

# The Boston Globe

Letters to the editor

December 24, 2010 Friday

## Ireland may bend, but it won't break



A protester stood in front an Irish police line last month outside the Irish Parliament building, following a march in Dublin in opposition to severe fiscal cuts. (Ben Stansall/ AFP/ Getty Images)

HAVING LIVED in Ireland for much of the past 10 years, I can attest that there is much that is true in Gabriel O'Malley's lament (["Romantic Ireland: Is it dead and gone, or on its way back?"](#) Op-ed, Dec. 19). The cup of Ireland's misery has indeed been overflowing for centuries. However, it will take more than the mortal sins of today's bankers and politicians and bishops and priests to destroy the legacy of Ireland's rich heritage.

That legacy is still found, not only in the "reaches of the mind," as O'Malley suggests, but in the Irish people themselves, as manifested in their spirit of service and mission to others. It is heard in their narratives and in their songs, whether in Cork or Chicago or Boston. The secular and clerical leaders have miserably failed the Irish people, but that is not Ireland any more than the excesses and depravity of many of our leaders represent the full reality of America.

O'Malley's lament is but the call to action.

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