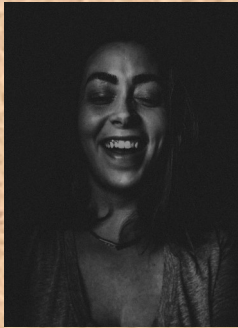


#HopefulStories : Week 1



17/02: Lawyers accidentally attending court as cats. Parish council meetings gone awry. Experts on the news being interrupted by their children while they work from home. Why are things so funny at the moment? Why do these things capture the imaginations of the nation and move us so readily to giggles? Well quite simply, the building and breaking of tension. It's the science of what stand up comedians try to do, it's why comedy works. Tension is built and built and then when a punchline is delivered, the tension is broken, and we laugh. Well tension has been building for a year now, and there is very little to actually break the doom, and sadness and tension. So when even tiny things happen that fire a hole in the wall of tension, the country laughs. Tension and release, joy and sadness, laughter and tears are all two sides of the same coin. Hope is never far away. If you're interested in a comedian who plays with this tension and release, watch Hannah Gadsby's 'Nanette' on Netflix.

18/02: The kingdom of God is like a 3 year old telling you that "chocolate feels me better" and understanding exactly what he means, in your very



19/02: Eugene Goodman, the policeman who risked his life protecting the DC Capitol building insurrection, was invited to escort Vice President Kamala Harris to the inauguration.

20/02: St Maximilian Kolbe who gave up his life in Auschwitz for a man pleading for his family, a man who not only survived the concentration camp and the war, but survived long enough to see Kolbe sainted.



21/02: Decorated windows, with rainbows and messages of hope, even now, almost a year on. Little bursts of joy and symbols of humanity, a bit sun damaged and worn out having been up for the entirety of 2020. Just like us, a little battered and weathered by 2020, but little bursts of joy, humanity and hope nonetheless.

22/02: Every single tweet sharing that someone's granny, someone's dad, someone's neighbour has just been given their Covid vaccine. Every single



23/02: RawTools a non-profit organisation started after the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting. They take the words of Isaiah chapter 2 seriously, "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks", and work with communities in the United States turning weapons into garden tools.