

To the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Southwark

Dear Brothers in Christ

I hope that you are well. Please forgive this email at short notice. I realise that many parishes will already have printed their Sunday newsletters. I write, however, about the terrible situation in Ukraine and the urgent need to pray for peace, heeding the call of Pope Francis.

If at all possible, please could you:

1. Hold a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration sometime on Ash Wednesday, the day designated by Pope Francis as a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine. There will be a Holy Hour in the Cathedral after the 6pm Mass on Ash Wednesday and anyone is welcome to attend. This will also be live-streamed on YouTube via this link: <https://youtu.be/Gao6yODsvhE>
2. Following my statement below, please could you encourage all your parishioners to pray the rosary for peace on Ash Wednesday.

Statement of Friday 25 February by Archbishop John Wilson

“The shocking news of the invasion of Ukraine is an outrage before God and all right-thinking nations and peoples. We stand in solidarity with Ukraine and unite in responding to the call of Pope Francis for a day of prayer and fasting this coming Ash Wednesday, 2 March. We will fall on our knees before Christ, the Prince of Peace, praying for an end to this act of warfare. We welcome anyone to join us in St George’s Cathedral, Southwark for Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration to pray for peace. I also ask Catholics across the Archdiocese to please pray the rosary for peace on Ash Wednesday. God’s plan for the world is peace, not disaster. We pray for Ukraine and her people, and for the world’s leaders. No one wins in war. Everyone wins in peace.”

Please see also

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/invasion-of-ukraine-is-an-outrage-before-god-says-archbishop/?fbclid=IwAR2NZPHMm8WHuyFyPFGHLQhYa5QhpBbElIUIG7EC7a1BnShwogj6N36mF-k>

I appreciate that this information will probably have to be communicated verbally at the Masses over this weekend and I apologise for any inconvenience this brings. At a time when so many of us look on in horror, feeling so powerless, the one thing we can do is to pray for peace.

With the assurance of my gratitude and prayers

Yours sincerely in Christ

+ John

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