



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

Archbishop of Adelaide

25th February, 2022
20220225:003:L:POR

Dear sisters and brothers,

**Re: Day of Prayer and Fasting for Ukraine and World Peace
Wednesday, 2nd March, 2022**

Grace and peace, I hope this note finds you well.

In light of recent events Pope Francis has announced 2nd March 2022, Ash Wednesday, as a Day of Fasting and Prayer for Ukraine.

In his recent General Audience, Pope Francis encouraged *“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.”*

In my correspondence 28th January 2022, I attached a letter of appeal from the Ukrainian Church of Australia. I draw your attention to the section **“What can we do?”** which outline ways we can be actively involved:

1. **Pray:** Continued prayer for peace in their region.
2. **Be Informed:** Inform yourself about the situation so you can converse with others. We should not look away.
3. **Support:** Support humanitarian efforts in the region including the work of Caritas.

I ask that you inform your communities of this request and commit to this Day of Prayer and Fasting for Ukraine and World Peace, and I have included a message from Pope Francis encouraging us to pray and fast on this day.

We continue to offer our prayers and support to the Ukrainian Catholic Church here in Australia.

In Domino,

+ Pat O'Regan

+Patrick O'Regan
Archbishop of Adelaide

1 attachment



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