



APPEAL

My heart aches greatly at the worsening situation in Ukraine. Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up. Like me, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests. I would like to appeal to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war; who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilising coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.

And now I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. I invite everyone to make next 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.

Franciscus



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1:23

25 February 2022

Message concerning Russian military incursion into the nation of Ukraine

Dear faithful in Christ,

It is with deep concern and heartbreak that we witness the military incursion of Russian forces into the sovereign nation of Ukraine. Violent conflict is never the answer to tensions between nations; reconciliation will not come by way of unjustified military imposition.

Despite Australia being such a long way away, nonetheless the prospect of war in Europe will impact not only on the innocent civilians of Ukraine, but on all who seek harmony between peoples.

May our own attention to the worrying development of conflict in Europe turn our hearts to prayer.

As we pray for that gift of peace that only the Lord Jesus can give, may we also bring into our prayer the peoples of Lebanon and the Middle East, and in African countries such as Ethiopia and Nigeria. It is not without deep concern that religious faith is part of the story in each of these places.

The Holy Father has invited the global Church to a day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace on Ash Wednesday (2 March). My brother in Christ, Bishop Mykola Bychok, the Eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, will join me at the 1pm Cathedral Mass on Ash Wednesday, and will preach at that Mass. That evening, I will then join him at the Cathedral of Ss Peter and Paul, North Melbourne, for a Liturgy of Intercession for Peace.

All of us can do what we can in praying for the emerging conflict, for the conversion of hearts, especially for national leaders, and for working in our own back yard for peaceful action of justice and reconciliation. May I suggest that at parish Masses this Sunday, the 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time, that parishes use the Prayers for the Mass available for use "In Time of War or Civil Disturbance" (RM. p1362) and one of the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation. For private prayer, perhaps we could turn to the prayer of Jesus for peace in John's Gospel (Ch14).

May the God of peace enter the hearts of those who are intent on war, and may the Queen of Peace intercede with her Son, the Prince of peace, for the sake of the peoples of Ukraine here and in their homeland.

With every grace and blessing, I remain

Yours in Christ Jesus.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP of MELBOURNE

FOR THE INFORMATION OF PARISHIONERS
LENT 2022

109. *The Lenten season has a twofold character:*

- 1) *it recalls baptism or prepares for it;*
- 2) *it stresses a penitential spirit.*

By these means especially, Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the paschal mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer. In the liturgy itself and in the liturgy-centred instructions, these baptismal and penitential themes should be more pronounced. Hence:

- a) *Wider use is to be made of baptismal features proper to the Lenten liturgy...*
- b) *The same approach holds for the penitential elements...*

110. *During Lent, penance should not be only internal and individual but also external and social...*

In any event, let the paschal fast be kept sacred. It should be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be visited on uplifted and responsive spirits.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.

On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

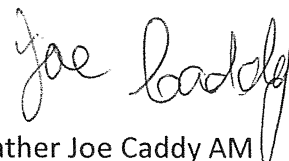
- (a) **Prayer** -for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.
- (b) **Self-Denial** - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere; or in other ways. Project Compassion is a major means of expressing our self-denial in Australia.
- (c) **Helping Others** - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened; or in other ways.

- All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain (Canon 1252).
- The Season of Lent is a time of penance. During this season the faithful are exhorted to devote themselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves.
- Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled between Ash Wednesday, 2 March 2022 and Trinity Sunday, 12 June 2022 unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year.
- The wonderful gift of the Lord's merciful love is offered in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a most appropriate time to receive this Sacrament. All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are bound faithfully to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

HOLY WEEK - The 2022 Ordo contains instructions for the Rites of Holy Week.

FUNERALS – On Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday all Masses for the Dead, including Funeral Masses, **are forbidden**. Funerals on these days are celebrated with the Liturgy of the Word and without the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

WEDDINGS - Weddings should be discouraged during the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. Should a couple be particularly insistent on a wedding for one of these days, then please indicate that no decorations (including flowers), no music nor Nuptial Mass will be permitted.



Father Joe Caddy AM
VICAR GENERAL