of dollars, like you have done — and so much more — for countless people of all backgrounds in the community.

It all started with an idea — with a spark of passion and compassion. And it grew and grew ever since. A proud tradition of my hometown that reflects the souls of two great nations, and providing that when you're Irish — proving it when you're Irish, when you're American: Home is everywhere. What a gift. What a blessing.

Let me close with this: By the time my great-great-grandfather Owen Finnegan, a shoemaker, boarded a coffin ship in 1844, another shoemaker named Joseph Kearny from Moneygo- — excuse me — from Moneygall — ship — on another ship, five weeks before — he was President Obama's great-great-grandfather. There's a good chance they knew each other, I'm told when I was in Ireland, because they were both — there were both shoemakers. And they left everything behind for an uncertain future.

But I wonder, in all their dreams, whether they could have ever dreamt that each of their grandsons would one day be President of the United States of America. That's America. (Applause.) That's America. Or as my grandfather Ambrose Finnegan would say, "That's the Irish of it." (Laughter.)

And now it's up to all of us to keep the sense of possibility for every person who gives up everything in search of a better life. That's been our history. It's our present. And if we're lucky, it will be our future.

A thousand thanks to all of you. One night in advance: Happy St. Patrick's Day.

May God bless you all. And may God protect our troops.

Thank you so very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

7:55 P.M. EDT

THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2022

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The nation's capital is rolling out the green carpet for Irish visitors.

The carpet pile will be deeper, the welcome warmer against the backdrop of a receding, for now at least, in the restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

This St. Patrick's Day, then, will more resemble 2019 than either 2020 or 2021.

Leading the Irish arrivals will be Taoiseach Micheál Martin who will attend several events including the annual Ireland Funds dinner Wednesday evening, Capitol Hill gatherings on Thursday and a reception hosted by President Biden and First Lady at the White House. The president is also due to speak at the Ireland Funds dinner.

[Biden, Congress Host Irish Visitors \(irishecho.com\)](https://irishecho.com)

St Patrick's Day: Micheál Martin tests positive for Covid on US trip

1 hour ago



JAMES MANNING/PA

Mr Martin was informed of his positive Covid test in Washington, ahead of the traditional St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House

Taoiseach (Irish PM) Micheál Martin has tested positive for Covid-19 on the eve of the St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House.

He was informed of the positive test while attending the Ireland Fund dinner in Washington.

At the time he was sitting alongside House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other guests.

The taoiseach had been due to receive an international leadership award at the event.

However, when the moment arrived Irish Ambassador to the US, Dan Mulhall, took to the stage and confirmed the positive test.

He said Mr Martin had tested negative but then was re-tested after a member of his delegation received a positive result.

He said the taoiseach had re-tested out of an "abundance of caution" and added that he was in "good form" but very disappointed.

"It is a sad thing which I have to do which is to deliver the taoiseach's speech on his behalf," he said.



OLIVER CONTRERAS/PA

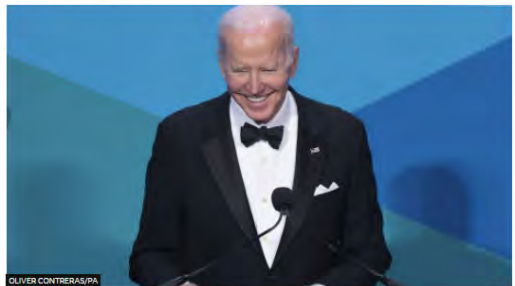
Mr Martin attended the Ireland Fund dinner with Mrs Pelosi and other guests

The news has cast doubt over the St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House later.

The taoiseach was due to hold talks with President Biden and take part in the traditional shamrock handover ceremony in the Oval Office.

He was also due to attend a breakfast hosted by Vice President Kamala Harris.

It is thought the engagements involving President Biden will now be virtual.



OLIVER CONTRERAS/PA

US President Joe Biden spoke during the gala dinner in Washington on Wednesday night

St Patrick's Day: President Biden meeting called off as Taoiseach tests positive for Covid

Martin was due to meet US president in Oval Office for traditional Shamrock ceremony

about 10 hours ago

Martin Wall, Pat Leahy



US President Joe Biden speaks at the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington DC. Taoiseach Micheál Martin is on a visit to the US for St Patrick's Day, but has tested positive for Covid-19. Photograph: Oliver Contreras/PA Wire



Taoiseach Micheál Martin has tested positive for Covid -19, leading to the cancellation of his St Patrick's Day face-to-face meeting with US president Joe Biden at the White House.



Officials said on Wednesday night that they hoped the meeting would go ahead virtually, but the plans for the Taoiseach's St Patrick's Day programme were thrown into chaos by the news.

Mr Martin was attending the Ireland Funds dinner in the National Building Museum in Washington on Wednesday night, part of a programme of events in the US capital this week, when he received the news. Before the news about the Taoiseach's positive test, the event was addressed by Mr Biden, who received a rapturous reception from the 700 guests.

The dinner, held every year on the eve of the Taoiseach's visit to the oval Office to meet the US president, is a major event in the Irish-American political calendar.

In his speech, Mr Biden praised Mr Martin and paid tribute to the links between Ireland and the US, drawing heavily on the experience of his own family.

News ▸ World News ▸ US news

US President Joe Biden speaks passionately about Ireland on the eve of St. Patrick's Day

Biden was the first president to attend the Ireland Funds Gala event since Bill Clinton in 2000.

SHARE



COMMENTS

By Mike Sheridan Editor
14:57, 17 MAR 2022



U.S. President Joe Biden speaks at the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala in Washington, D.C., U.S., on Wednesday.

While Taoiseach Micheal Martin was briefly in attendance, once he was informed of a positive Covid test, he **abruptly left** leaving Irish Ambassador to the US Daniel Mulhall to accept his award from Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

What was said

"165 years since my great, great grandparents left County Mayo and County Louth to board coffin ships to cross the Atlantic" Biden told an enthusiastic crowd.

Ireland was now a "global force in culture and in the arts", and the only country in the world that was "nostalgic for the future".

The current US leader also turned his attention to the conflict in Ukraine.

"In our time we've seen more change and challenges, I believe than any time in generations." Adding "an unprovoked war of aggression and just a vicious, vicious, vicious treatment."

POLITICS

Irish PM Tests Positive For COVID While Attending Event With Biden, Pelosi

Taoiseach Micheál Martin was at the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington when he learned of his diagnosis.

AP ZEKE MILLER and COLLEEN LONG

Mar. 17, 2022, 02:18 AM EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) — Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin learned he had tested positive for COVID-19 Wednesday evening while attending an event with U.S. leaders, including President [Joe Biden](#) and House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#), according to a senior administration official.

Martin — also referred to as Ireland's taoiseach — was attending the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington when he tested positive, ahead of planned St. Patrick's Day celebrations Thursday with U.S. leaders.

The official was not authorized to talk about Martin's condition and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Biden, who spoke briefly at the event, was not deemed a close contact of Martin, White House spokesman Chris Meagher said. The COVID-19 close call came a day after second gentleman Doug Emhoff tested positive for the virus.

It was not immediately clear how Martin's diagnosis would affect the scheduled St. Patrick's Day events at the White House.

Taoiseach tests positive for Covid-19 in Washington

Updated / Thursday, 17 Mar 2022 11:36



Taoiseach tests positive for Covid-19 in Washington

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By Sean Whelan

Washington Correspondent

Taoiseach Micheál Martin has tested positive for Covid-19 while in Washington for St Patrick's Day celebrations.

The positive result was discovered on the eve of his planned meeting in the Oval Office with President Joe Biden.

The Taoiseach is self isolating and is described as feeling well. Officials are trying to see if he can take part in the St Patrick's Day events by virtual means.



Micheál Martin pictured in Washington DC yesterday

The announcement was made in dramatic circumstances at the Ireland Funds Gala dinner in Washington DC.

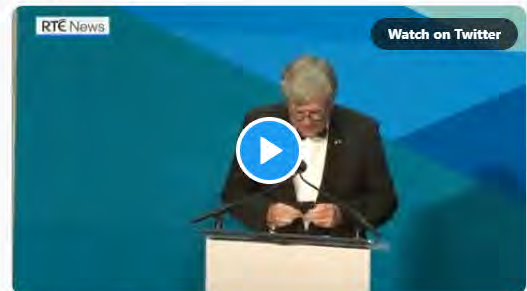
Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi was about to make an award to the Taoiseach, but instead Irish Ambassador Dan Mulholland stepped onto the stage and explained to the 700 guests that the Taoiseach had tested positive for Covid-19.



@rtenews

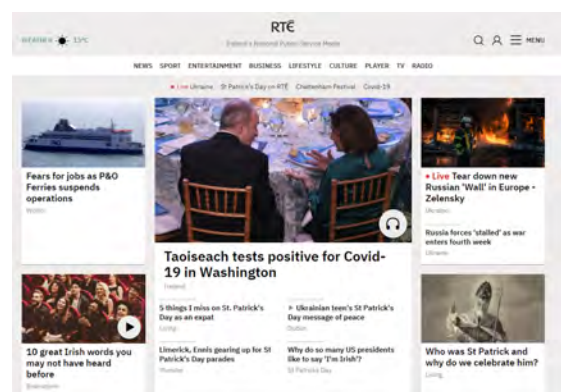
Taoiseach Micheál Martin has tested positive for Covid-19 while in Washington DC for St Patrick's Day celebrations.

Last night, the Irish Ambassador to the US accepted an award on behalf of Mr Martin at Ireland Funds Gala dinner | bit.ly/3ikf2Py



11:28 AM · Mar 17, 2022

22 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter



[Taoiseach tests positive for Covid-19 in Washington \(rte.ie\)](https://www.rte.ie/news/2022/0317/taoiseach-tests-positive-for-covid-19-in-washington/)



Biden's St. Patrick's Day plans disrupted as Irish leader tests positive for COVID-19

MATTHEW BROWN | USA TODAY

59 minutes ago



Show Caption ▾

WASHINGTON — When Irish Taoiseach Micheál Martin tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday, he was already celebrating St. Patrick's Day with President Joe Biden in Washington, D.C.

Martin, Ireland's leader, received his positive diagnosis at a gala for the Ireland Funds, an annual dinner that promotes stronger ties between the U.S. and Ireland.

Biden, who spoke at the event, was not in close contact with Martin, White House spokesman Chris Meagher said. It remains unclear how the positive diagnosis will affect the White House's plans for St.

Biden, who spoke at the event, was not in close contact with Martin, White House spokesman Chris Meagher said. It remains unclear how the positive diagnosis will affect the White House's plans for St. Patrick's Day.

The two leaders were set to discuss deepening ties between the U.S. and Ireland as well as presenting a united response to Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, according to the White House.

WATCH: President Biden addresses Ireland Funds Gala in Washington, DC

US President Joe Biden spoke about his own Irish roots and the enduring connections between Ireland and America during his address at the Ireland Funds Gala in Washington, DC on March 16.

IrishCentral Staff @IrishCentral Mar 17, 2022



US President Joe Biden, who regularly touts his Irish roots, delivered a roughly 15-minute speech at The Ireland Funds 30th Annual National Gala at The National Building Museum in Washington, DC last night, March 16.

Ireland's Taoiseach Micheál Martin was in attendance at the 800-person, sold-out event but [had to leave early when a precautionary COVID-19 test he had taken came back positive](#).

In his remarks, President Biden, who was welcomed with an enthusiastic round of applause, addressed the Taoiseach; the two met previously when Biden was Vice President during the Obama administration and Martin was Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

"I look forward to continuing our friendship and discussing our partnership tomorrow at the White House when we both have come full circle," the President said.

"You're Taoiseach and I'm President; what the hell are we going to do?" Biden quipped, which was met with laughter in the audience. "It's pretty personal for me."

Irish Taoiseach Michael Martin tests POSITIVE for COVID after attending gala with Biden and Pelosi and just hours before his Oval Office meeting with the president

- Irish Taoiseach Micheál Martin left the Ireland Funds Gala in Washington, D.C. early on Wednesday night after receiving a positive COVID-19 test
- Martin was pictured speaking with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, 81
- President Joe Biden attended the event and delivered remarks
- The White House says Biden did not come in 'close contact' with Martin but wouldn't say if the president was tested for COVID yet
- Martin was meant to spend Thursday at the White House with Biden, who is Irish, celebrating St. Patrick's Day

Irish Taoiseach Micheál Martin interacted with President **Joe Biden**, 79, and House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi**, 81, on Wednesday night shortly before he tested positive for COVID-19.

Biden's contact with Martin, however, did not fall under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**) guidelines for a 'close contact,' a White House communications aide told DailyMail.com.

The official, however, declined to answer whether the president was tested yet for **coronavirus**.



Irish Taoiseach Micheál Martin (left) speaks with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, 81, (right) at the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. before he received a positive COVID-19 test and left the event

WHITE HOUSE

Irish prime minister, who attended Biden event, tests positive for Covid

Prime Minister Micheál Martin interacted briefly with President Joe Biden at the Ireland Funds Gala in Washington.



Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin at the St. Patrick's Day parade in London on Sunday. James Manning / PA Images via Getty Images

March 17, 2022, 4:59 AM GMT / Source: Reuters

By Phil Helsel and Kelly O'Donnell

Ireland's prime minister tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday before he interacted with [President Joe Biden](#) at a Washington gala.

Biden briefly interacted with the Irish Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, at the Ireland Funds Gala, where both leaders were masked, a source familiar with the situation said.

Their interaction did not meet the 15-minute close contact definition, the source said.

Martin left the event after the positive Covid test was returned and is not experiencing symptoms, the source said.

LATEST | 'This year we're meeting virtually across the road' - Micheál Martin meets Joe Biden virtually in the White House



US President Joe Biden meeting virtually with Taoiseach Micheál Martin in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC today. Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images)



Gabija Gataveckaite

March 17 2022 12:45 PM



Taoiseach [Micheál Martin](#) has met US President [Joe Biden](#) virtually in the White House, where Mr Biden thanked him for taking over 7,000 Ukrainian refugees.

He appeared via tele conference after last night testing positive for Covid-19 from Blair House, where he is currently staying.

"Last year, we met virtually across the Atlantic, this year we're meeting virtually across the road," said Mr Martin.

"So we're getting closer," laughed Mr Martin.

"Of course, it is unfortunate, but it is no more than that."

"It reminds us of the importance of the vaccine."

Mr Biden thanked Mr Martin for Ireland taking in over 7,000 Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war.

"It speaks so loudly about your principles," he said.

[‘This year we’re meeting virtually across the road’ – Micheál Martin meets Joe Biden virtually in the White House - Independent.ie](#)



4 days ago

Taoiseach tests positive for Covid-19 in Washington during St Patrick's Day visit

28 Shares



KATY BRENNAN

It's understood that the Taoiseach is self-isolating and feeling well.

Taoiseach Micheál Martin has tested positive for Covid-19.

He is currently in Washington D.C. for St Patrick's Day-related celebrations.

He will now no longer be able to meet with US president Joe Biden in person on Thursday as part of the traditional shamrock ceremony at the White House.

It has been suggested that the event may now take place in a virtual capacity.

The news was revealed at the Ireland Funds Gala dinner in Washington on Wednesday evening, where the Taoiseach had been due to accept an award.

Irish Ambassador Daniel Mulhall took to the stage instead and explained to guests that the Taoiseach had unfortunately tested positive for Covid-19.

"I know you will all join with me in wishing the Taoiseach a speedy recovery," he told the audience.

<https://www.joe.ie/news/taoiseach-covid-positive-744482>

THE IRISH NEWS

Taoiseach Micheál Martin tests positive for Covid-19 in Washington DC



Taoiseach Michael Martin taking off a mask at a press conference, during his visit to the US for St Patrick's Day. Picture date: Wednesday March 16, 2022. Picture by Oliver Contreras/PA Wire

Jonathan McCambridge in Washington and Dominic McGrath, PA

Twitter Facebook Google+ Email LinkedIn Print

17 March, 2022 06:48

Taoiseach Micheál Martin has tested positive for Covid-19.

It means he will be unable to meet US President Joe Biden in person later today as part of the traditional shamrock ceremony.

Mr Martin had been due to speak at the 30th anniversary of the Ireland Funds Gala dinner yesterday evening.

He left the gathering after the positive result was confirmed.

Mr Martin's speech was instead given by Irish Ambassador to the US, Daniel Mulhall.

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/republicofirelandnews/2022/03/17/news/taoiseach-micheal-martin-tests-positive-for-covid-19-in-washington-dc-2616828/>

The New York Times

**Biden cancels in-person meetings
with the Irish prime minister, who
tested positive for the coronavirus.**



By Michael D. Shear, Ed O'Loughlin, Alyssa Lukpat, Emily Cochrane, Adeel Hassan and Alexandra E. Petri

Published March 17, 2022 Updated March 21, 2022

President Biden canceled his face-to-face meetings with Prime Minister Micheal Martin of Ireland on Thursday after the prime minister received a positive result on a coronavirus test during a gala event in Washington on Wednesday night that both men attended.

Daniel Mulhall, Ireland's ambassador to the United States, confirmed the positive test early Thursday, complicating the prime minister's plans to spend the day with Mr. Biden for traditional St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Mr. Biden and Mr. Martin instead met virtually on Thursday morning, with Mr. Biden seated near a television monitor showing Mr. Martin, with a bowl of shamrock on a coffee table. The president said he was "deeply sorry for the inconvenience" for the virtual format.



Irish PM tests positive for COVID-19 during visit to DC

BY BRAD DRESS - 03/16/22 11:16 PM EDT

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SENATE — 7H 5M AGO

Moderna asks FDA to authorize second booster dose for all adults



© Getty Images

Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday night and had to leave an event in Washington, D.C., which he attended along with [President Biden](#) and House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#).

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Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday night and had to leave an event in Washington, D.C., which he attended along with [President Biden](#) and House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#).

Martin, who was photographed sitting next to Pelosi, was forced to leave the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala at the National Building Museum after learning of his positive test, according to [Politico](#).

John Hudson with The Washington Post [tweeted](#) that Biden interacted with Martin, but a White House official told the reporter that Biden was not considered a "close contact" of the prime minister, meaning he was not within his vicinity for fifteen or more minutes.

The news comes after second gentleman [Doug Emhoff](#) [tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday](#), canceling an appearance with Vice President Harris and Biden for an event on Equal Pay Day.

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Irish Taoiseach Micheál Martin tests positive for COVID and leaves White House St. Patrick's Day event

Published: March 17, 2022 at 8:07 a.m. ET

Irish Taoiseach, or Prime Minister, Micheál Martin tested positive for COVID-19 and had to abruptly leave a St Patrick's Day celebration at the White House late Wednesday, [according to BBC News](#) and other media reports. Martin was attending the Ireland Fund dinner, at which he was to be presented an international leadership award, and was seated beside House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other guests. Martin was replaced by Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Dan Mulhall, who delivered his speech on his behalf. Martin is not expected to participate in the traditional shamrock handover ceremony in the Oval Office on Thursday.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/irish-taoiseach-micheal-martin-tests-positive-for-covid-and-leaves-white-house-st-patricks-day-event-2022-03-11>

IRISH PRIME MINISTER TESTS POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS AFTER INTERACTING WITH JOE BIDEN



2,364



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PARLER



TWEET



Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin tested positive for the coronavirus on Wednesday night, just after interacting with President Joe Biden at an event.

Martin reportedly learned he tested positive for the coronavirus during the Ireland Fund's 30th National Gala in Washington, DC. Both Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi attended the event where the president delivered a speech.

"I look forward to continuing our friendship and discussing our partnership tomorrow at the White House," Biden said at the event.



John Hudson ✓

@John_Hudson



I'm told that President Biden interacted with the Taoiseach (who has tested positive for COVID) just before the dinner started at the National Building Museum tonight. A White House official says he was not a close contact. That's defined as being in vicinity for 15 minutes +



Mark Armstrong @irishmediamad

In breaking news the Taoiseach has tested positive for Covid 19 this evening before his meeting with the @POTUS tomorrow at the White House . He has been removed from the Ireland Funds Gala .







Late Breakfast With Clare McKenna
09:00 - 11:00



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Taoiseach will not meet Joe Biden at White House after testing positive for COVID


Taoiseach Micheál Martin has tested positive for COVID-19.

It means his meetings with US President Joe Biden tomorrow are likely to be cancelled.


The Taoiseach tested negative on an antigen this evening but, after a member of his delegation returned a positive result, a PCR test was carried out.

He was then whisked away from a gala dinner in Washington DC.



Seán Defoe 


@SeanDefoe



Replying to @SeanDefoe

I'm told Joe Biden isn't considered a close contact. Micheál Martin was sitting next to Nancy Pelosi for a while at tonight's dinner before the test result

12:50 AM · Mar 17, 2022



Politics

Irish Taoiseach Michéal Martin was at an event with Biden before he tested positive for COVID-19

GRACE PANETTA | March 17, 2022 1:33 PM



Irish Taoiseach Michel Martin had contact with Biden before testing positive for COVID-19.



President Joe Biden came into contact with Irish Taoiseach Michel Martin before the Irish leader tested positive for COVID-19, [the Washington Post reported](#).

Martin received his positive test results at an Ireland Funds National Gala where Biden was also present, but White House officials told the Post that the two leaders did not have close contact, [which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define](#) as being within six feet of a person for a cumulative 15 minutes.

The Taoiseach's positive test threw cold water on his St. Patrick's Day plans, which included a 10:30 am meeting with Biden in the Oval Office and the yearly St. Patrick's Day Friends of Ireland lunch hosted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Capitol Hill.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki joked in her Tuesday briefing that the Taoiseach's visit with Biden, who is Irish-American, was going to be the "best day of the year."

Martin's office said in a statement that the Taoiseach was feeling well and isolating, and that his team was "exploring alternatives to the in-person programme of events."

The White House [updated Biden's schedule on Thursday morning](#) to make Biden and Martin's scheduled bilateral meeting a virtual instead of an in-person event.

[President Barack Obama](#), [Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff](#), and a [number of House Democratic lawmakers](#) who attended a policy retreat in Philadelphia over the weekend have also tested positive for COVID-19 in recent days.

[Irish Taoiseach Michéal Martin was at an event with Biden before he tested positive for COVID-19 | Business Insider Africa](#)

News > Politics

Taoiseach Micheál Martin self isolating in Washington after testing positive for Covid-19 during St Patrick's Day celebrations

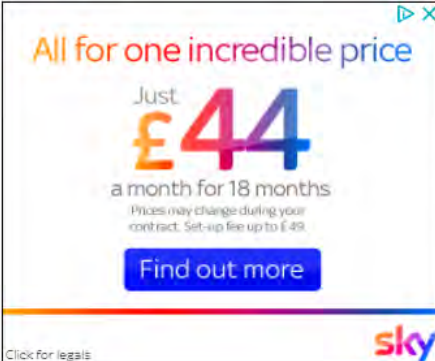
Taoiseach (Irish PM) Micheál Martin has tested positive for Covid-19 on the eve of the St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House.

According to a report on the BBC he was informed of the positive test while attending the Ireland Fund dinner in [Washington](#).

At the time he was sitting alongside House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other guests.

He had been due to receive an international leadership award at the event.

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However, when the moment arrived Irish Ambassador to the US, Dan Mulhall, took to the stage and confirmed the positive test.



He said Mr Martin had tested negative but then was re-tested after a member of his delegation received a positive result.

He said the taoiseach had re-tested out of an "abundance of caution" and added that he was in "good form" but very disappointed.

"It is a sad thing which I have to do which is to deliver the taoiseach's speech on his behalf," he said.

[Taoiseach Micheál Martin self isolating in Washington after testing positive for Covid-19 during St Patrick's Day celebrations](#) | [Belfast News Letter](#)

POLITICO

POLITICS

Covid-positive Irish prime minister leaves event where he sat next to Pelosi

On Wednesday night, the leader had to leave the Ireland Funds Gala event, where he sat next to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and where the president gave a speech.



Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin's positive test for Covid-19 scrambled Washington's plans for St. Patrick's Day and comes amid fresh concerns about a new wave in the pandemic.

Martin tested positive for Covid on Wednesday night and had to leave the Ireland Funds Gala event, where he was photographed sitting maskless beside Speaker Nancy Pelosi. President Joe Biden on Thursday confirmed that he and Martin also spoke for more than seven minutes at the event.

Pelosi tested negative with a PCR on Thursday, her office said. It was not clear when Biden would next be tested. But his in-person meeting with Martin slated for the Oval Office on Thursday became a virtual event instead with the two leaders speaking via video. The entire Irish delegation was prevented from visiting the White House because they were considered close contacts with Martin.

This is the second time in a week that the White House has been touched by Covid at a moment when it is looking to turn the page on the virus even as cases begin to climb in parts of the country and surge in Europe.

[Covid-positive Irish prime minister leaves event where he sat next to Pelosi -](#)

[POLITICO](#)

THE IRISH TIMES

Fri, Mar 18, 2022

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Stephen Collins: Irish-US links crucial in keeping Johnson to his word

Despite common front over Ukraine crisis, UK and EU still poles apart on NI protocol

🕒 about 8 hours ago

The last-minute cancellation of the Taoiseach's meeting with US president Joe Biden at the White House on Thursday was very unfortunate for Micheál Martin on a personal level, but the St Patrick's Day events in Washington served to highlight the importance of the US link for Ireland in the ongoing row over the Northern Ireland protocol.

Martin was unable to travel to Washington last year because of the Covid pandemic so it was doubly unfortunate that he had to miss the opportunity to meet the US president given that his current term as Taoiseach will be over by the time next year's event comes around.

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NANCY PELOSI • Published March 17, 2022 1:14pm EDT

Pelosi monitoring health day after she and Biden attended event with COVID-positive Irish leader

St. Patrick's Day celebration at Capitol will continue without Ireland's prime minister



By Marisa Schultz | Fox News



Fox News *Fi*
MORNING HEADLI

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House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) said she will continue regular coronavirus testing after sitting maskless Wednesday night next to the [Irish](#) prime minister, who tested positive for [COVID-19](#).

Pelosi got a negative PCR test Thursday, administered by the Capitol Attending Physician and will follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, according to her office.

Pelosi was to give Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin an award at the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala Wednesday night but the leader, also known as Ireland's Taoiseach, left the dinner early after getting his positive result back. Pelosi was seated next to him where he took off his mask to eat, she noted.

[Pelosi monitoring health day after she and Biden attended event with COVID-positive Irish leader](#) | [Fox News](#)

ECTIONS

**NEW YORK POST****NEWS**

Biden holds virtual meeting with Irish PM after dignitary's positive COVID test

By Callie Patteson

March 17, 2022 | 2:17pm | Updated



For the second year in a row, President Biden was forced to forgo the traditional in-person St. Patrick's Day meeting with Ireland's prime minister after the visiting dignitary tested positive for COVID-19 Wednesday night.

Biden greeted Taoiseach Micheál Martin from the Oval Office Thursday and said he was "deeply sorry for the inconvenience" before noting the two had briefly interacted the day before, prior to Martin returning a positive test.

"I did, at a little distance for seven and a half minutes, get to see you yesterday and your beautiful wife," the president said, referring to the Ireland Funds Gala at the National Building Museum.

Both leaders had attended the event, which Martin was forced to leave early after his test result came back.

<https://nypost.com/2022/03/17/biden-holds-virtual-meeting-with-irish-pm-after-dignitarys-positive-covid-test/>

The Washington Post


The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Style

Biden shows off his Irish roots at a dinner where everything is (mostly) back to normal

By Roxanne Roberts

Yesterday at 12:40 p.m. EDT

 Listen to article 5 min

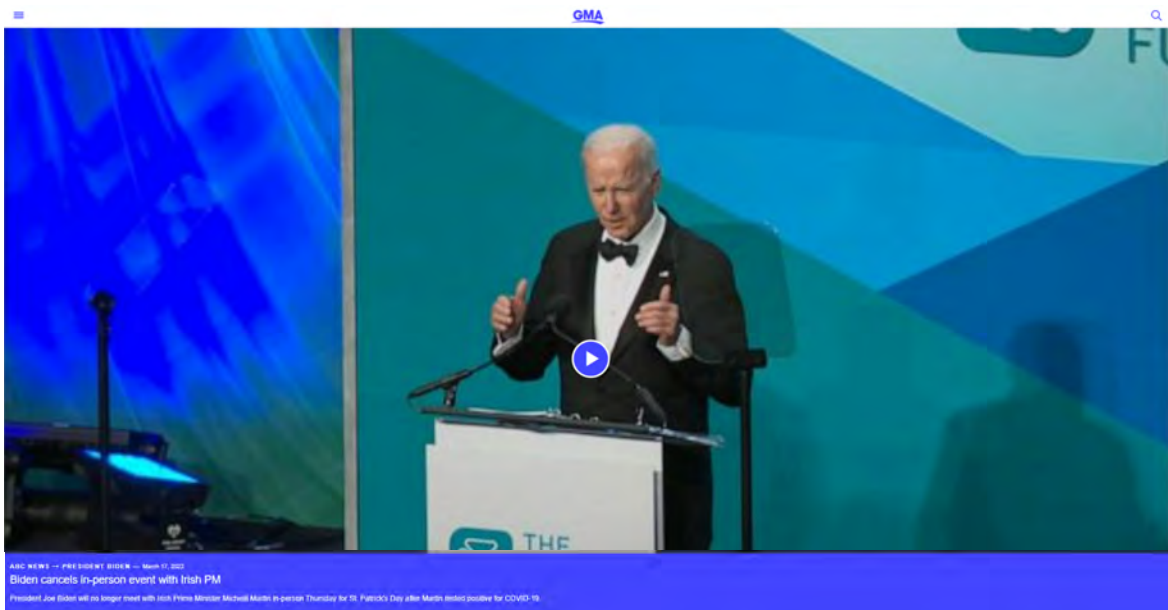


Washington is back to normal, or as normal as it's going to be for a while. President Biden made a rare social appearance Wednesday night at the Ireland Funds' 30th National Gala, both to honor his roots in Ireland and as a signal that he's ready to dive into the post-pandemic life.

"Everything between us runs deep — the literature, the poetry, the sadness, the joy, but, most of all, our resilience," Biden told more than 800 guests at the National Building Museum. "Despite everything, we've never stopped being dreamers. And I think we Irish are the only people in the world who actually are nostalgic for the future."

It's the present that's problematic: Micheál Martin, Taoiseach of Ireland, abruptly left the dinner after learning that he had tested positive for the coronavirus. Martin, whose title means prime minister and who was visiting Washington for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, tested negative earlier in the day after a member of his delegation came down with the virus. As a precaution, Martin took a second test; that result came back positive and he slipped out after spending a short time at the event, where he sat next to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and [briefly interacted with Biden \(though the president was not considered a close contact, according to the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\).](#)

[iv Biden shows off Irish roots at Ireland Funds dinner, where things are \(mostly\) back to normal - The Washington Post](#)



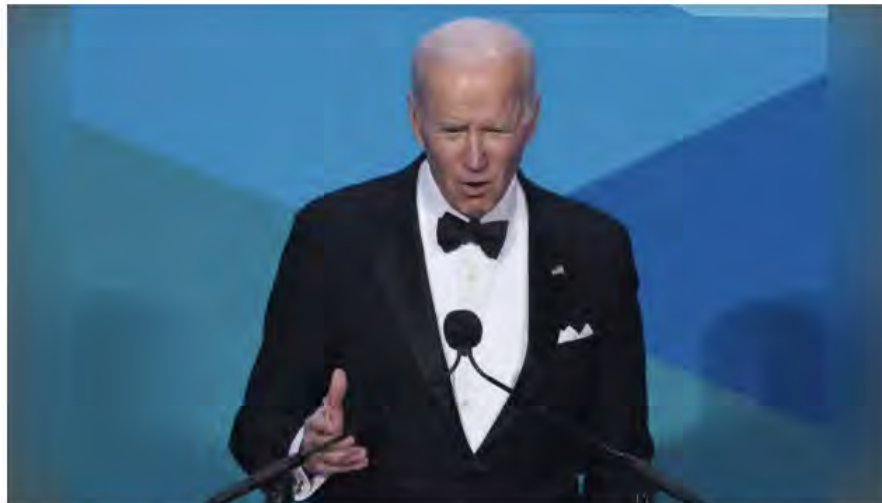
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Joe Biden says Ireland's future is going to 'shape the world'

IRELAND



US president Joe Biden has said the home of his emigrant ancestors, was now a leader on the global stage.

US president Joe Biden has said the home of his emigrant ancestors, was now a leader on the global stage.

He described the Republic as a "global force in culture and in the arts".

He added: "Leaders on the world stage, members of the United Nations Security Council, a country with a past that tugs at our hearts and a future that's going to shape the world."

Mr Biden, who spoke passionately about his Irish ancestry, also turned his attention to the conflict in Ukraine and the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that Ireland was the only country in the world that was "nostalgic for the future".

"But of course, that means dealing with the present.


"In our time we've seen more change and challenges, I believe, than any time in generations. A once-in-a-century pandemic and economic unease and anxiety, existential threats, a climate crisis, and what we see today in Ukraine, an unprovoked war of aggression and just a vicious, vicious, vicious treatment.

White House

Before positive coronavirus test, Irish leader interacted with Biden and Pelosi

By Tyler Pager, John Hudson and Felicia Sonmez

Yesterday at 10:09 p.m. EDT | Updated yesterday at 3:25 p.m. EDT

 Listen to article 1 min



President Biden interacted with Micheál Martin, the prime minister of Ireland, on Wednesday night, shortly before the Irish leader disclosed a positive [coronavirus](#) test.

But White House officials said Biden is not considered a close contact, according to the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC defines a close contact as having been in the presence of someone with the virus for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more.

Press secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday that Biden tested negative for the virus Sunday and will continue to test on a weekly basis.

During a meeting with Martin on Thursday, Biden apologized for having to meet via videoconference because of coronavirus concerns. He said he met with Martin in person for “seven-and-a-half minutes” Wednesday night.

Biden and the prime minister both attended the Ireland Funds National Gala on Wednesday night before Martin left because of his positive test. Martin was scheduled to attend a day of events Thursday with Biden at the White House in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told reporters Thursday that she, too, had briefly interacted with Martin on Wednesday night before he was told of his positive coronavirus test.

Irish prime minister's COVID case scrambles St. Patrick's Day plans in Washington

Speaker Nancy Pelosi was seated next to the Irish Taoiseach at a gala Wednesday.

By Libby Cathey and Mariam Khan

17 March 2022, 17:05 • 10 min read



Biden cancels in-person event with Irish PM

President Joe Biden will no longer meet with Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin in-person... [Read More](#)
Patrick Semansky/AP

President Joe Biden met virtually with Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin Thursday after Martin tested positive for COVID-19, scrambling holiday plans in Washington and hopes that St. Patrick's Day traditions would return in-person after two years.

"I'm really, deeply sorry for the inconvenience, that we have to meet virtually again this year -- although I did at a little distance for seven-and-a-half minutes get to see you yesterday and your beautiful wife, but especially after flying all the way here to Washington, with a lot going on up in the Hill and the rest," Biden said, speaking to the Taoiseach over video, seated next to a screen in the Oval Office.

Biden said the two leaders were meeting "in a moment when demands on unity in the world are really accelerating."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was seated next to Martin at Wednesday's Ireland Funds 30th National Gala, when he learned of his positive result over a course of appetizers, but she is still moving forward with her plans to host the Annual "Friends of Ireland" luncheon on Capitol Hill, which Martin had been scheduled to attend.

Pelosi tested negative this morning with a PCR test administered by the Capitol attending physician, according to a source familiar.

"In consultation with the Office of Attending Physician, the Speaker will continue regular testing and follow CDC guidance. The Friends of Ireland Lunch today will proceed but without the participation of the Taoiseach," her office said in a statement to ABC News.

Biden praises Irish leadership on Ukraine in virtual meeting with Taoiseach

Updated / Thursday, 17 Mar 2022 23:08



US President Joe Biden has said that Ireland has "taken a hit" for stepping up to help those who are in need as a result of the war in Ukraine.

In the absence of the Taoiseach, who is self-isolating in Blair House with Covid-19, Ireland's Ambassador in the US Dan Mulhall represented the country at the Speaker's Lunch at Capitol Hill, which is a part of St Patrick's Day festivities.



US President Joe Biden speaks at the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala

[Biden lauds Irish Ukraine response as he meets Martin \(rte.ie\)\).](https://www.rte.ie/news/ukraine/2022/0317/biden-praises-irish-leadership-on-ukraine-in-virtual-meeting-with-taoiseach/)

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Taoiseach tests positive for Covid-19 in Washington

TAOISEACH MICHEÁL Martin has tested positive for Covid-19.

He tested positive yesterday, on the eve of the St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House.

He was informed of the positive test while attending the Ireland Fund's dinner in Washington.

At the time he was sitting alongside House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other guests.

The Taoiseach had been due to receive an international leadership award at the event.

However, when the moment arrived Irish Ambassador to the US, Dan Mulhall, took to the stage and confirmed the positive test.

He said Mr Martin had tested negative but then when he was re-tested after a member of his delegation received a positive result.

He said the Taoiseach had re-tested out of an "abundance of caution" and added that he was in "good form" but very disappointed.

"It is a sad thing which I have to do which is to deliver the Taoiseach's speech on his behalf," he said.

The Taoiseach is now set to virtually meet with President Biden for the traditional shamrock handover ceremony in the Oval Office.

He was also due to attend a breakfast hosted by Vice President Kamala Harris, but that had to be cancelled after her husband Doug Emhoff too tested positive.

[Taoiseach tests positive for Covid-19 in Washington - Irish America](#)



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POLITICS

President Biden's virtually met with Irish prime minister for St. Patrick's Day

March 17, 2022 · 4:51 PM ET
 Heard on *All Things Considered*



SCOTT DETROW



2-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST



The president is taking a moment for a brief bit of joy to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the traditional White House way. Expect him to quote the Irish poets and of course Grandpa Finnegan.

[Transcript](#)

AILSA CHANG, HOST:

President Biden is facing a crisis in Europe, a Supreme Court confirmation and a still-lingering pandemic. Amid all of this, Biden made sure to carve out some time today to celebrate St Patrick's Day, even in the face of yet another COVID curveball. NPR's Scott Detrow has more.

SCOTT DETROW, BYLINE: Biden's Irish heritage is a core part of his political identity.

(SOUNDBITE OF SPEECH)

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: The Irish poet Seamus Heaney once wrote, history says, don't hope on this side of the grave. But then, once in a lifetime, the longed-for tidal wave of justice can rise up, and hope and history rhyme.

DETROW: That was Biden's acceptance speech at the 2020 Democratic National Convention, a speech Biden delivered to an almost-empty room of socially distanced reporters. The virtual convention was followed by a mostly crowd-free inauguration and then a year at the White House without any state dinners, Easter egg rolls or many of the other lighter parts of the job. So with pandemic restrictions lifted, the very Irish Biden seemed very excited to mark St Patrick's Day.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

BIDEN: Thank you. Please.

(APPLAUSE)

BIDEN: Thank you very much.

DETROW: Last night, Biden spoke at a gala hosted by The Ireland Fund. He shouted-out just about every Irish American ancestor. He read poems. He name-checked multiple Irish peninsulas.

[President Biden's virtually met with Irish prime minister for St. Patrick's Day : NPR](#)

Bloomberg

Biden Lauds Ireland's Efforts to Shelter Ukrainian Refugees

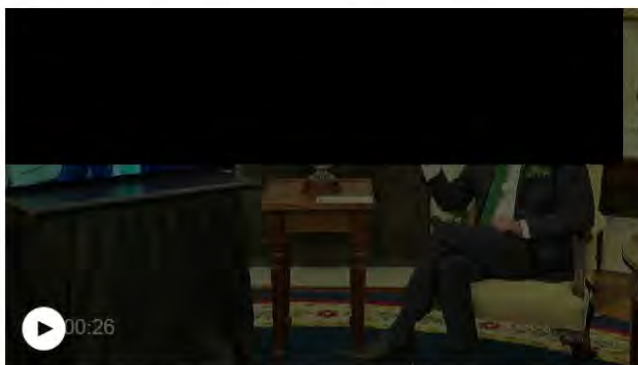
- Biden met virtually with Irish premier who's self isolating
- Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff also tested positive for Covid

By [Jordan Fabian](#) and [Peter Flanagan](#)

17 March 2022, 02:02 GMT *Updated on 17 March 2022, 16:34 GMT*

President Joe Biden praised Ireland for taking in Ukrainian refugees during a Thursday meeting with Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin that was hastily made virtual after the premier tested positive for Covid-19.

Ireland's efforts to aid those fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine "speaks so loudly" about the country said Biden, who is of Irish descent, at the event to mark St. Patrick's Day.



WATCH: Biden praises Ireland for taking in Ukrainian refugees. Source: Bloomberg

"What Ireland is doing now, what you're doing, taking Ukrainian refugees, speaks so loudly about your principles," Biden said in the Oval Office. "And it's amazing. I publicly compliment you for it."

Martin, who was already in Washington for the holiday, told Biden, "I genuinely salute your leadership. It's firm, it's determined, it's strong."

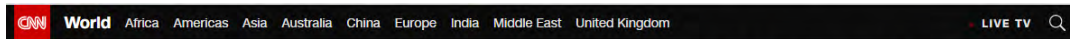
Martin will no longer attend the annual Friends of Ireland luncheon at the U.S. Capitol, nor will he participate in a White House shamrock presentation with the president and first lady Jill Biden.

Biden plans to appear at the luncheon and hold an evening St. Patrick's Day event with the first lady.

Martin tested positive on Wednesday evening, an Irish government spokesman said in a text message response to questions. He left the Ireland Funds Gala in downtown Washington after learning of the result, according to CBS News.

Martin is feeling well and currently self isolating, the spokesman said. While he had tested negative earlier in the day, he took an additional test after a member of his delegation reported a positive result, the spokesman added.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-03-17/irish-premier-tests-positive-for-covid-19-in-d-c-reports-say>



Irish Taoiseach abruptly leaves DC gala attended by Biden after testing positive for Covid-19

By David Shortell, Donie O'Sullivan, Kaitlan Collins and Sam Fossom, CNN

Updated 0337 GMT (1137 HKT) March 17, 2022



More From CNN



Gessen: Russians 'are literally being chased out of the country'



GOP backlash grows over Cawthorn's Zelensky insult



(CNN) — Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin, known as the Taoiseach, tested positive for Covid-19 Wednesday while attending a gala in Washington, DC, that had just been addressed by President Joe Biden.

Martin left the gathering for The Ireland Funds after his positive result was confirmed, according to PA Media, a UK-based news agency. Irish Ambassador to the US Daniel Mulhall announced the results to the room, a person who attended the dinner told CNN.

A White House official said Biden is not considered a close contact of Martin. The pair was set to hold a bilateral meeting at the White House on Thursday, but the official said the schedule will be changed.

CNN has reached out to Martin's office and the Irish Embassy in Washington for comment.

In a photo posted online by the Press Association, Martin is seen sitting next to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at the event. CNN reached out to Pelosi's office for comment.

Biden spent less than an hour at the gala and was not seen by a CNN producer in attendance in close proximity to the Taoiseach.

Biden gave his 15-minute remarks from a lectern slightly away from the guests seated in the hall and left shortly after for the White House.

Martin became the Taoiseach in June 2020. The Irish leader typically has a standing invitation to the White House on St. Patrick's Day, which is Thursday. Last year, Biden and Martin met virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As he opened his remarks Wednesday, Biden referenced a meeting between him and Martin when Biden was the US vice president and Martin was the Irish foreign minister.

"We both have come full circle -- you're Taoiseach and I'm President. What the hell are we going to do?" Biden said.

BROADSHEET

81

Rain On His Parade

Bodger at 2:02 am March 17, 2022



Taoiseach Micheál Martin has tested positive for Covid-19. It means he will be unable to meet US President Joe Biden in person later today as part of the traditional shamrock ceremony.

Via PA:

Just before the positive Covid-19 test result was confirmed, Mr Martin had been listening to remarks from US President Joe Biden, who addressed the dinner on Wednesday evening.

Mr Biden had welcomed the Taoiseach to Washington and said he was looking forward to renewing their friendship on Thursday.

Mr Biden, who was greeted with a lengthy round of applause and repeated cheers from the audience, was in fine spirits as he addressed the gathering.

Belfast Telegraph

NI Protocol 'front of mind' in Washington

By Margaret Canning

THE NI PROTOCOL was "front of mind" for many in discussions about the province as St Patrick's Day was marked in Washington, a business leader has said.

Paul Murnaghan, president of the Northern Ireland Chamber, represented business in the province during last week's US celebrations.

While there was no First or Deputy First Ministers to represent the province in Washington, DUP Economy Minister Gordon Lyons and Finance Minister Conor Murphy did attend.

The Chamber president said that the absence of a fully-functioning Executive in Northern Ireland meant that there is a lack of the "stability" craved by business.

However, he said the two ministers "were doing as much as they could and clearly trying to create that stability piece which is so important for any society and especially for those who are considering investment".

But he would not comment on

"I guess from an economic perspective and a Northern Ireland Chamber perspective, we will stand to help them in whatever way we can to get past the challenges that they currently have.

"There's clearly issues there that they're struggling to move forward on but I do get a sense from over here in Washington that they would like to get beyond it.

"I think there's real opportunity once we get beyond the election."

He said that overall, there had been "a real positive attitude towards Ireland and Northern Ireland" at events including a breakfast hosted by the NI Bureau and a dinner held by the Ireland Funds and attended by President Joe Biden in the White House.

"You can see from that Irish-American diaspora that they are really willing to help us and that was the focus of the conversations that we had.

"With all the world opening up again it's important that we as a society, economically and po-

which has given Northern Ireland dual access to the EU and Great Britain markets following Brexit, had been on many people's minds in conversations about the province.

"It's probably front of mind for many whenever we hear NI being mentioned, all of that Brexit reality and what is unique to Northern Ireland on the island.

"But it was great to hear from President Biden the commitment that America has to NI and to making sure that they use their auspices to support us to move forward.

"Specifically in terms of the protocol, everyone understands there are clearly some challenges in what the protocol provides economically for some sectors which need to be overcome.

"But the opportunities that sit on the other side of that are really rich for everybody, for society.

"I think everybody here understands that if those challenges get addressed there is an inflection point because of that market access which the protocol allows."

Micheal continues isolating in capital

■ **Clara PHELAN**

TADISEACH Micheál Martin who is in lockdown in Washington and isolating for at least five days — will be stuck in the US capital for up to 10 after testing positive for Covid-19.

Under America's public health guidelines, once a person tests positive, they cannot travel for 10 days.

In a chaotic turn of events, Mr Martin was forced to cancel his visit to the White House on St Patrick's Day and instead held a virtual meeting again with US President Joe Biden.

Mr Martin was staying at Blair House, the President's guest house, in Washington — just across the road from President Biden in the White House.

A spokesman for the Taoiseach said Mr Martin will follow all "appropriate public health guidance".

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines also outline that those infected like Mr Martin will have to isolate for at least five days.

The Taoiseach was whisked away from the Ireland Funds gala event late on Wednesday night right before he was due to take to the stage to accept an international leadership award.

Swabbed

The Taoiseach's delegation and Irish media were swabbed on Wednesday ahead of the planned visit to the White House on St Patrick's Day.

Despite receiving a negative antigen test, Mr Martin was retested after a member of his delegation came back positive.

Mr Martin then tested positive on a PCR test and was alerted while at the gala in the National Buildings Museum with a crowd of 700 Irish-American people present.

Mr Martin was seated beside Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi at the Ireland Funds gala.

Ms Pelosi took to the stage to welcome Mr Martin but was unaware he had just received a positive Covid-19 test and believed he was on a call with world leaders.

DAILY STAR

The Irish ambassador to America, Dan Mulhall, accepted the award on behalf of the Taoiseach and broke the news that Mr Martin had tested positive for Covid-19.

A spokesman for the Taoiseach said Mr Martin "is currently self-isolating on public health advice".

The Fianna Fáil leader was resuming with his engagements virtually yesterday.



GALA CUT SHORT: Martin speaking to Pelosi before he was whisked away from dinner

THE Sun

SHAM-CROCKED



By ADAM HIGGINS in Washington DC

MICHEAL Martin held another virtual St Patrick's Day meeting with US President Joe Biden yesterday — after being diagnosed with Covid.

The Taoiseach will now be locked down in Washington DC for ten days after the shock on the eve of his White House visit.

He was rushed out of the Ireland Funds

Continued on Page 3

MICHEAL'S JOE SHOW

Continued from Page One

gala dinner on Wednesday evening — just minutes before he was due to receive a leadership award from US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

A health screening ahead of the White House pow-wow detected a positive case among the Taoiseach's delegation, with a PCR swab subsequently revealing that Martin was infected.

The Fianna Fail leader was forced to resort to a video call with President Biden yesterday — just like last year, when the pandemic prevented him travelling to the US. During the chat, they discussed the war in Ukraine, the undocumented Irish in the States and Biden's plans to visit Ireland.

After his meeting with the President, Martin admitted he was disappointed to miss out on the White House visit.

Speaking from Blair House — just across the road from Biden's abode — he said: "I feel good. Of course, I'm disappointed personally, but it's not the end of the world."

"We have to keep things in perspective. I think that's important, particularly in the context of what's happening across the world today. Thanks be to God, we have the quality of video conferencing we have and the capacity to have these meetings."

"And I don't believe the meeting was in any way impaired as a result of this. It was a very warm meeting."

The Taoiseach now plans to

chair next week's Cabinet meeting from DC and will continue to work across the coming days, with a particular focus on our humanitarian response to Ukraine.

Speaking during their video call, Biden heaped praise on Ireland for "really stepping up" when it comes to the response to Russia's invasion.

And after the chat, Biden labelled Russian President Vladimir Putin a "murderous dictator" and a "real thug".

He said Ireland was "paying a big price", declaring: "It's not a minor contribution they're making in this effort. It's significant."

The Taoiseach told reporters that Biden "couldn't get over" the level of Ireland's response to the crisis, with more than 7,000 Ukrainian refugees already fleeing to Ireland.

The pair also discussed plans to dramatically increase sanctions on Russia, which will be finalised when the American chief meets EU leaders in Brussels next week — a meeting Martin will no longer be able to attend due to his Covid infection.

Martin also used the call to extend an invitation to the

News Letter

VIRTUAL MEETING WITH MARTIN AFTER TAOISEACH HAS POSITIVE COVID TEST

Biden thanked for US support for peace deal

BY JONATHAN MCCAMBRIDGE
newsdesk@newsletter.co.uk
@News_Letter

Irish premier Micheal Martin has thanked US President Joe Biden for his country's backing of the Good Friday Agreement.

During a virtual St Patrick's Day meeting with the taoiseach, Mr Biden reaffirmed the US administration's "unequivocal support" for the agreement.

Mr Biden, who identifies deeply with his own Irish heritage, was seated beside a traditional bowl of shamrock during the bilateral meeting.

He quoted Irish poet WB Yeats as he described the impact the Russian invasion of Ukraine has had on the world.

"All changed, changed utterly – a terrible beauty has been born," he said.

Mr Biden said Irish leadership on the issue has been "noticeable and impressive".

Both leaders condemned the invasion, with the Irish leader speaking about the need for a "unity of purpose".

Mr Biden praised Ireland's willingness to take in refugees, adding: "What Ireland is doing now, what you are doing, taking in Ukrainian refugees, speak so loudly about your principles.

"And it's amazing and i

want to publicly compliment you for it. I think you've already brought in over 7,000 or so refugees from Ukraine, and you're prepared to do more, so thank you."

Mr Martin praised America's "steadfast support" for the Good Friday Agreement referencing how "important the Good Friday Agreement is in respect of stability and peace on the island of Ireland".

He said: "Over the last number of days, as I've been here, we've also witnessed – once again – that two-way, very robust economic relationship between the United States and Ireland."

Mr Martin, appearing virtually for the second year in a row due to a positive Covid-19 test, said it was unfortunate he and Mr Biden could not meet face to face.

"This year, we're meeting virtually across the road, so we're getting closer," he joked.

Mr Biden has never been shy about his passion for Ireland, its history and its literature.

References to Irish poets pepper many of his speeches, with Mr Biden choosing to namecheck the late Eavan Boland during a speech at the Ireland Funds Gala dinner in Washing-

ton on Wednesday evening.

It was at the same event that the taoiseach was notified of the positive Covid-19 result just as he was due to speak.

Mr Martin appeared in good spirits during his appearance on-screen.

An Irish government spokesperson said earlier yesterday that the taoiseach was "feeling well".

IRISH DAILY Mirror

| ST PATRICK'S DAY: PRAISE FROM THE PRESIDENT AS MARTIN STUCK IN U.S. |



Taoiseach bowled out

Micheál in virtual chat with Biden after catching Covid

FROM **CIARA PHELAN** Political
Correspondent in Washington

MICHEÁL Martin told of his disappointment last night at not getting to visit The White House on St Patrick's Day.

The Taoiseach, who tested positive for Covid-19, could only speak to President Joe Biden by video during the traditional bowl of shamrock greeting.

He could now be stuck in the US for up to 10 days. He cannot travel internationally under American health rules and must isolate for five days.

At a virtual press conference, Mr Martin said: "Of course I'm disappointed personally but it's not the end of the world and we have to keep things in perspective."

"That's important, particularly in the context of what's happening

across the world today. In terms of the next while, obviously I will be here.

"We have our Cabinet meeting which I chaired from the Embassy at the commencement of the week.

"Little did I think I'd have another Cabinet meeting from here next week, but that's the way it is. I will continue to work and we will manage this.

"I will be in daily contact with my colleagues and my officials, particularly in respect of the humanitarian response to the Ukrainian crisis back home. I feel good, and we'll obviously take it day by day and step by step."

Mr Martin described his chat with the President as warm. However, no date or specifics were given on any visit to Ireland.

He was due to greet Mr Biden at a European Council meeting yesterday but will now be stuck in Washington while President Biden flies to Brussels along with EU leaders for a discussion

on support for Ukraine. The Taoiseach has been staying at Blair House, the President's guest house in Washington, just across the road from The White House.

He said: "Last year we met virtually across the Atlantic. This year, we're meeting virtually across the road.

"So we're getting closer. I'm feeling good and I think that reminds us of

the importance of vaccines. But of course it is unfortunate."

President Biden said he was "deeply sorry for the inconvenience" of the virtual meeting, adding: "You're looking good and feeling good but looking forward to getting cleared as quickly as you can."

A spokesman for the Taoiseach said he will follow all "appropriate public

health guidance". The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines outline that those infected have to isolate for at least five days and cannot travel for 10.

Mr Martin was whisked away from the Ireland Funds gala event late on Wednesday night just before he was due to take to the stage to accept an international leadership award.

His delegation and Irish media had

"Last year we met virtually across the Atlantic, this year across the road"

"What Ireland is doing now speaks so loudly about your principles...it's amazing"

been swabbed earlier in the day ahead of the planned White House visit.

Despite receiving a negative antigen test, Mr Martin was retested after a member of his delegation came back positive. He then tested positive on a PCR test and was alerted while at the gala in the National Buildings Museum with a crowd of 700 Irish-American people present.

He was seated next to Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi. Ms Pelosi took to the

the off-camera bilateral meeting, discussing the economy, the Good Friday Agreement, Brexit, Ukraine and the undocumented Irish, lasted for one hour.

news@irishmirror.ie



GALA Micheal Martin with Nancy Pelosi

stage to welcome Mr Martin but was unaware he had just received a positive Covid-19 test and believed he was on a call with world leaders.

The Irish ambassador to America, Dan Mulhall, accepted the award on behalf of the Taoiseach and broke the news he had tested positive.

President Biden said he met with Mr Martin at a distance for "seven-and-a-half minutes" on Wednesday night at the Ireland Funds event.

He is not considered a close contact, The White House confirmed.

During their chat yesterday, in which the Taoiseach appeared on a screen in the Oval Office with a large bowl of shamrock in front of him, President Biden commended the Irish people for taking in thousands of refugees, describing it as "amazing".

He commented "I love Ireland" and said he would love to visit when the Taoiseach reiterated the invitation.

The two leaders spoke of the war in Ukraine with President Biden describing Putin's brutality and what his troops are doing as "inhumane".

And he added: "I want to say one thing while the press is here and that is what Ireland is doing now, taking in Ukrainian refugees, speaks so loudly about your principles.

"And it's amazing, I want to publicly compliment you for it."

Mr Martin replied: "I share with you our horror at the barbaric attack on the civilians of Ukraine and I want to take this opportunity to genuinely salute your leadership.

"It's firm. It's determined. It's strong."

A spokesman for the Taoiseach said

DAILY BEAST

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Pelosi Says She'll Honor Ukraine—With a Bono Poetry Reading

| BEAUTIFUL DAY |

Anna Venarchik Breaking News Intern
Published Mar. 17, 2022 12:41PM ET



Justin Sullivan/Getty

At the annual Friends of Ireland luncheon, traditionally hosted by the House speaker at the Capitol, Nancy Pelosi said she plans to diverge from the customary St. Patrick's Day festivities to acknowledge the horrific war and humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ukraine—with a poem by U2 star Bono. "I'm going to be reading a poem written by Bono about Ukraine, which you might find interesting," she said at a press conference. The luncheon itself was jeopardized when Taoiseach Micheál Martin of Ireland was forced to hastily excuse himself from the Ireland Funds National Gala in D.C. Wednesday evening, a gala Pelosi and Biden both attended, after testing positive for COVID-19. Pelosi later explained that any exposure risk occurred during the dinner's first course: "The Taoiseach had on a mask when he sat down. But then when he started to eat, he took off the mask," she told reporters Thursday. "It was during the appetizer that they took him away." She claims that since she's tested daily, she isn't concerned about having caught COVID, and Thursday's Friends of Ireland show will go on. The Hill reports that despite the potential exposure, Biden is likewise still planning to be present at the Capitol for the luncheon.

Biden expresses desire to visit Ireland again

17th March

BY PA NEWS AGENCY

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1 Comments

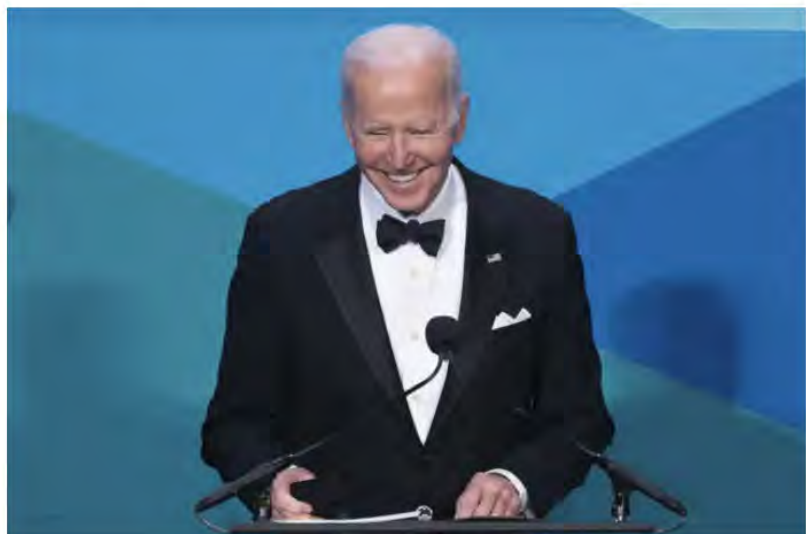


Joe Biden during a visit to Ireland while vice president

US president Joe Biden said he would love to visit Ireland again, but could not say when he would get to see the country he described as t “motherland”.

Irish premier Micheal Martin said he had reiterated his invite to the US president to visit Ireland.

He made his comments during his trip to Washington to mark the St Patrick’s Day celebrations.



US president Joe Biden speaks at the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala at the



THU, 17 MAR, 2022 - 12:44

Joe Biden says Ireland's future is going to 'shape the world'

US president Joe Biden has said the home of his emigrant ancestors, was now a leader on the global stage.



US president Joe Biden has said the home of his emigrant ancestors, was now a leader on the global stage.

He described the Republic as a “global force in culture and in the arts”.

He added: “Leaders on the world stage, members of the United Nations Security Council, a country with a past that tugs at our hearts and a future that’s going to shape the world.”

Mr Biden, who spoke passionately about his Irish ancestry, also turned his attention to the conflict in Ukraine and the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that Ireland was the only country in the world that was “nostalgic for the future”.

“But of course, that means dealing with the present.

News > National

WATCH: Joe Biden's St Patrick's address where he fumbles arguably the best-known Irish language phrase (and implies the Irish are stupid)

Joe Biden gave a number of speeches on and in the run-up to St Patrick's Day, at which he extolled his Irishness.

By Adam Kula

Friday, 18th March 2022, 11:45 am

Updated Friday, 18th March 2022, 1:06 pm



Two of them at least did not pass off without incident.

The first was when he stumbled over the words 'cead mile failte' – one of the best known stock phrases in the Irish language.

That was in an address to the 30th National Gala of the Irish Funds (which describes itself as "a global philanthropic network established in 1976 to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development").

[WATCH: Joe Biden's St Patrick's address where he fumbles arguably the best-known Irish language phrase \(and implies the Irish are stupid\) | Belfast News Letter](#)

THE IRISH TIMES

St Patrick's Day celebrations

Taoiseach travelled extensively prior to positive Covid test

Martin forced to leave gala Ireland Funds dinner after getting test result notification

Taoiseach 'feeling well' and self-isolating but likely to miss important events

MARTIN WALL
Washington Correspondent

rotates out of the post next December.

Taoiseach Micheál Martin had essentially been on the road for nearly a week with a very busy schedule when he tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday night.

He was in Paris yesterday week and Friday for the Versailles summit which dealt with Ukraine and defence issues. He then travelled to London where he held talks and watched the Ireland-England rugby international with British prime minister Boris Johnson.

He also attended a reception hosted by the lord mayor of the City of London, Vincent Keaveny, and met business leaders. On Sunday he attended London's St Patrick's Day festival and parade.

The following day, he flew to Washington for several days of events which were to include a key meeting with US president Joe Biden at the White House.

This would have been a highlight for Mr Martin as it would have marked his first, and possibly final, occasion in the Oval Office as Taoiseach before he

Irish Embassy

On Tuesday, the Taoiseach chaired a virtual Cabinet meeting from the Irish Embassy in Washington which was also attended in person by Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan. The Taoiseach also held meetings on Capitol Hill, including with senior Irish-American politician Richard Neal about Northern Ireland.

On Wednesday he held talks ahead of the Science Foundation Ireland event with the Collins brothers, founders of the Stripe payment system, and leading Irish cancer researcher Prof Donald McDonnell. He also carried out an indoor press conference.

Under White House rules all people planning to enter the complex must be tested for Covid.

On Wednesday, Mr Martin, other members of the Irish delegation as well as travelling and resident journalists underwent Covid tests carried out by White House staff. This took place shortly before they travelled to the National Building

Museum in Washington for the Ireland Funds blacktie gala dinner. This was another

hugely important event as Biden was to give the main address. The president was in the building for about 45 minutes and briefly spoke with the Taoiseach. Biden was followed on stage by the Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi who had been sitting adjacent to the Taoiseach.

Receive an award

Her speech was to end with her calling him up on stage to receive an award. However, Ms Pelosi then introduced Irish Ambassador to Washington Dan Mulhall who told the audience the Taoiseach had initially tested negative in an antigen test but when a colleague had tested positive, he underwent a precautionary PCR test which had come back positive.

Guests in the room had noticed the Taoiseach leaving shortly beforehand.

Yesterday Ms Pelosi said she and the Taoiseach had been wearing masks except when eating. She said Mr Martin had been called out "during the appetiser". It was only when she was going on stage she had

been told that the ambassador would be taking his place.

Ms Pelosi said she was tested very frequently for Covid.

Government sources said the Taoiseach, who spent Wednesday night in Blair House, a US official residence for important guests across the road from the White House, was "feeling well" and was "self-isolating based on public health advice".

Later, highly placed sources indicated that the Taoiseach would follow US health guidelines which urge no international travel for 10 days after a positive test.

Such a move would see Martin remaining in Washington and see him miss key events such as the Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection for those who lost their lives to Covid-19 in Dublin tomorrow, and the meeting of European leaders next week.



“ Meeting Joe Biden at the White House would have been a key highlight for Mr Martin as it would have marked his first, and possibly final occasion, in the Oval Office as Taoiseach

Good Friday Agreement 'cannot change', Biden warns at St Patrick's Day event



Joe Biden rounded off the St Patrick's Day celebrations in Washington with an emphatic warning that the Good Friday Agreement "cannot change".

Appearing at the traditional shamrock ceremony in the White House, Mr Biden made an impassioned plea that the Good Friday Agreement be protected amid the ongoing back-and-forth between the UK and the EU over post-Brexit arrangements for Northern Ireland.

US President Joe Biden, speaking while Taoiseach Micheál Martin appeared virtually due to a Covid-positive test, directly addressed the ongoing negotiations over the Northern Ireland Protocol and the political instability in the region.

Speaking about the relationship between Ireland and the US, he said: "Our nations both are deeply committed to protecting the hard-won gains of peace in Northern Ireland. The Good Friday Agreement has been the foundation of peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland for nearly 25 years.

References to Irish poets pepper many of his speeches, with Mr Biden choosing to namecheck the late Eavan Boland during a speech at the Ireland Funds Gala dinner in Washington on Wednesday evening.

It was at the same event that the Taoiseach was notified of the positive Covid-19 result just as he was due to speak.

Mr Martin appeared in good spirits during his appearance on-screen.

A Dublin government spokesperson said earlier yesterday that the Taoiseach was "feeling well".

[News](#) > [Politics](#)

Biden thanked for US support for peace deal

Irish premier Micheal Martin has thanked US President Joe Biden for his country's backing of the Good Friday Agreement.

By The Newsroom

Friday, 18th March 2022, 7:54 am



During a virtual St Patrick's Day meeting with the taoiseach, Mr Biden reaffirmed the US administration's "unequivocal support" for the agreement.

Mr Biden, who identifies deeply with his own Irish heritage, was seated beside a traditional bowl of shamrock during the bilateral meeting.

He quoted Irish poet WB Yeats as he described the impact the Russian invasion of [Ukraine](#) has had on the world.



US President Joe Biden speaks at the Ireland Funds 30th National Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington DC during Taoiseach Micheal Martin visit to the US for St Patrick's Day

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With a flurry of high-profile coronavirus cases, Washington is again on edge

On Thursday, Biden canceled face-to-face meetings with Prime Minister Micheal Martin of Ireland after Martin received a positive result from a coronavirus test during a gala event Wednesday night that both men attended.



President Joe Biden speaks with Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin during a virtual meeting on St. Patrick's Day in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, on Thursday, March 17, 2022. A flurry of high-profile coronavirus cases raised questions about the trajectory of the pandemic, even as the White House has signaled confidence about resuming normal activities. (Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Written by Michael D. Shear

A flurry of high-profile coronavirus cases in the nation's capital — including in people who have been around President Joe Biden — has raised new questions about the trajectory of the 2-year-old pandemic, even as the White House has signaled confidence in the country's ability to resume normal activities.

On Thursday, Biden canceled face-to-face meetings with Prime Minister Micheal Martin of Ireland after Martin received a positive result from a coronavirus test during a gala event Wednesday night that both men attended.

White House officials said that during Wednesday night's gala, Biden and Martin were not in close contact, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines as being within 6 feet of someone for at least 15 minutes.

Mulhall said on Twitter that he had accepted a leadership award for Martin Wednesday at the gala for the Ireland Funds in Washington, an event that Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also attended.

"I filled in for the Taoiseach after he tested positive for #Covid19," he wrote, using the Irish word for the country's leader. "I wish the Taoiseach well for his recovery."

Irish journalists traveling with Martin's delegation reported that he had attended the early part of the gala, and photos from the event appeared to show him seated next to Pelosi.

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Good Friday Agreement ‘cannot change’, President Biden warns St Patrick’s Day event



President Joe Biden rounded off the St Patrick’s Day celebrations in Washington with an emphatic warning that the Good Friday Agreement “cannot change”.

Appearing at the traditional shamrock ceremony in the White House, Mr Biden made an impassioned plea that the Good Friday Agreement be protected amid the ongoing back-and-forth between the UK and the EU over post-Brexit arrangements for Northern Ireland.

US President Joe Biden, speaking while Taoiseach Micheal Martin appeared virtually due to a Covid-positive test, directly addressed the ongoing negotiations over the Northern Ireland Protocol and the political instability in the region.

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Taoiseach says Biden 'can't wait to come back to Ireland' but no date set for visit



Taoiseach 'is feeling well and continuing with his work in Washington' today

Covid-, Joe Biden

• 18/03/2022 19:27:00

Political Correspondent Christina Finn reporting from the United States. TAOISEACH MICHEÁL MARTIN has said it is a matter for the US President Joe Biden when he wants to return for a visit to Ireland. It had been widely expected that Biden might announce a date for when he plans to visit Ireland during the Taoiseach's visit to Washington for St Patrick's Day.

However, it has been confirmed that no date was set or mentioned during their virtual meeting yesterday. Martin said it is up to the president and when Biden believes "the time is most opportune to come". "We leave that with the president, but he knows and he can't wait to get back," the Taoiseach said, saying that during their conversation, the president recalled fond memories of his visits to Ireland.

"In fact, he commented on how his parents in particular loved their visit to Ireland which his family organised some years back, and he has a great empathy with us and a great sense of what we are about, and very fond memories of those occasions when he's been to Ireland, but particularly with his families in Mayo and Louth," he said.

headtopics.com



Taoiseach spends White House visit in lockdown as Covid chaos hits

During his Ireland Funds dinner speech, Biden spoke about Irish roots. "I inherited my mother's side of the family's overwhelming pride — overwhelming pride in being Irish — a pride that spoke to both continents' heart and soul, and drew from the old and the new," he said. He also chronicled more stories of his Irish family history during his speeches at the White House and Capitol Hill yesterday.

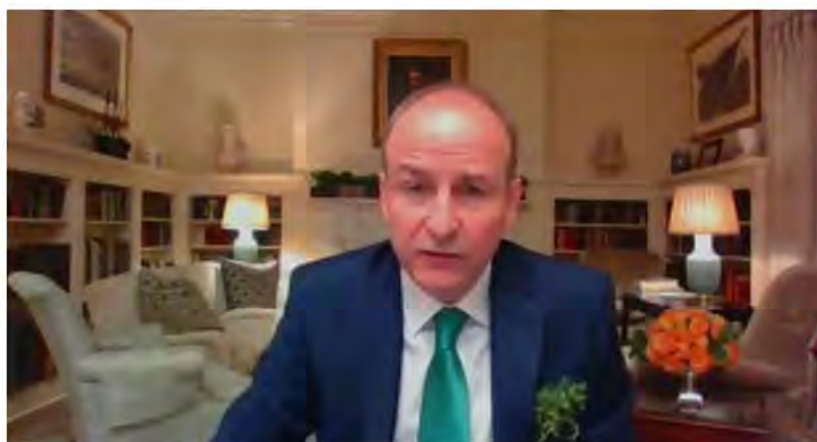
The Taoiseach first invited US president to visit Ireland when Biden was first elected in November 2020. Advertisement During that phone call Biden is understood to have spoken proudly about his Irish heritage. Biden's ancestors emigrated from Mayo and Louth.

‘God love him’: Sympathy for the Taoiseach as Washington trip affected by Covid

Micheál Martin had been having the week of his life until disaster struck

Fri, Mar 18, 2022, 15:01

Pat Leahy, Martin Wall



Handout screengrab from video issued by The White House of the bilateral meeting between Taoiseach Micheál Martin and President Joe Biden.

There was sympathy aplenty for Micheál Martin at the Ireland Funds annual dinner at the National Building Museum in Washington on Wednesday night as the 800-strong attendance digested the seared beef cutlets and the news that the Taoiseach had tested positive for Covid-19 and had gone into isolation.

Earlier the Taoiseach and his officials were whisked away quickly through the forest of tables and tuxedoed guests that filled the giant auditorium, prompting fevered speculation at the press tables that he had joined President Biden – who had just been given a rousing reception for a speech that rewalked the highroads and byroads of his Irish heritage – for an impromptu meeting.

When Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi explained the Taoiseach’s absence by suggesting he was on a call with “world leaders”, the speculation pivoted to Ukraine; could he be discussing a breakthrough with EU leaders – or a drastic escalation by Russia?

The truth, alas, was more prosaic. Dan Mulhall, the Irish ambassador to Washington, mounted the podium and explained that despite turning in a negative test in a routine Covid test earlier, the Taoiseach had been retested and he left for the dinner because a “member of the wider delegation” had tested positive. As the Taoiseach sat chewing the fat with Pelosi, the news came through that the second test was positive.



Ireland has ‘stepped up’ since war in Ukraine – Biden

Joe Biden, who has always taken pride in his Irish roots, hailed Irish efforts to help defend the war-torn country from Russian aggression.

Dominic McGrath • 3 days ago



US President Joe Biden speaks at the Ireland Funds' 30th National Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington DC (Oliver Contreras/PA) (PA Wire)

The US President has said the world should remember how Ireland “stepped up” to respond to the war in **Ukraine**.

Joe Biden, who has always taken pride in his **Irish** roots, hailed the country’s efforts to help defend the war-torn country from Russian aggression.

THE IRISH NEWS

Biden praises Irish efforts over Ukraine war during meeting

JONATHAN McCAMBRIDGE IN WASHINGTON AND DOMINIC McGRATH

US President Joe Biden has hailed Irish leadership for its handling of the Ukrainian crisis.

During a virtual St Patrick's Day meeting with Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Mr Biden also reaffirmed the US administration's "unequivocal support" for the Good Friday Agreement.

Mr Biden, who identifies deeply with his own Irish heritage, was seated beside a traditional bowl of shamrock during the bilateral meeting.

He quoted Irish poet WB Yeats as he described the impact the Russian invasion of Ukraine has had on the world.

"All changed, changed utterly – a terrible beauty has been born," he said.

Mr Biden said Irish leadership on the issue has been "noticeable and impressive".

Both leaders condemned the invasion, with the Irish leader speaking about the need for a "unity of purpose".

The leaders' bilateral meeting lasted just over an hour.

The pair discussed the economy, Brexit and the Good Friday Agreement, the ongoing war in Ukraine and the undocumented Irish in the US.

Mr Martin reiterated the invitation for the President to come to Ireland, with Mr Biden saying he would love to visit Ireland again.

Mr Biden praised Ireland's willingness to take in refugees, adding: "What Ireland is doing now, what you are doing, taking in Ukrainian refugees, speak so loudly about your principles.

"And it's amazing and I want to publicly compliment you for it.

"I think you've already brought in over 7,000 or so refugees from Ukraine, and you're prepared to do

more, so thank you."

The Irish premier, who appeared virtually from Blair House where he is currently staying, also thanked Mr Biden for the US' backing of the Good Friday Agreement.

He praised the "steadfast support", referencing how "important the Good Friday Agreement is in respect of stability and peace on the island of Ireland".

He said: "Over the last number of days, as I've been here, we've also witnessed – once again – that two way, very robust economic relationship between the United States and Ireland."

Mr Martin, appearing virtually for the second year in a row due to a positive Covid-19 test, said it was unfortunate he and Mr Biden could not meet face to face.

"This year, we're meeting virtually across the road, so we're getting closer," he joked.

Mr Biden is profoundly proud of his Irish ancestry and has never been shy about his passion for the country, its history and its literature.

References to Irish poets pepper many of his speeches, with Mr Biden choosing to namecheck the late Eavan Boland during a speech at the Ireland Funds Gala dinner in Washington on Wednesday evening.

It was at the same event that the Taoiseach was notified of the positive Covid-19 result just as he was due to speak.

Mr Martin appeared in good spirits during his appearance on-screen.

An Irish government spokesperson said earlier yesterday that the taoiseach was "feeling well".

He said Mr Martin received a negative Covid test result on Wednesday afternoon, but a further test was carried out when one of his delegation tested positive.



UKRAINE WAR P6&7

The Meath Chronicle

A St Patrick's Day tale, hurling in the shadow of the Capitol

www.themeathchronicle.ie

Saturday March 19, 2022 15

NEWS

Gavan Reilly

Email: gavan.reilly@meathchronicle.ie Twitter: @gavreilly

When your columnist comes from the hurling part of a football county, there's a particular joy that comes from passing people having an idle pucker on a green area on a random Sunday afternoon. But I'd be lying if I said a small grassy park in Capitol Hill would be the place I'd see it.

My cameraman and I were stretching our legs on Sunday afternoon when he first saw them, leisurely stroking a sliotar from one end to another. We broke the ice by deploying a phrase custom-designed to smoke out anyone's true Irishness - "Up Laois!"; no true Irish person would hear those words and not turn around - and ended up spending nearly half an hour in idle chat with them.

It turned out "Up Laois" wasn't the worst opening gambit. The group traced its roots to Offaly; two of the women, sisters, had been schooled in the basics of camogie growing up and now their own children trained every Saturday morning with the DC Gaels at various high school football fields around Virginia and Maryland, with soccer goals underneath the American football uprights in an ad-hoc replication of GAA goalposts.

All these seeds were planted by Jimmy from Kilcormac, who visited for a summer in 1957 and never went home, who had washed floors at day and gone to college at night, who made his money as an estate agent, and who was proudly looking on as his granddaughters played hurling in the shadow of the United States Capitol. A little seed had

borne a lot of fruit.

The diplomatic juggernaut of St Patrick's Day has similarly humble beginnings. In 1952 the victorious Allies were still peeved that Ireland had not chipped in to the World War II effort - prompting the Irish ambassador in Washington to send a St Patrick's Day peace offering of a bowl of shamrock for President Harry Truman. It sort of worked: John A Costello made the first visit by a Taoiseach in 1956, and Sean T. O'Kelly followed as president in 1959. O'Kelly was greeted on the runway of what is now Reagan Airport by his local counterpart Dwight D. Eisenhower, and sensing an easy photo opportunity, pinned some shamrock on Eisenhower's coat lapel. The next year JFK got elected and the presence of an Irish Catholic in the White House saw the tradition take off.

Now the visit is much more than a handshaking jolly; it has evolved into a whole programme with extra elements. In 2009, just a few weeks in office, Joe Biden threw a breakfast in Brian Cowen's honour; that breakfast is now an annual fixture of the programme. A modern Taoiseach would be well-advised not to eat everything on offer, though - there's now a lunch on the programme too, on Capitol Hill, thrown by the Speaker of the House. That was initiated by Tip O'Neill, enthusiastically embraced by Paul Ryan, and marks one of only two occasions each year when the President visits Capitol Hill (the other being the constitutionally significant State of the Union address).

But the Taoiseach will barely

have a chance to work up his appetite again after the dinner the night before, when he is guest of honour of the Ireland Funds. That event, now 30 years old, was first conceived as a way for philanthropists to channel money towards conflict resolution in the North; now it's a gathering of the great and the good of Irish-America, and a further chance for the Taoiseach to grab a couple of minutes with influential congressmen if there's a specific agenda that needs furthering. Now there's also usually an audience with the American Chamber of Commerce, and the presentation of a Science Foundation Ireland medal to any prominent American researcher who can claim roots back to the auld sod.

This year, too, on the fringes of a Tourism Ireland event trying to get cash-rich north American visitors, there is a nice symmetry. The last time a Taoiseach was in America, it didn't quite go to plan: we all remember Leo Varadkar having to announce the first

Covid restrictions on the steps of Blair House, across the street from the White House, on the day he was due to meet Donald Trump. Two days earlier, though, he had attended a performance of Riverdance at Radio City Music Hall in Manhattan, on what was the show's 25th anniversary tour - and what ended up being its final performance for two years. The tour has only resumed in the last week or so, and Varadkar's successor will be in attendance for its first night in Washington, at the Kennedy Centre for Performing

Arts. This year's visit won't have the same jovial lilt that these tours often do. Washington is convulsed by the events in Ukraine; it's the only thing being discussed on political talk shows, and many public buildings (including the Kennedy Center) are lit in blue and yellow. There will not be the same greening this year as previous. When the White House formally confirmed Martin's visit this coming Thursday, it listed the war in Ukraine - and sanctions to discourage Russia - as being the top item on the agenda.

The St Patrick's Day this year

therefore won't be an opportunity for a Taoiseach to come with a shopping list. But in that, there may be a tribute too: Ukraine is being raised with Ireland partly because of the seat on the UN Security Council. Maybe Ireland is no longer a peripheral novelty and a chance to wear a green necktie: maybe now it's a partner, a collaborator with which big business can be done.

That, in itself, is quite a leap from a country that exported its young fellas from Offaly and had to send a bowl of shamrock to the President even to get a foot in the door.

Irish Daily Mail



MARTIN'S DAY IS UPENDED BY COVID CHAOS

Safe distance:
Joe Biden talks
to Mr Martin
via videolink

Duty: Micheál Martin with John and Patrick Collinson, and Professor Philip Nolan. The Taoiseach in conversation with Nancy Pelosi



by **Craig
Hughes**

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
IN WASHINGTON

MICHEÁL Martin was sitting next to the speaker of the house Nancy Pelosi in the centre of the grand-

iose National Building Museum when the news came in.

The Taoiseach was preparing to receive an International Leadership award at the Ireland Funds gala dinner that would be

MA Gaelic Literature (Online)

Joe Biden faces his JFK moment as nuclear fears rise

One would have excused Biden if he cut short the Irish frippery and spent March 17th hunkered down in the Situation Room during a period when the world is holding its breath.

Niall O'Dowd @niallodowd Mar 19, 2022



Joe Biden seemed immersed in a Celtic mist over Saint Patrick's Day adding credence to the belief that his Irish heritage is his sweet spot, the topic which he seems most at home discussing.

From the Ireland Fund to the Speaker's Lunch to the Irish American party at the White House on the evening of March 17th, Biden happily sailed along on a sea of Irish nostalgia that was only surprising if you never knew the man. At one point he remarked "Irish Americans think they are more Irish than the Irish" He was probably referring to himself.

Every cousin, aunt and uncle, great-grandfather, and grandmother who ever sailed the stormy ocean was remembered and celebrated. He even found time for a shout-out to his old boss Barack Obama and his Irish ancestor Fulmoth Kearney.

One would have excused Biden if he cut short the Irish frippery and spent March 17th hunkered down in the Situation Room during a period when the world is holding its breath and the specter of nuclear war has suddenly reappeared.

But perhaps Biden needed his own release valve to ease the incredible tension he currently lives under.

Only one other president, another Irish American, John F. Kennedy has faced such existential pressure as having to deal with a potential nuclear launch crisis. To put this in perspective experts say 35 million Americans would die within the first hour after a nuclear attack on a major US city.

[Joe Biden faces his JFK moment as nuclear fears rise \(irishcentral.com\)](https://www.irishcentral.com)

A quiet word in the taoiseach's ear throws Washington trip into turmoil

Martin was dining with America's great and good when he was told:
Micheál, you have tested positive



Joe Biden and Micheál Martin got on well during their St Patrick's Day meeting, which was conducted by video conference
WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

Stephen O'Brien, Political Editor, Washington | Sunday March 20 2022, 12.01am, The Sunday Times

The National Building Museum in Washington, famed for its 23-metre high Corinthian columns, was an impressive setting for last week's 30th anniversary Ireland Funds dinner, and when Hail to the Chief struck up, every head in the room turned in search of the US president.

Joe Biden emerged from behind a curtain and shimmied his way towards the rostrum, smiling and pointing at people among the 800 diners, who had each paid \$1,000 (€900) a plate for charity. The Ireland Funds dinner is a staple of St Patrick's week in the capital but no sitting US president has turned up since Bill Clinton attended more than 20 years ago.

Business Post Plus

March 20, 2022

The US's death toll from the Covid-19 pandemic is about to surpass the symbolic one million mark, with casualty figures cleaving sharply among class and racial lines. Yet, even after two years, both sides of the country's political divide remain at loggerheads over what to do next



A million goodbyes

Elizabeth Cooper sits on a bench in front of artist Suzanne Brennan Firstenberg's installation *In America: Remember*, which commemorates the US's Covid-19 deaths, in Washington DC. Getty

By Marion McKeone
in the US

On the evening of March 11, 2020, the annual gala of the *Inland Funds* was in full swing beneath green-tinted chandeliers at Washington DC's National Building Museum. The evening was following its well-worn course. Leo Varadkar, the then taoiseach, had just delivered his speech when, around the vast hall, phones started pinging.

to page 2

At 9.02pm, US president Donald Trump had announced that he was shutting down all flights from Europe to the US in response to the World Health Organisation's announcement that the mysterious, and deadly, Covid-19 virus had become a full-blown global pandemic.

The implications left the St Patrick's Day revellers reeling. John Fitzpatrick, the Irish hotelier and owner of two hotels in Manhattan, was ashen-faced, sensing this would wreak havoc on the tourism industry in both Ireland and the US. His prediction proved more prescient – and infinitely more devastating – than he could have imagined.

Two years later, another 700 guests arrived at the National Building Museum for the 30th Ireland Funds gala. In contrast to the creeping sense of dread that permeated the 2020 gathering, there was a giddiness, almost elation, in the room as guests celebrated what was for many the first major event they had attended since the March 2020 lockdown.

There were almost no masks in evidence as guests shook hands, kissed and embraced. Joe Biden's keynote speech to this friendliest of crowds was, for the most part, upbeat and genial. There was little talk of the pandemic that had taken a million American lives in the interim.

But barely an hour into the evening, Taoiseach Micheál Martin, who was seated next to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, learned he had tested positive for Covid. Two days before that, Doug Emhoff, the husband of US vice-president Kamala Harris, had also tested positive, with his diagnosis forcing the cancellation of the traditional St Patrick's Day vice-president's breakfast.

Rather than serving as bookends that signalled the beginning and end of the pandemic, Washington DC's St Patrick's Day celebrations of 2020 and 2022 are blunt reminders that while we may be done with Covid-19, the pandemic is by no means done with us.

Different stages of grief

America is fast approaching an "official" Covid death toll of one million people. At the time of writing, there have been close to 975,000 deaths where Covid-19 or one of its variants were cited on death certificates collated by the US Centers for Disease Control.

This weekend, the number of excess deaths in the US since the start of the pandemic passed 1.1 million. The term refers to the number of deaths over and above what might be expected in any given time period. If 200 deaths were expected for a given week, for example, but there were 300 recorded, that would equate to 100 excess

deaths.

One million dead Americans. The scale of the number is hard to grasp, but the toll in terms of grief, trauma and impoverishment is incalculable. How does the country grapple with the size of its loss, much less mourn it?

For the moment, it seems that the 50 states are at different stages of grief, or even acknowledgement, of the pandemic's toll. In the red Republican states, denial remains the dominant response. Their vaccine take-up rates remain stubbornly low – between 50 and 55 per cent – even though their Covid death rates are the highest in the US.

Where there is anger, it is directed largely at the Biden administration's attempts to increase vaccine take-up rates or at restrictions (which have mostly been discontinued) imposed on Americans who refuse Covid vaccines.

In Washington DC last week, Ted Cruz, the Texas senator, joined the ragged remnants of a so-called "people's convoy" in a protest outside the US Capitol Building against mask-wearing and vaccine restrictions that, for the most part, no longer exist.

Over the past several weeks, the federal courts have struck down the last few of the Biden administration's vaccine and health mandates stemming from the pandemic.

The Supreme Court threw out a rule requiring employees of large businesses to get vaccinated or submit to regular Covid-19 testing. A lower federal court struck down another order requiring federal employees to get vaccinated. However, more than 95 per cent of America's three million-plus federal employees had already been fully vaccinated by the time the ruling was handed down.

Targeting the vulnerable

In the US, the Covid catchphrase that "we're all in it together" is not just trite – it's patently untrue. Statistics from both the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute of Health statistics show that Covid is by no means an equal opportunity offender.

It has proven adept at targeting not only the most physically frail in terms of age and co-morbidities, but also the most socially and economically vulnerable. Race, education, income, access to healthcare, even postcodes all predetermine a Covid victim's chance of survival in the US.

The pandemic has widened and deepened the chasm between red and blue America, between black, brown and white America, between young and old, rich and poor, urban and rural,

THE IRISH TIMES

Mon, Mar 21, 2022

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US and UK start talks on deepening trade and investment links

Congressional leader warns that if the NI border “hardened”, there would be no US-UK trade deal

about 21 hours ago

Martin Wall



The US and Britain will this week open talks aimed at deepening trade and investment links between the two countries. Photographer: Dara MacDonaill

Securing a bi-lateral free trade agreement with the US has been a high priority for the UK since it left the European Union. However the Biden administration had indicated that its focus was on its domestic agenda.

US media has reported recently that the Biden administration now wants to strengthen economic ties with friendly nations in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's growing influence in setting rules and standards for global trade and technology

A US/UK trade accord has, however, been complicated by concerns among senior political figures in the US Congress about the Northern Ireland border and any moves by the British government that could undermine the Good Friday agreement.

Only last Wednesday at the Ireland Funds gala dinner on the eve of St Patrick's Day, House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi warned that if the Northern Ireland border “hardened”, there would be no US-UK trade deal.

Under US law trade agreements are negotiated by the administration. However they must be ratified by Congress.

The Business Post

Not even a Covid diagnosis can dampen Irish spirits after a successful week in DC

This year's St Patrick's Day events in Washington DC will be deemed a diplomatic success for the Irish, despite Micheál Martin misfortune in contracting the virus



Marion McKeone
in the US

In politics as in comedy, timing is everything. There's never a good time to catch Covid-19, but for Taoiseach Micheál Martin, it was particularly unfortunate to learn of his diagnosis moments before Nancy Pelosi, the house speaker, was to present him with an international leadership award in front of 800 of Washington DC's staunchest Irish supporters.

As Pelosi put it afterwards, "it was during the appetiser they took him away", unwittingly conjuring up scenes of a Covid SWAT team bursting through the doors of the National Building Museum and carting Martin off to an undisclosed location.

While both US and Irish officials have left the door open on the possibility of a return trip to DC for Martin before the end of the year, the mid-term elections and president Joe Biden's overcrowded domestic and foreign policy in-trays would likely ensure any visit was a fairly perfunctory affair.

It was the second time Martin has

become a hostage to Covid; last year, the St Patrick's Day visit and Oval Office meeting with Biden was likewise scuttled by pandemic restrictions.

Under Covid guidelines, the Taoiseach could theoretically leave the US as early as tomorrow if the results of a test taken after the five-day isolation period come back negative. In a best-case scenario he could travel to Brussels for next Thursday's meeting of EU leaders.

Biden is also scheduled to travel to Brussels for a Nato summit next Thursday and is expected to join an EU Council meeting during his visit. The Taoiseach could do worse than hitch a ride on Air Force One.

Green-tinted bonhomie

The US president may be grappling with domestic and international crises in which a single false step or unintended consequence could have cataclysmic consequences. But an extra-terrestrial who landed in Washington last week might think they'd landed amid a rolling green-tinted bacchanal of bonhomie and backslapping, all the more so after two years of lockdown.

The tuxedos and party frocks were itching for an outing. Call it a

post-lockdown dividend, but the Taoiseach's delegation received the most robust White House and Capitol Hill welcome that this reporter can recall since the Clinton era.

The St Patrick's week sideshows, some of which seem frozen in time from the last millennium, have their uses. Chiefly they allow Ireland to flex its soft power muscles, to remind Britain and the EU that when it comes to US access and influence, Ireland consistently punches above its weight.

Luckily for the Taoiseach, the dizzying merry-go-round of receptions and photo-ops, bilateral meetings and round-tables, dinners and speeches, awards presentations and assorted pomp and circumstance are a carousel that carry on regardless.

As well as marking St Patrick's Day, the US-Irish gathering doubles as a sort of diplomatic show of force, a timely reminder to Boris Johnson, the British prime minister, that when it comes to Northern Ireland, the Taoiseach has marshalled a formidable array of supporters, from the Capitol Building to the Oval Office.

The visit also provided the Taoiseach with an opportunity to tout Ireland's diplomatic and humanitarian credentials. While Ireland may be militarily



Taoiseach Micheál Martin speaks with Nancy Pelosi, US Speaker of the House, at the Ireland-Euanda 30th National Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington DC. The Taoiseach was diagnosed with Covid-19 shortly afterwards. Getty



THE SUNDAY TIMES

A quiet word in the taoiseach's ear throws Washington trip into turmoil

Martin was dining with America's great and good when he was told: Micheál, you have tested positive

STEPHEN O'BRIEN



In Washington DC

The National Building Museum in Washington, famed for its 23-metre high Corinthian columns, was an impressive setting for last week's 30th anniversary Ireland Funds dinner, and when *Hail to the Chief* struck up, every head in the room turned in search of the US president.

Joe Biden emerged from behind a curtain and shimmied his way towards the rostrum, smiling and pointing at people among the 800 diners, who had each paid \$1,000 (€900) a plate for charity. The Ireland Funds dinner is a staple of St Patrick's week in the capital but no sitting US president has turned up since Bill Clinton attended more than 20 years ago.

Micheál Martin, the taoiseach, was seated side by side, unmasked, with Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, at a table with his wife, Mary, as Biden reflected warmly on previous meetings with the Martins. "I look forward to continuing our friendship ... tomorrow at the White House when we both have come full circle," Biden said. "You're taoiseach and I'm president – what the hell are we going to do? Well, it'll be pretty personal for me."

Moments later, however, the taoiseach's week in Washington took a turn which shocked all present. As Biden finished his speech and left the room, one of Martin's officials whispered in his ear and called him away from the table.

Dan Mulhall, the Irish ambassador to America, broke the news that Martin, who had tested negative earlier that day,

had received a positive Covid-19 result from a PCR test done "out of an abundance of caution" after another member of his delegation contracted the disease.

There was a sense of disappointment around the vast hall at Martin's bad luck in losing what might be his last chance as taoiseach to speak with a US president in the Oval Office before he swaps roles with Leo Varadkar, the tanaiste, in December.

The Martins had already been told that

erous embrace of thousands of refugees.

The taoiseach caught international attention over an interview on BBC Television last Sunday when he was challenged by presenter Sophie Raworth about "security risks" attached to waiving visa requirements for Ukrainian refugees. Martin said Ireland's primary impulse was to assist those fleeing war. The Irish people were "seized" by the atrocities they were witnessing on their TV screens and there was "huge human empathy there to help the women and the children".

Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime

a scheduled St Patrick's Day breakfast at the United States Naval Observatory with Kamala Harris, the vice-president, and her husband, Douglas Emhoff, was off after he also fell ill with Covid-19.

While Barack Obama, the former president, and nine members of Congress also tested positive recently, according to The New York Times one source who spoke to Pelosi after Martin left said she was "shaken up" by the turn of events.

The Speaker, who turns 82 this week, told journalists she tested negative on Thursday morning. She went ahead with hosting a St Patrick's Day lunch on Capitol Hill that was attended by Biden; Mulhall; Brandon Lewis, the UK's Northern

Ireland secretary; Dame Karen Pierce, the British ambassador to America; Mary Lou McDonald and Michelle O'Neill, Sinn Féin's leader and deputy leader; Colum Eastwood, the SDLP leader; Gordon Lyons, the Northern Ireland economy minister and DUP MLA; and several US senators and members of congress.

Martin was bitterly disappointed at the loss of the White House visit, as much for his wife Mary, who was due to join him, as for himself, according to sources familiar with the events of Wednesday, but he "got over it" quickly and said there were bigger things to be concerned about.

The backdrop of the war in Ukraine gave last week's proceedings a sombre tone, as Martin was praised for Ireland's robust approach to sanctions and its gen-



After testing positive for Covid, Micheál Martin had to have his one-to-one meeting with President Biden via a video call

THE IRISH TIMES

Mr Martin goes to Washington – virtually

**Pat Leahy and
Martin Wall**

in Washington

The Taoiseach had been having the week of his life until disaster struck

"Poor Micheál." "God love him." There was sympathy aplenty for Micheál Martin at the Ireland Funds annual dinner at the National Building Museum in Washington on Wednesday night as the 800-strong attendance digested the seared beef cutlets and the news that the Taoiseach had tested positive for Covid-19 and had gone into isolation.

Earlier the Taoiseach and his officials were whisked away quickly through the forest of tables and tuxedoed guests that filled the giant auditorium, prompting fevered speculation at the press tables that he had joined US president Joe Biden – who had just been given a rousing reception for a speech that rewalked the highroads and by-roads of his Irish heritage – for an impromptu meeting.

When Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi explained the Taoiseach's absence by suggesting he was on a call with "world leaders", the speculation pivoted to Ukraine; could he be discussing a breakthrough with EU leaders – or a drastic escalation by Russia?

The truth, alas, was more prosaic. Dan Mulhall, the Irish Ambassador to Washington, mounted the podium and explained that despite turning in a negative test in a routine Covid test earlier, the Taoiseach had been retested as he left for the dinner because a "member of the wider delegation" had tested positive. As the Taoiseach sat chewing the fat with Pelosi, the news came through that the second test was positive.

Earlier that day, as the media waited for the Collison brothers – the tech billionaires who were receiving an award from Science Foundation Ireland – outside the Hay-Adams Hotel across Lafayette Square from the White House, former Nphet number-cruncher Prof Philip Nolan walked past. Would he stop for a few words? He would. "I'm trying to learn to walk past microphones," he joked.

Blazing sunshine

A few minutes before that, the Taoiseach, in a press briefing, said that the Government was "concerned" about the recent rise in Covid cases. Not at all, said Prof Nolan, offering a sunny analysis in the unseasonably blazing sunshine. The recent rise in cases was nothing to worry about; it was only an "exit wave" – the last burst of a receding pandemic. No reason to be alarmed.

Tell that to the Taoiseach. God love him. It's like being shot on the last day of the war.

Poor Martin had been having the week of his life until disaster struck. A whirlwind round of diplomacy last week, shuttling from the European Council at Versailles to a meeting with Boris Johnson in London, taking in Ireland's crushing of England at Twickenham, before crossing the Atlantic on Monday for a week of engagements in Washington.

It's the best week of the year to be Irish in Washington, an annual flexing of the diplomatic and political muscle the country enjoys in the world capital of politics. This is true even when the president is less conspicuously Irish-American; with Biden in the Oval Office, the Irish clout is off the charts.

"The influence, the access that Ireland has in Washington, it's just incredible," says one former senior US diplomat at the Ireland Funds dinner. "You guys take it for granted," says another. In a town where diplomats, politicians, lobbyists and visiting dignitaries cajole and wheedle for a few minutes of presidential attention, Biden was giving over the guts of an entire day for St Patrick's Day events. Now the Taoiseach would have to watch it by video.

The two men seemed to get on. It doesn't take a great leap of the imagination to see the similarities in their personal and political make-up that would make common ground easy to find. Each has known desperate personal tragedy in their lives; each has found the will to carry on in politics.

Both might have reasonably thought

that their opportunity to lead their country had passed, until the fates decided otherwise. On Wednesday night Biden recalled they had met before in the White House, when he was vice-president to Barack Obama and Martin was minister for foreign affairs, more than a decade ago. "Now I'm president and you're Taoiseach. What the hell are we gonna do?"

The Taoiseach described their meeting as "very personal, very warm ... like two Irish people having a good chat". The invitation to visit Ireland was once again extended to the president and received the customary enthusiastic – but not specific – response. "He can't wait," said Martin.

Biden talks incessantly and with great apparent sincerity about his Irish heritage, and how it shaped him.

Obama used to tease him about quoting Irish poets, though that hasn't put him off. Yeats got another outing on Thursday; Eavan Boland on Wednesday night. But Biden also talks a lot about what it is to be an American, and about the higher ideals of

that country, which he says Americans have "never lived up to completely, but never walked away from ... opportunity, the rule of law of equal rights and dignity for everybody." His rhetoric is inclusive and generous; after the toxic chauvinism of the Trump years, Biden sometimes sounds like a balm to the American soul, if a slightly long-winded one.

But in a divided country, there's tough politics to be done as well, of course, and his approval ratings are on the floor. The Ukraine crisis, however, has united Democrats and Republicans in a way that seems a relic of history, of the time when politics here stopped at the water's edge, as they used to say. The think-tankers, officials and journalists who make up the vast ecosystem of politics here differ on whether the changes to the political atmosphere are permanent, but they all say they are real.

The Taoiseach heartily endorsed the president's analysis of the Ukrainian con-

Most 'Irish' president since JFK: Biden in the White House 'enormously helpful' to Ireland

US 'has skin in the game' when it comes to maintaining peace in NI, says Congressman Brendan Boyle.

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Political Correspondent
Christina Finn reporting from the United States.

IT IS ENORMOUSLY helpful to have a US President who has such strong links to and a deep understanding of Ireland, according to Irish-American US Congressman Brendan Boyle.

The annual St Patrick's Day celebrations at the White House are used each year by the Taoiseach and Irish officials to press home issues of importance – most recently Brexit, the Northern Ireland Protocol and the protection of the Good Friday Agreement.

While the crisis in Ukraine did dominate this year's discussion between Micheál Martin and Joe Biden, issues in Northern Ireland are a constant.

There are pressing issues now, with the May elections coming up and the recent development of Jeffrey Donaldson refusing to nominate a First Minister, leaving the Executive in limbo.

At an Irish Embassy event in the Institute of Peace Building this week, the Irish Ambassador to the US, Dan Mulhall told the crowd that Biden is the most 'Irish' US president since John F Kennedy.

During the events this week in Washington, each speech Biden delivered paid tribute to his ancestors who hailed from Mayo and Louth. He recalled stories of his much-cherished trips back to the homeland over the years, and of his yearnings to pay another visit soon.

'I'm Irish'

In the past, Biden has even told a BBC reporter "I'm Irish".

But paddywhackery aside, how useful is it to have a man with Irish roots in the White House when the goings get tough for Ireland?

.....continues

Boyle pointed out that Pelosi is not an Irish American, "but has very close links to this issue since the 1980s".

"She spoke about it quite bluntly at the Ireland Funds dinner, as well as again at the annual speakers luncheon. So that is enormously, enormously helpful," said Boyle.





Image: Al Drago

NI Protocol 'front of mind' in Washington



US President Joe Biden



Margaret Canning  

March 21 2022 07:08 AM



The [NI Protocol](#) was "front of mind" for many in discussions about the province as St Patrick's Day was marked in Washington, a business leader has said.

Paul Murnaghan, president of the Northern Ireland Chamber, represented business in the province during last week's US celebrations.

Paul Murnaghan, president of the Northern Ireland Chamber, represented business in the province during last week's US celebrations.

While there was no First or Deputy First Ministers to represent the province in Washington, DUP Economy Minister Gordon Lyons and Finance Minister Conor Murphy did attend.

The Chamber president said that the absence of a fully-functioning Executive in Northern Ireland meant that there is a lack of the "stability" craved by business.

However, he said the two ministers "were doing as much as they could and clearly trying to create that stability piece which is so important for any society and especially for those who are considering investment".

But he would not comment on whether he felt any frustration at seeing the pair in action in the US while there is not full power sharing at home.

"I'm going to leave the politics to the politicians. They have their job to do," Mr Murnaghan said.

"I guess from an economic perspective and a Northern Ireland Chamber perspective, we will stand to help them in whatever way we can to get past the challenges that they currently have.

"There's clearly issues there that they're struggling to move forward on but I do get a sense from over here in Washington that they would like to get beyond it.

"I think there's real opportunity once we get beyond the election."

He said that overall, there had been "a real positive attitude towards Ireland and Northern Ireland" at events including a breakfast hosted by the NI Bureau and a dinner held by the Ireland Funds and attended by President Joe Biden in the White House.