



LOCAL RESPONSE TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN UKRAINE

We are heartened that people from across the Diocese want to respond generously to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Many people affected by the conflict in Ukraine and refugees in neighbouring countries urgently need food, water and shelter. CAFOD is working closely with Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Poland and others, who are already on the ground delivering practical help to those most in need.

The Diocese of Nottingham supports the following statement and message from CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development:

"Families affected by the conflict in Ukraine urgently need food, water and shelter. CAFOD is working closely with Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Poland and others, who are already there delivering practical help to those most in need. You can be part of the Church's response by giving to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine."

The Diocese encourages individuals, communities and organisations wishing to support those affected by this conflict to do so through CAFOD's 'Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal' at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine

There are several other initiatives within the Diocese of Nottingham, which is hugely encouraging to see. For example, organisations in Derby serving the Ukrainian community have come together to launch the #HelpUkraine appeal.

For those wishing to engage locally with this issue, we encourage people to support the Ukrainian parishes in the diocese who are also coordinating various initiatives. Details of parishes can be found below.

Please do continue to pray for peace, for the people of Ukraine and for all affected by this conflict.

LOCAL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES

Ukrainian Catholic Church in Nottingham

facebook.com/ukrainianchurchnottingham

Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Derby

<https://www.facebook.com/UGCC.Derby.St.Michael.The.Archangel>

Leicester (Ascension of the Lord)

<https://www.facebook.com/AscensionUkrainianCC/>

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE (FROM CAFOD)

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen.

SUGGESTED FOR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION, TAKEN FROM THE CAFOD WEBSITE:

At this time of conflict in Ukraine, we invite you to include some of the following prayers within your own parish intercessions.

We pray for the Church: that in this time of crisis, she may speak words of truth and justice, act with compassion and be a sign of Christ's love for all those who are suffering. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders, that guided by integrity and wisdom, they may work together so that peace may flourish. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all those caught up in violence, remembering especially the people of Ukraine; that in this time of fear and conflict, they may know God's presence and peace. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all those suffering from hunger as a result of conflict and injustice, in countries such as Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Lord in your mercy....

We pray for our parish and our local community: that in this time of Lent, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. Lord in your mercy...

"Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. I invite everyone to make... 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."

POPE FRANCIS

